



# **BOOK OF REPORTS OF THE 2021 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

prepared for the

**One Hundred Sixty-Third Session  
One Hundred Seventy-Sixth Year**

meeting in

**Nashville, Tennessee  
June 15-16, 2021**

## **2021 CONVENTION OFFICERS**

### **President**

J. D. Greear

### **First Vice President**

Marshal Ausberry

### **Second Vice President**

Noe Garcia

### **Recording Secretary**

John L. Yeats

### **Acting Registration Secretary**

Don Currence

### **Treasurer**

Ronnie W. Floyd

## **FUTURE SBC ANNUAL MEETING SITES**

Anaheim, California - June 14-15, 2022

Charlotte, North Carolina - June 13-14, 2023

Indianapolis, Indiana - June 11-12, 2024

Dallas, Texas - June 10-11, 2025

Orlando, Florida - June 9-10, 2026

# FOREWORD

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We are Great Commission Baptists. The Great Commission is what our churches do above all things.

The sacrificial generosity of our churches through the Cooperative Program demonstrates the priority of sharing the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in great cities like Lusaka, Phnom Penh, Cebu City, Pretoria, or Mosul. At the same time, Great Commission Baptists shelter the rescued child from sex traffickers. At the same time, we disciple collegiates on the university campuses of North America and start churches in places like Bozeman, Bismarck, Boston, and Birmingham.

Great Commission Baptists live on mission with God. If we ever move away from the main themes of extraordinary prayer, soul-winning, and missional engagement, then the three-cord rope that binds us begins to shred into a past memory of what once was.

Great Commission Baptists have the whole world on their hearts and passionately live to do their part in bringing in the harvest of souls who have yet to taste of the grace of God.

The *Book of Reports* is a guide for you—a messenger from a local church cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention. Inside you see materials about what is occurring at the Annual Meeting. Study the agenda so you know where you need to be. Peruse the reports from our mission boards, Lifeway, Guidestone, our six seminaries, and the ERLC.

Look at the recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee (pages 5-73). These motions are very significant to the inner workings of the SBC and its entities. Especially, look at the proposal for Vision 2025. Pray about the part you will play in fulfilling this great vision.

While in Nashville this week, engage someone in a conversation about Jesus and may our kindness and respect toward one another be a living demonstration of our Lord's transformational grace in our lives.

John L. Yeats

*Recording Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention*

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

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In 2020, due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting and all ancillary meetings were cancelled for the first time in 75 years.

While a 2020 SBC *Book of Reports* was released online at sbc.net, it only served as an informational piece for Southern Baptists in regards to the actions and reports of SBC entities and organizations during the 2019-2020 year. It did not contain any recommendations or matters of business to be voted upon by the Convention as it was impossible to gather together for such business to occur. The content from that piece was later included in the 2020 SBC *Annual* which can be found on sbc.net.

In regards to recommendations, responses to matters referred, or business relating to the 2019-2020 year, those items are included and/or updated in this publication. Footnotes and symbols will denote these items throughout the publication.

It should also be noted that most reports within this publication cover the year 2020-2021 meaning that by the delivery of this publication, some information is subject to change.

# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## *Ninety-Fourth Annual Report*



901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

**ROLLAND E. SLADE, Chairman**

**RONNIE W. FLOYD, President and Chief Executive Officer**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee presents this ninety-fourth annual report.

There are 86 persons from 38 states and regions who are elected as members of the SBC Executive Committee.

The SBC Executive Committee met as follows during 2020-21:

September 22, 2020	Video Conference Call
February 22-23, 2021	Nashville, TN
May 11, 2021	Video Conference Call
June 14, 2021	Nashville, TN

1. **Officers of the SBC Executive Committee** – The officers of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee include its president, chair, vice chair, secretary, and the chairs of its four standing committees.

Ronnie W. Floyd serves as its president and the other officers, as well as the chairs, vice chairs, and secretaries of the four standing committees are named below:

**Chair:** Rolland E. Slade, California

**Vice Chair:** B. Thomas (Tom) Tucker III, South Carolina

**Secretary:** Joe Knott, North Carolina

### **Committee on Convention Missions and Ministry**

**Chair:** H. Robert (Rob) Showers, Virginia

**Vice Chair:** Chad Garrison, Arizona

**Secretary:** Andrew Hunt, Indiana

### **Committee on Convention Finances and Stewardship Development**

**Chair:** Robyn A. Hari, Tennessee

**Vice Chair:** Harry C. (Archie) Mason, Arkansas

**Secretary:** Mark R. Elliott, Kansas-Nebraska

### **Committee on Convention Events and Strategic Planning**

**Chair:** Rod D. Martin, Florida

**Vice Chair:** Erik D. Cummings, Florida

**Secretary:** Joshua D. (Josh) Bonner, Dakotas

### **Committee on Southern Baptist Relations**

**Chair:** James W. (Jim) Gregory, Utah-Idaho

**Vice Chair:** Jeremy D. Morton, Georgia

**Secretary:** Micah Nix, Oklahoma

2. **Cooperative Program Giving** - The giving record of Southern Baptists during the fiscal year October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020, is as follows

	<u>2019 - 2020</u>	<u>2018 - 2019</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total CP as a % of			
Undesignated Gifts <sup>2</sup>	4.78%	4.82%	(0.04%)
Total Receipts <sup>1</sup>	\$ 11,526,598,340	\$ 11,640,670,559	(0.98%)
Total Undesignated Gifts	\$ 9,531,225,749	\$ 9,600,108,179	(0.72%)
Total Cooperative Program <sup>2</sup>	\$ 455,553,027	\$ 462,299,010	(1.46%)
State Convention Share of Total CP <sup>2</sup>	\$ 267,746,391	\$ 271,331,607	(1.32%)
SBC Share of Total CP <sup>2</sup>	\$ 187,806,636	\$ 190,967,403	(1.66%)

3. **Trends in Giving** - The following five-year record of gifts to Southern Baptist churches and through the Cooperative Program is as follows:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Undesignated</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts <sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Gifts</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Cooperative</u>	<u>Program <sup>2</sup></u>
2015-16	\$ 11,461,572,538	(0.73%)	\$ 9,216,198,700	0.67%	\$ 475,212,293	0.20%
2016-17	\$ 11,728,420,088	2.33%	\$ 9,518,527,051	3.28%	\$ 462,662,332	(2.64%)
2017-18	\$ 11,811,093,609	0.70%	\$ 9,601,534,950	0.87%	\$ 463,076,368	0.09%
2018-19	\$ 11,640,670,559	(1.44%)	\$ 9,600,108,179	(0.01%)	\$ 462,299,010	(0.17%)
2019-20	\$ 11,526,598,340	(0.98%)	\$ 9,531,225,749	(0.72%)	\$ 455,553,027	(1.46%)
Average Change 1980s		7.58%		5.10%		6.83%
Average Change 1990s		5.42%		4.91%		2.68%
Average Change 2000s		4.12%		4.82%		2.23%
Average Change 2010s		(0.21%)		0.71%		(1.16%)
Average Change Last 5 Years		(0.02%)		0.82%		(0.80%)

	<u>SBC</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>SBC</u>	<u>Total CP<sup>2</sup> as a % of</u>
<u>Year</u>	<u>\$ Share of</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>% Share of</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Total CP <sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Total CP <sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Receipts <sup>1</sup></u>
2015-16	\$ 190,468,781	3.64%	40.08%	4.15%
2016-17	\$ 191,948,826	0.78%	41.49%	3.94%
2017-18	\$ 191,257,988	(0.36%)	41.30%	3.92%
2018-19	\$ 190,967,403	(0.15%)	41.31%	3.97%
2019-20	\$ 187,806,636	(1.66%)	41.23%	3.95%
Average Change 1980s		7.98%	37.47%	8.55%
Average Change 1990s		2.06%	37.04%	7.00%
Average Change 2000s		2.22%	37.16%	5.38%
Average Change 2010s		(0.15%)	39.34%	4.12%
Average Change Last 5 Years		0.45%	41.08%	3.99%

Notes:

- 1 Due to a change Lifeway made in the ACP information it requested for 2011, Total Gifts were not calculable. Therefore, Total Receipts are reported above for 2012-13 through 2019-20 for comparative purposes. Over the last 20 years Total Receipts averaged 7.25% more than Total Gifts.
2. For 2012-13 through 2019-20, in keeping with the Convention approved definition of The Cooperative Program, the Total Cooperative Program category does not include church contributions given directly to the national convention that are directed only to the national SBC CP Allocation budget.

4. **Cooperative Program Distribution** – Cooperative Program funds received by the Southern Baptist Convention were distributed in keeping with the action of the Southern Baptist Convention when the 2019-2020 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget was approved. The 2019-2020 SBC Cooperative Program funds distributed include funds received from state conventions and identified by them as Cooperative Program Allocation Budget funds.

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>
International Mission Board	\$ 97,241,319	\$ 99,254,130
North American Mission Board	\$ 43,962,104	\$ 44,835,155
Gateway Seminary	\$ 3,766,396	\$ 3,966,734
Midwestern Seminary	\$ 6,797,334	\$ 6,358,059
New Orleans Seminary	\$ 6,903,841	\$ 7,144,588
Southeastern Seminary	\$ 7,350,589	\$ 7,664,237
Southern Seminary	\$ 10,194,338	\$ 10,351,129
Southwestern Seminary	\$ 7,271,369	\$ 7,638,842
Historical Library and Archives	\$ 462,962	\$ 472,156
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	\$ 3,182,864	\$ 3,246,073
SBC Executive Committee & SBC Operating	\$ 5,767,735	\$ 5,800,600
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<u>\$ 192,900,851</u>	<u>\$ 196,731,703</u>

5. **\* 2020 Southern Baptist Convention Statistical Summary** <sup>(1)</sup> – A summary of the statistical record for the Southern Baptist Convention for 2019–20 is as follows:

(See page 9 for chart of Southern Baptist Statistics by State Convention.)

<u>Item/Statistic</u>	<u>2020</u>
State Conventions	41
Associations	1,114
Churches	47,592
Church-type Missions Operating <sup>(2)</sup>	3,104
Total Members	14,089,947
Total Baptisms	123,160
Ratio of Baptisms: Total Members	1:114
Cooperative Program <sup>(5)</sup>	See section 2 on preceding page or visit <a href="http://sbc.net/cp">sbc.net/cp</a>

**\* Other 2020 Items – Not Asked by All State Conventions** <sup>(4)</sup>

<u>Item/Statistic</u>	<u>2020</u>
Other Additions <sup>(5)</sup>	112,953
Weekly Worship Average Attendance <sup>(6)</sup>	4,439,797
Sunday School/Bible Study/ Small Group Average Attendance <sup>(7)</sup>	2,879,130
Undesignated Receipts <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 9,531,225,749
Total Receipts <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 11,526,598,340
Total Mission Expenditures <sup>(9)</sup>	\$ 1,046,655,912
Great Commission Giving <sup>(10)</sup>	\$ 409,835,470

*\* Statistical records and data collection were dramatically affected by to the COVID-19 global pandemic.*

**NOTES**

1. Data reported for the 2020 statistical year include adjustments to the totals for some non-reported items (from individual congregations) using data reported in prior years. Similar actions occurred in 2019.
2. Some state conventions no longer use the designation of church-type mission to categorize congregations that are not self-determining, self-sustaining and self-propagating. This practice has impacted the number of churches and church-type missions.
3. Cooperative Program as reported on the Annual Church Profile is not included in this table. Cooperative Program, based on the actual amount given through the state convention, is provided in the SBC Annual in the Executive Committee Annual Report.

NOTES (continued)

4. Totals for items in this table have incomplete data for 2020 due to the fact that not all state conventions asked the item or did so in a way not comparable with the standard definition. Thus, comparisons between the two years may not be appropriate. See the Notes in the 2019 SBC Statistical Summary for specific details to determine if a comparison is desirable.
5. Florida Baptist Convention, Baptist Convention of Iowa and the Baptist Convention of New York did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
6. Florida Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
7. Baptist Convention of Iowa did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
8. Baptist Convention of Iowa, Baptist Convention of New York, Florida Baptist Convention and the Georgia Baptist Mission Board did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
9. Alabama State Board of Missions, Baptist Convention of Iowa, Baptist Convention of New York, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Florida Baptist Convention, Georgia Baptist Mission Board and the South Carolina Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
10. Alabama State Board of Missions, Baptist Convention of Iowa, Baptist Convention of New York, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Florida Baptist Convention, Missouri Baptist Convention and the South Carolina Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.

*Prepared by: Lifeway Research, Lifeway Christian Resources, One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, April 23, 2021*

**Church Plants, New Affiliates, and Campuses for 2020, SBC: 857\*\***

Source: Reports from State Directors of Missions compiled by the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, GA (see page 129); new SBC IDs created in SBC Workspace.

*Note: 2010 was the first year a SBC ID # was required for each reported congregation. In 2019, there was a methodology change to capture new plants, affiliates, and campuses; they are now identified at the time the SBC ID is created in SBC Workspace. In 2020, partners reported 588 new church plants, 126 new campuses and 143 new affiliations.*

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
International Missionaries	3,558	3,615	(57)	(1.6%)
North American Missionaries	2,218* <sup>(1)</sup>	3,057 <sup>(1)</sup>	(839)*	(37.8%)*
— Chaplains	3,720	3,738 <sup>(2)</sup>	(18)	(0.5%)

\* NAMB's student missionary program was suspended in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. This caused a drop in the overall missionary count.

<sup>(1)</sup> NAMB's missionary count fluctuates because most are church planters who rotate out five years after their church launches.

<sup>(2)</sup> NAMB-endorsed chaplains serve in the military, hospitals, law enforcement, prisons, disaster relief, corporate workplaces, and other settings. NAMB provides ministry guidelines, training resources, and pastoral care for chaplains serving throughout North America and the world.

- 6. Special Missions Offerings** – Southern Baptists contributed a special missions offering total of \$166,740,050 through the SBC Executive Committee for North American and International Missions in 2019-2020. The record is as follows:

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions	\$123,237,630	\$127,018,841	(3,781,211)	(2.98%)
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions	<u>\$ 43,502,420</u>	<u>\$ 56,260,700</u>	(12,758,280)	(22.68%)
Total	166,740,050	183,279,541		

Note: As noted above, these totals reflect what was received only through the SBC Executive Committee for both mission offerings. These totals, along with what was directly received by the mission boards, resulted in the following complete totals: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions - \$159.5 million; Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions - \$49.4 million.

- 7. Global Hunger Relief Funds** – Southern Baptists contributed a total of \$2,135,909 for global hunger relief through the SBC Executive Committee in 2019-2020. The record is as follows:

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Received by SBC Executive Committee	\$ 2,135,909	\$ 2,364,114	(9.65%)
Forwarded to International Mission Board	\$ 1,747,987	\$ 1,894,275	(7.72%)
Forwarded to North American Mission Board	\$ 387,922	\$ 469,839	(17.44%)



\* 2020 SBC STATISTICS BY STATE CONVENTION <sup>1</sup>

SBC and State Conventions	Associations	Churches <sup>2</sup>	Church-type Missions <sup>2</sup>	Baptisms	Other Additions <sup>3</sup>	Total Membership	Weekly Worship Avg. Attendance <sup>3</sup>	Sunday School/Bible Study Small Group Avg. Attendance <sup>3</sup>	Total Receipts <sup>3</sup>	Total Mission Expenditures <sup>3</sup>
AL <sup>(4)</sup>	75	3,228	29	6,650	10,582	794,151	226,004	161,714	\$ 680,369,905	Footnote 4
AK	4	88	27	229	172	11,347	5,714	3,901	\$ 12,536,387	\$ 2,250,240
AZ	13	472	1	1,478	1,318	79,769	38,470	23,932	\$ 79,099,754	\$ 9,947,027
AR	42	1,422	98	4,664	6,545	433,372	116,092	82,254	\$ 354,193,445	\$ 42,437,035
CA	29	1,777	504	4,564	2,141	401,253	173,628	61,496	\$ 149,435,456	\$ 19,050,735
CO	11	298	55	1,601	473	39,257	30,656	18,436	\$ 34,300,766	\$ 3,887,761
Dakota	6	79	5	151	157	3,508	3,023	1,806	\$ 6,025,938	\$ 887,416
FL <sup>(5)</sup>	47	2,820	2	12,886	Footnote 5	839,550	Footnote 5	231,392	Footnote 5	Footnote 5
GA <sup>(6)</sup>	89	3,395	121	10,136	9,908	1,285,536	451,088	285,925	Footnote 6	Footnote 6
HI-Pacific	7	124	8	208	478	11,645	6,521	3,476	\$ 17,730,038	\$ 2,410,400
IL	34	859	79	2,040	1,510	171,045	61,863	39,537	\$ 127,505,924	\$ 13,809,579
IN	14	385	62	652	518	72,188	30,470	17,695	\$ 62,549,852	\$ 6,074,032
IA <sup>(7)</sup>		114	6	777	Footnote 7	14,057	16,090	Footnote 7	Footnote 7	Footnote 7
KS-NE	12	323	129	1,067	512	83,133	37,486	19,407	\$ 96,949,470	\$ 8,114,470
KY	69	2,346		6,701	6,438	559,002	166,854	104,930	\$ 363,436,103	\$ 46,951,270
LA	38	1,427	184	5,616	4,562	477,091	147,711	86,447	\$ 355,295,480	\$ 34,182,734
MD-DE	11	465	15	578	550	76,742	27,788	16,728	\$ 82,890,476	\$ 9,356,687
MI	14	276	17	832	794	25,286	16,136	8,360	\$ 29,607,716	\$ 3,795,491
MN-WI	8	162	14	378	337	14,839	9,708	5,368	\$ 15,508,355	\$ 1,694,831
MS	65	2,055	20	4,733	5,747	508,959	158,572	117,289	\$ 456,332,326	\$ 49,704,947
MO	59	1,779	29	5,152	6,317	478,035	153,502	100,902	\$ 355,696,219	\$ 40,015,105
MT	5	123		420	331	8,586	7,165	4,024	\$ 14,804,573	\$ 1,832,462
NV	4	161	10	434	593	22,837	10,093	5,134	\$ 31,092,984	\$ 2,500,335
New England	7	355	3	1,082	350	32,639	27,958	14,060	\$ 21,998,288	\$ 2,790,567
NM	12	327	11	1,257	783	62,923	33,740	17,387	\$ 56,951,723	\$ 8,090,323
NY <sup>(8)</sup>	10	527		791	Footnote 8	8,979	6,300	3,692	Footnote 8	Footnote 8
NC	78	4,179	160	8,122	8,490	1,090,130	359,362	228,827	\$ 919,304,177	\$ 100,768,391
Northwest	14	429	51	979	585	50,458	31,466	20,448	\$ 59,495,299	\$ 5,542,076
OH	15	635	72	1,669	1,365	61,299	37,828	25,108	\$ 78,940,193	\$ 9,730,334
OK <sup>(4)</sup>	40	1,715	35	6,030	6,456	559,264	144,107	116,258	\$ 421,945,643	Footnote 4
PA-S. Jersey	8	282	28	528	482	18,676	13,904	7,991	\$ 24,526,941	\$ 2,736,821
PR	1	52		106	104	2,196	1,988	1,100	\$ 2,199,986	\$ 166,163
SC <sup>(4)</sup>	42	2,016		5,698	6,070	490,456	192,289	123,162	\$ 448,692,108	Footnote 4
TN	65	3,083	76	9,492	11,414	866,291	256,504	165,972	\$ 778,826,720	\$ 92,352,851
TX <sup>(9)</sup>	104	6,323	920	11,867	13,218	2,588,358	651,095	409,018	\$ 2,065,251,072	\$ 204,309,866
BGCT	96	4,350	911	8,814	10,764	1,987,755	467,329	293,509	\$ 1,544,968,193	\$ 158,604,639
SBCT	102	2,646	25	6,749	6,641	1,180,054	358,500	223,957	\$ 1,105,485,816	\$ 107,974,065
UT-ID	11	137	51	128	157	15,508	7,856	4,340	\$ 17,216,842	\$ 2,330,316
VA <sup>(10)</sup>	41	1,882	27	2,898	3,227	466,787	133,434	79,798	\$ 389,787,468	\$ 38,368,434
BGAV	41	1,227	25	1,060	1,558	354,672	73,898	48,235	\$ 239,491,332	\$ 23,410,459
SBCV		732	2	1,994	1,875	128,080	65,885	35,663	\$ 170,082,991	\$ 17,066,042
WV	10	200	17	244	216	27,108	10,189	6,578	\$ 21,948,884	\$ 3,511,638
WY		93	5	212	181	6,096	2,945	1,531	\$ 7,349,628	\$ 1,082,363
Sub-Total	1,114	47,163	2,887	126,902	117,474	13,353,772	3,986,682	2,737,971	\$ 9,244,785,931	\$ 835,059,605
Adjustments <sup>(11)</sup>		429	217	(3,742)	(4,521)	736,175	453,115	141,159	\$ 2,281,812,409	\$ 211,596,307
<b>Grand Total</b>										
<b>For SBC <sup>(12)</sup></b>	<b>1,114</b>	<b>47,592</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>123,160</b>	<b>112,953</b>	<b>14,089,947</b>	<b>4,439,797</b>	<b>2,879,130</b>	<b>\$ 11,526,598,340</b>	<b>\$ 1,046,655,912</b>

## NOTES:

1. All information as of April 23, 2021.
2. Some state conventions no longer use the designation of church-type mission to categorize congregations which are not self-determining, self-sustaining and self-propagating. This practice has impacted the number of churches and church-type missions.
3. Total impacted by incomplete data from some state conventions. See body of table and notes for details. Care should be exercised in comparing SBC totals to previous years.
4. Alabama State Board of Missions, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the South Carolina Baptist Convention did not ask the following item or the information necessary to obtain the item: Total Mission Expenditures.
5. Florida Baptist Convention did not ask the following items or the information necessary to obtain the items: Other Additions, Weekly Worship Average Attendance, Total Receipts and Total Mission Expenditures.
6. Georgia Baptist Mission Board did not ask the following items or the information necessary to obtain the items: Total Receipts and Total Mission Expenditures.
7. Baptist Convention of Iowa did not ask the following items or the information necessary to obtain the items: Other Additions, Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group Average Attendance, Total Receipts and Total Mission Expenditures.
8. Baptist Convention of New York did not ask the following items or the information necessary to obtain the items: Other Additions, Total Receipts and Total Mission Expenditures.
9. Two state conventions exist within the state of Texas. The Texas summary line does not show the arithmetic sum of the two state convention figures, because some congregations are related to both state conventions, and their numbers are reflected in the totals for both state conventions.
10. Two conventions exist within the state of Virginia. The Virginia summary line does not show the arithmetic sum of the two state convention figures, because some congregations are related to both state conventions, and their numbers are reflected in the totals for both state conventions.
11. This line includes four types of adjustments to the data:
  - a. The removal of duplicate data caused by 843 congregations that are related to more than one state convention.
  - b. The removal of data from 139 congregations affiliated with a state convention but not related to the SBC.
  - c. The addition of data from 1,629 congregations affiliated with the SBC but not related to a state convention.
  - d. The addition of data carried forward from previous ACP reporting cycles for 16,340 congregations that did not report an item in 2019.
12. Adjustments to the national totals (and some state convention totals) include data carried forward for non-reported items from data reported in prior years.
  - a. Totals include carried forward Total Membership from the last year the congregation reported it.
  - b. Totals include carried forward Weekly Worship Average Attendance and Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group Average Attendance from the most recently reported data from the prior two years adjusted for the impact of COVID-19.
  - c. Totals include carried forward Total Receipts, Unassigned Receipts and Total Mission Expenditures from the most recently reported data from the prior four years.

Prepared by: Lifeway Research, Lifeway Christian Resources, One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234, April 23, 2021

\* Statistical records and data collection were dramatically affected by to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

## SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS OF THE SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following actions of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention are reported to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, for information.

1. **Bill Townes, SBC Executive Committee Chief Financial Officer** – On August 17, 2020, William (Bill) Townes announced his retirement as chief financial officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee effective December 31, 2020. Townes joined the SBC Executive Committee on December 1, 2010, and was named vice president for convention finance by the SBC Executive Committee during its February 21-22, 2011, meeting. Prior to coming to the SBC Executive Committee, Townes worked with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board.
2. **Greg Addison, SBC Executive Committee Executive Vice President** – On September 8, 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee officers approved Greg Addison as executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Addison has been tasked with working alongside SBC Executive Committee President and CEO Ronnie Floyd to lead the SBC Executive Committee staff and coordinate convention policy and legal affairs for the SBC Executive Committee. Prior to coming to the SBC Executive Committee, Addison served as associate executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.
3. **Jeff Pearson, SBC Executive Committee Chief Financial Officer** – On September 21, 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee officers approved Jeff Pearson to serve as chief financial officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee following the retirement of William Townes. Prior to coming to the SBC Executive Committee, Pearson served as chief financial officer of the fundraising and awareness arm of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.
4. **Charles Grant, SBC Executive Committee Executive Director of African American Relations and Mobilization** – On August 27, 2020, Charles Grant was announced as executive director of African American Relations and Mobilization for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Prior to coming to the SBC Executive Committee, Grant served concurrently as regional church partner for Lifeway Christian Resources and new church catalyst for the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board.
5. **SBC Executive Committee Leadership Team** – Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Ronnie W. Floyd formed the SBC Executive Committee Leadership Team to serve the SBC Executive Committee. Those currently serving are listed below.

### **SBC Executive Committee Leadership Team:**

Ronnie Floyd, President and Chief Executive Officer  
 Greg Addison, Executive Vice President  
 Jeff Pearson, Chief Financial Officer  
 Jonathan Howe, Vice President for Communications  
 Willie McLaurin, Vice President for Great Commission Relations and Mobilization  
 Amy Whitfield, Associate Vice President for Convention Communications  
 George Schroeder, Associate Vice President for Convention News  
 Charles Grant, Executive Director of African American Relations and Mobilization  
 Ashley Clayton, Executive Director for Church Affiliation  
 Julio Arriola, Executive Director of Hispanic Relations and Mobilization  
 Peter Yanes, Executive Director of Asian American Relations and Mobilization

6. **VISION 2025** – (See **Recommendation 10**, page 73.) In February 2020, Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Ronnie W. Floyd announced a new five-year initiative in conjunction with multiple entities to reach every person with the Gospel in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. The SBC Executive Committee voted to adopt VISION 2025 and was to recommend it to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, VISION 2025 was postponed. In February 2021, VISION 2025 was again considered by the SBC Executive Committee and the SBC Executive Committee will recommend it to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021.
7. **2021-2022 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget** – (See **Recommendation 5**, page 56.) In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted the 2021-2022 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget in the amount of \$190,000,000 and will recommend the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, for adoption.
8. **2021-2022 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget** – (See **Recommendation 6**, page 57.) In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted the 2021-2022 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,600,000 and will recommend the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, for adoption.
9. **Amendment of SBC Constitution Article III. Composition, Section 1, to Expand the Definition of a Cooperating Church Regarding Sexual Abuse and Racial Discrimination – Final Vote** – (See **Recommendation 1**, page 51.) In February 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee considered and adopted a recommendation for the second and final of the required two consecutive annual meeting approvals (pursuant to SBC Constitution Article XIV), to amend SBC Constitution Article III, Section 1, to expand the definition of a cooperating church regarding sexual abuse and racial discrimination and were to recommend the amendments to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, for final vote. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, the amendments will be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, for final vote.
10. **Amendment of SBC Bylaw 36. Amendment to Allow Voting in the Final Session** – (See **Recommendation 3**, page 52.) In February 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee considered and adopted a recommendation amending SBC Bylaw 36. Amendments, to allow voting in the final session and were to recommend it to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, the amendments will be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021.
11. **Amendment of SBC Constitution, Article V, Section 2, Regarding Officer Election** – (See **Recommendation 2**, page 52.) In February 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee considered and adopted a recommendation to recommend the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention act in the first of the required two consecutive annual meetings (pursuant to SBC Constitution Article XIV) to amend SBC Constitution Article V. Officers, Section 2, to be effective upon Convention approval for the second consecutive year in the 2021 annual meeting. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, the amendments will be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, for the first of the required two consecutive annual

meetings to amend SBC Constitution Article V. Officers, Section 2, to be effective upon Convention approval for the second consecutive year in the 2022 annual meeting.

12. **SBC Executive Committee: Request for Approval of Mission and Ministry Statement Amendment** – (See **Recommendation 4**, page 53.) In February 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to amend its Mission and Ministry statements and were to recommend the amendments to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention. Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention, the amendments will be recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021.
13. **Lifeway Christian Resources: Request for Approval of Mission and Ministry Statement Amendment** – (See **Recommendation 8**, page 68.) In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, adopt amendments to the Mission and Ministry Statements of Lifeway Christian Resources.
14. **North American Mission Board: Request for Approval of Ministry Statement Amendment** – (See **Recommendation 9**, page 71.) In May 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, adopt an amendment to the Ministry Statements of the North American Mission Board.
15. **International Mission Board: Amendments to Restated Articles of Incorporation** – In February 2021, for the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to fulfill the Virginia Corporation Commission's practice of requiring amendments to Articles of Incorporation be filed within a year of adoption, it was necessary for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, acting ad interim for the Southern Baptist Convention, to ratify its February 18-19, 2019, action which approved amendments to Article 4B of the Articles of Incorporation of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and report that during its February 18-19, 2021, meeting, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, acting ad interim for the Southern Baptist Convention, again considered and approved these amendments as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline, and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

...

B. The Board shall be composed of persons elected as trustees by the Southern Baptist Convention, ~~as provided in its governing instruments. Presently~~ based upon the total number of Southern Baptist church members in each state or defined territory recognized by the Southern Baptist Convention ~~determined,~~ as follows: one person chosen from each ~~cooperating~~ such state or defined territory; and one additional person from each ~~such state or defined territory having at least two hundred fifty thousand~~ 250,000 church members, and ~~another one~~ one additional person for ~~each every~~ each additional ~~two hundred fifty thousand~~ 250,000 church members in ~~such~~ the ~~state or defined territory.~~

...

Upon approval, Article 4B of the Articles of Incorporation of the International Mission Board would read as follows:

...

B. The Board shall be composed of persons elected as trustees by the Southern Baptist Convention. The number of trustees is based upon the total number of Southern Baptist

church members in each state or defined territory recognized by the Southern Baptist Convention, as follows: one person from each such state or defined territory; one additional person from each such state or defined territory having at least 250,000 church members, and one additional person for every additional 250,000 church members in the state or defined territory.

...

16. **Report from the SBC Credentials Committee and Recommendations** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee received and adopted the report and recommendations of the SBC Credentials Committee which disfellowshipped four churches which were no longer considered in friendly cooperation with the Convention as outlined in SBC Constitution Article III. Composition. The disfellowshipped churches are as follows:
  - Towne View Baptist Church, Kennesaw, GA – Disfellowshipped for affirming homosexuality;
  - St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, KY – Disfellowshipped for affirming homosexuality;
  - Antioch Baptist Church, Sevierville, TN – Disfellowshipped for employing a pastor who confessed to two counts of statutory rape; and
  - West Side Baptist Church, Sharpsville, PA – Disfellowshipped for employing as its pastor a registered sex offender.
17. **2021-2022 SBC Comprehensive Budget** – The 2021-2022 SBC Comprehensive Budget and a summary recap of entity operating budget totals are printed on page 36.
18. **SBC Committee on Nominations: Northwest Vacancy** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, acting ad interim for the Southern Baptist Convention, elected Ron Edwards, pastor, First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Washington, from the Northwest Baptist Convention, to serve as a member of the 2020-2021 SBC Committee on Nominations.
19. **SBC Registration Secretary: Vacancy** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved the recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee Officers to receive the resignation of SBC Registration Secretary Kathy Litton, named Don Currence as “acting” SBC registration secretary until such time as an SBC registration secretary is voted into office, and authorized Currence to perform all responsibilities, including platform duties, normally undertaken by the SBC Registration Secretary.
20. **SBC Referral: To Request the SBC Executive Committee to Amend the SBC Business and Financial Plan to Strengthen the Fiscal Accountability of Entities** – (See **Recommendation 7**, page 58.) In May 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, adopt the amended SBC Business and Financial Plan.
21. **Report of Study Task Force to Review the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission** – In February 2020, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee created a Study Task Force to review the past and present activities of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in fulfillment of its Convention-approved ministry assignments. On January 16, 2021, the ERLC Study Task Force submitted its report which included the following six recommendations:

**ERLC Study Task Force Recommendations**

- (1) That the Executive Committee seek to provide even greater clarity about Convention-wide giving trends as it reports giving to the national Convention budget.
  - (2) That the Executive Committee request that the ERLC Board of Trustees, in an effort to foster greater unity among our churches, encourage ERLC staff to focus, where possible, on speaking where the Southern Baptist Convention has already spoken through resolutions and The Baptist Faith and Message.
  - (3) That the Executive Committee request that the ERLC Board of Trustees encourage the president and staff of the ERLC to refrain from opposing specific candidates for public office.
  - (4) That the Executive Committee request that the ERLC Board of Trustees encourage the ERLC staff to be more responsive to requests from Southern Baptists to address/acknowledge certain news items as a means of better serving the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.
  - (5) That the Executive Committee request that the ERLC Board of Trustees work with the ERLC staff to develop an intentional plan to demonstrate a greater appreciation for how its positions, including social media usage, affect the spirit of cooperation among Southern Baptists.
  - (6) That the Executive Committee request that the boards of trustees of each of the entities of the Convention adopt and implement a policy of submitting legal briefs, where those briefs address the nature and work of Southern Baptists, to Convention attorneys, prior to their being filed, for the purpose of receiving input regarding the effect of those briefs on the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.
22. **Election of Southern Baptist Foundation Trustees** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee directed its president, as the agent designated to represent it as the Member of the Southern Baptist Foundation, to elect Key Holleman, Tennessee, and Bob Dawkins, Tennessee, as directors of the Southern Baptist Foundation, for terms of office expiring 2024 and until their successors are elected, the terms to begin immediately upon their election during the Southern Baptist Foundation’s annual members’ meeting to be held in June 2021.
23. **Meeting Hall Expenses of the SBC Pastors’ Conference** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee requested the North American Mission Board, in place of the SBC Pastors’ Conference, to reimburse the SBC Executive Committee \$100,000 for the year 2021 for its use of meeting space and the meeting hall and facilities at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, requested the staff to continue documenting the variable cost attributed to the Send Conference sponsored by NAMB, IMB, and SBC Pastors’ Conference, and requested NAMB, IMB, and SBC Pastors’ Conference leadership to recognize the significant indirect support provided through the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget to help offset the costs of the 2021 Send Conference/SBC Pastors’ Conference annually.

24. **Meeting Space Policy for the SBC Annual Meeting** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reviewed and adopted the Meeting Space Policy for the SBC Annual Meeting as follows:

**Meeting Space Policy for the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting**

For the purposes of this policy the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee shall be referred to as the “EC” and the Southern Baptist Convention shall be referred to as the “Convention.”

**A. AUTHORITY**

SBC Bylaw 18.E(1) and (4), The Executive Committee state the following:

- E. The Executive Committee shall be the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive entity of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically committed to some other board or entity. The Executive Committee is specifically authorized, instructed, and commissioned to perform the following functions:
  - (1) To act for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for.
  - (4) To recommend to the Convention a time and place and to have oversight of the arrangements for the meetings of the Convention, with authority to change both the time and place of the meetings in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution.

SBC Executive Committee Bylaw Article VI, Section 6.4.5, states the following:

6.4.5. The Committee on Convention Events and Strategic Planning. The Committee on Convention Events and Strategic Planning will normally consider and make recommendations about such things as:

- a. Reviewing and approving all policies relative to the management and operations of the Convention’s annual meeting, including contracts with Convention officers and parliamentarians, the Pastors’ Conference, and other ancillary meetings that utilize space in the Convention’s annual meeting facilities;
- b. Reviewing and making recommendations for future Convention meeting sites;
- c. Reviewing site, housing, and exhibitor guidelines for the annual meeting of the Convention;
- d. Reviewing and responding to all matters that pertain to the process, procedures, and operations of the SBC annual meeting referred by the Convention to the Executive Committee;

...

**B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MISSION AND PURPOSE**

The *Organization Manual* of the Convention states the following:

“The Executive Committee exists to minister to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by acting for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for in a manner that encourages the cooperation and confidence of the churches, associations, and state conventions and facilitates maximum support for worldwide missions and ministries.”

The *Organization Manual* of the Convention also states the EC is to “assist churches through conducting and administering the work of the Convention not otherwise assigned.”

**C. MEETING SPACE POLICY PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Meeting Space Policy for the annual meeting of the Convention is to assist churches and their leaders and members to “present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations” by:

1. Inspiring churches to support and facilitate missions’ education and awareness, strengthen relationships and foster fellowship between churches and Convention ministries and entities; and
2. Informing churches of resources which will encourage, equip, engage and empower them.

**D. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The Meeting Space is maintained at the Convention’s annual meeting to inspire and inform churches, leaders, and members and as a result, each meeting will be expected to comply with the following principles:

1. Honor Jesus Christ and serve the unity of Southern Baptists in a common and cooperative effort to fulfill the Great Commission;
2. Reflect a high standard of quality and commitment to excellence;
3. Is consistent with the current *Baptist Faith and Message* and the ministries, missional vision, and core values of the Convention; and
4. Not be in conflict with any EC policies or any entity assignments.

**E. MEETING SPACE ELIGIBILITY**

1. Primary meeting space assignments shall be limited to:
  - a. The EC, Convention entities, the Woman’s Missionary Union;
  - b. Convention approved committees;
  - c. Recognized Baptist State Convention(s) and their entities; and
  - d. Colleges, universities, and schools that have continued to demonstrate a commitment to the work and purpose of the Convention and have entered into a cooperative relationship with recognized Baptist state/regional conventions.
2. Secondary meeting space assignments shall be limited, on a space available basis, to:
  - a. Organizations sponsored by a Convention entity or auxiliary; and
  - b. Organizations approved by official action of the EC.
3. Other meeting space users shall be limited, on a space available basis, to:
  - a. Groups which meet the stated purpose and guiding principles of the meeting space policy; and
  - b. The inclusion of any Group should not indicate a real or perceived endorsement of that Group by the Convention or the EC.
4. Meeting space shall not be granted to any applying Group that has acted to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior, and/or the use of alcoholic beverages in its programs or on its properties.

**F. GROUP RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Each Group shall complete a “Function Space Request form.” This request must be made no earlier than November prior to the meeting.
2. Each Group shall be charged a room usage fee upon confirmation of reservation.
3. Each Group shall work with the service partners of the facility that are exclusive providers for needed equipment and services. If there is not an exclusive provider, Group can utilize other organizations.



4. No Group shall assign, sublet, or share the whole or part of the meeting space allotted unless approved by the Convention Manager. The Group agrees for themselves and their employees to use reserved space for lawful purposes only and will conform to all laws, ordinances, and regulations.
5. All Groups are subject to sound level standards that will be established by the Convention Manager.
  - a. If the noise level in the space exceeds a reasonable level and is disruptive to other Groups, the Group will be given a warning and asked to lower the volume or eliminate the disruptive noise. If more than one request becomes necessary, the Group will be fined \$250 for each additional request. Meeting space privileges may be subject to revocation and the Group may be prohibited from using space at future sessions of the Convention.
6. No Group shall engage in the direct sale of materials unless pre-approved in advance by the Convention Manager.
7. Groups that would like to make published materials available for sale to attendees should contact Lifeway Christian Resources Retail Division for consideration of sales through the Lifeway Christian Stores exhibit.
8. No Group shall engage in the direct solicitation of contributions.
9. No Group shall engage in the sale or distribution of food.
10. No Group may place posters, signs, or meeting announcements in any area without the approval of the Convention Manager.
11. No Group is allowed to distribute information outside the meeting space without the written permission of the Convention Manager.
12. The Convention and the EC have secured the meeting space at the annual meeting of the Convention as a courtesy and convenience to organizations who wish to hold meetings. Each Group, by entering into this agreement, waives any right which the Group might have to make a claim against the Convention or the EC for damages arising from the theft, destruction, or other loss of the Group's property or from any injury to the Group or its employees, agents, volunteers, guests, or visitors. Group agrees to indemnify and to hold harmless the Convention, the EC, and their respective officers, directors, employees, and agents from and against all cost or liability arising from any claim which might be made against any of them by any person or entity whatsoever arising from the theft, destruction, or other loss of property or from any bodily injury to the Group's employees, agents, volunteers, guests, or visitors. This waiver and indemnification agreement applies to any claim or cause of action arising during the entire period of time the meeting space is made available to Group, including times for moving in and out of the meeting space.

## **G. CONVENTION MANAGER RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Secure space for the meetings in the Convention Center and/or Convention Hotel. Space available will be based upon signed contracts.
2. Notify Groups of the following:
  - a. Confirmation of space reservation,
  - b. Space access and release date(s)/time(s),
  - c. Facility partner vendor information,
  - d. Floor plan of the space,
  - e. Menus or a link to menus for the facility, and
  - f. Cost of the meeting space use.

3. The Convention Manager shall have the right to restrict, alter, or end any meeting because of noise, method of operation, or if it is out of keeping with the character of the Southern Baptist Convention. No refund shall be offered under such circumstances.

#### **H. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

1. Primary/Secondary/Other Groups: Groups will be assessed a room usage fee by the EC based on space size and annual facility costs.
  2. Any charges to the EC from the facility that involves Group will be billed by the EC after the Convention for items such as any room set-up fees or other fees that have not been covered directly by the Group.
25. **Report of Audits of SBC Entities** – In June 2018, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee employed the firm of Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, P. A. as auditor for three years beginning with the fiscal year 2017-18. In February 2021, the SBC Executive Committee received as information the fact that the Committee on Convention Finances and Stewardship Development received and reviewed the 2020 required communications submitted to the SBC Executive Committee as outlined by Article XIII of the SBC Business and Financial Plan as well as the 2019-20 audited financial statements of the SBC Executive Committee as prepared by the firm of Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, P. A., and acknowledged that these audited financial statements were made a part of the official records of the SBC Executive Committee; and the SBC Executive Committee received as information the fact that the Committee on Convention Finances and Stewardship Development received and approved the management letter from Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, P. A.
26. **Review of SBC Entity Fund Raising Reports** – In September 2020, in accordance with Southern Baptist Convention Business and Financial Plan Article VI, Fund Raising Activities, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee received as information the fund raising reports of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.
27. **Loan Status Reports** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee received as information, loan status reports from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They will report their loan status to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 2022 meeting.
28. ***SBC Calendar of Activities Recommendations and Amendments*** – In February 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee approved the following recommendations for the 2026 *SBC Calendar of Activities* and amendments to the 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 *SBC Calendar of Activities*:

## SBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2022

**JANUARY***Focus on Christian Discipleship*

- **January 2-9:** January Bible Study Week
- **January 16:** Sanctity of Life Sunday

**FEBRUARY***Focus on Christian Unity*

- **February 6:** George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday
- **February 20:** Focus on WMU Sunday
- **February 27:** Racial Reconciliation Sunday

**MARCH***Focus on North American Missions*

- **March 6-13:** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- **March 27:** Church Planting Emphasis Day

**APRIL***Focus on Christian Evangelism*

- **April 10:** Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- **April 17:** Easter
- **April 24:** Baptism Sunday

**MAY***Focus on Christian Education*

- **May 5:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 15:** SBC Seminary Sunday
- **May 22:** Children's Ministry Sunday

**JUNE***Focus on Local & State Missions & Ministries*

- **June 5:** Disaster Relief Sunday
- **June 11:** Crossover Anaheim
- **June 12-13:** WMU Missions Celebration
- **June 14-15:** SBC Annual Meeting (Anaheim, CA)
- **June 26:** Mission:Dignity Sunday

**JULY***Focus on Christian Citizenship*

- **July 3:** Religious Liberty Sunday

**AUGUST***Focus on Christian Service*

- **August 7:** Send Relief Sunday
- **August 14:** SBC Serve Sunday
- **August 28:** Global Hunger Sunday

**SEPTEMBER***Focus on Next Generation Ministries*

- **September 17:** Children's Missions Day

**OCTOBER***Focus on Cooperative Program*

- **October 2:** CP Sunday
- **October 23:** Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
- **October 30:** Student Baptism Sunday

**NOVEMBER***Focus on Christian Compassion*

- **November 6:** Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church
- **November 13:** Orphans & Widows Sunday

**DECEMBER***Focus on International Missions*

- **December 4-11:** Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- **December 25:** Christmas

## SBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2023

**JANUARY***Focus on Christian Discipleship*

- **January 1-8:** January Bible Study Week
- **January 22:** Sanctity of Life Sunday

**FEBRUARY***Focus on Christian Unity*

- **February 5:** George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday
- **February 19:** Focus on WMU Sunday
- **February 26:** Racial Reconciliation Sunday

**MARCH***Focus on North American Missions*

- **March 5-12:** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- **March 19:** Church Planting Emphasis Day

**APRIL***Focus on Christian Evangelism*

- **April 2:** Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- **April 9:** Easter
- **April 16:** Baptism Sunday

**MAY***Focus on Christian Education*

- **May 4:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 7:** SBC Seminary Sunday
- **May 21:** Children's Ministry Sunday

**JUNE***Focus on Local & State Missions & Ministries*

- **June 4:** Disaster Relief Sunday
- **June 10:** Crossover Charlotte
- **June 11-12:** WMU Missions Celebration
- **June 13-14:** SBC Annual Meeting (Charlotte, NC)
- **June 25:** Mission: Dignity Sunday

**JULY***Focus on Christian Citizenship*

- **July 2:** Religious Liberty Sunday

**AUGUST***Focus on Christian Service*

- **August 6:** Send Relief Sunday
- **August 13:** SBC Serve Sunday
- **August 27:** Global Hunger Sunday

**SEPTEMBER***Focus on Next Generation Ministries*

- **September 16:** Children's Missions Day

**OCTOBER***Focus on Cooperative Program*

- **October 1:** CP Sunday
- **October 22:** Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
- **October 29:** Student Baptism Sunday

**NOVEMBER***Focus on Christian Compassion*

- **November 5:** Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church
- **November 12:** Orphans & Widows Sunday

**DECEMBER***Focus on International Missions*

- **December 3-10:** Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- **December 25:** Christmas

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SBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2024**JANUARY***Focus on Christian Discipleship*

- January 7-14: January Bible Study Week
- January 21: Sanctity of Life Sunday

**FEBRUARY***Focus on Christian Unity*

- **February 4:** George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday
- **February 18:** Focus on WMU Sunday
- **February 25:** Racial Reconciliation Sunday

**MARCH***Focus on North American Missions*

- **March 3-10:** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- **March 17:** Church Planting Emphasis Day
- **March 24:** Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- **March 31:** Easter

**APRIL***Focus on Christian Evangelism*

- **April 7:** Baptism Sunday

**MAY***Focus on Christian Education*

- **May 2:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 5:** SBC Seminary Sunday
- **May 19:** Children's Ministry Sunday

**JUNE***Focus on Local & State Missions & Ministries*

- **June 2:** Disaster Relief Sunday
- **June 8:** Crossover Indianapolis
- **June 9-10:** WMU Missions Celebration
- **June 11-12:** SBC Annual Meeting (Indianapolis, IN)
- **June 23:** Mission: Dignity Sunday

**JULY***Focus on Christian Citizenship*

- **July 7:** Religious Liberty Sunday

**AUGUST***Focus on Christian Service*

- **August 4:** Send Relief Sunday
- **August 11:** SBC Serve Sunday
- **August 25:** Global Hunger Sunday

**SEPTEMBER***Focus on Next Generation Ministries*

- **September 21:** Children's Missions Day

**OCTOBER***Focus on Cooperative Program*

- **October 6:** CP Sunday
- **October 20:** Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
- **October 27:** Student Baptism Sunday

**NOVEMBER***Focus on Christian Compassion*

- **November 3:** Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church
- **November 10:** Orphans & Widows Sunday

**DECEMBER***Focus on International Missions*

- **December 1-8:** Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- **December 25:** Christmas

## SBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2025

**JANUARY***Focus on Christian Discipleship*

- **January 5-12:** January Bible Study Week
- **January 19:** Sanctity of Life Sunday

**FEBRUARY***Focus on Christian Unity*

- **February 2:** George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday
- **February 16:** Focus on WMU Sunday
- **February 23:** Racial Reconciliation Sunday

**MARCH***Focus on North American Missions*

- **March 2-9:** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- **March 16:** Church Planting Emphasis Day

**APRIL***Focus on Christian Evangelism*

- **April 13:** Personal Evangelism Commitment Day
- **April 20:** Easter
- **April 27:** Baptism Sunday

**MAY***Focus on Christian Education*

- **May 1:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 4:** SBC Seminary Sunday
- **May 18:** Children's Ministry Sunday

**JUNE***Focus on Local & State Missions & Ministries*

- **June 1:** Disaster Relief Sunday
- **June 7:** Crossover Dallas
- **June 8-9:** WMU Missions Celebration
- **June 10-11:** SBC Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
- **June 22:** Mission: Dignity Sunday

**JULY***Focus on Christian Citizenship*

- **July 6:** Religious Liberty Sunday

**AUGUST***Focus on Christian Service*

- **August 3:** Send Relief Sunday
- **August 10:** SBC Serve Sunday
- **August 24:** Global Hunger Sunday

**SEPTEMBER***Focus on Next Generation Ministries*

- **September 14:** Student Baptism Sunday
- **September 20:** Children's Missions Day

**OCTOBER***Focus on Cooperative Program*

- **October 5:** CP Sunday
- **October 19:** Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
- **October 26:** Student Baptism Sunday

**NOVEMBER***Focus on Christian Compassion*

- **November 2:** Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church
- **November 9:** Orphans & Widows Sunday
- **November 30-December 7:** Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**DECEMBER***Focus on International Missions*

- See end of November above
- **December 25:** Christmas

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SBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2026**JANUARY***Focus on Christian Discipleship*

- **January 4-11:** January Bible Study Week
- **January 18:** Sanctity of Life Sunday

**FEBRUARY***Focus on Christian Unity*

- **February 1:** George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Sunday
- **February 15:** Focus on WMU Sunday
- **February 22:** Racial Reconciliation Sunday

**MARCH***Focus on North American Missions*

- **March 8-15:** Week of Prayer for North American Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- **March 22:** Church Planting Emphasis Day
- **March 29:** Personal Evangelism Commitment Day

**APRIL***Focus on Christian Evangelism*

- **April 5:** Easter
- **April 12:** Baptism Sunday

**MAY***Focus on Christian Education*

- **May 3:** SBC Seminary Sunday
- **May 7:** National Day of Prayer
- **May 17:** Children's Ministry Sunday
- **May 31:** Disaster Relief Sunday

**JUNE***Focus on Local & State Missions & Ministries*

- **June 6:** Crossover Orlando
- **June 7-8:** WMU Missions Celebration
- **June 9-10:** SBC Annual Meeting (Orlando, FL)
- **June 28:** Mission: Dignity Sunday

**JULY***Focus on Christian Citizenship*

- **July 5:** Religious Liberty Sunday

**AUGUST***Focus on Christian Service*

- **August 2:** Send Relief Sunday
- **August 9:** SBC Serve Sunday
- **August 23:** Global Hunger Sunday

**SEPTEMBER***Focus on Next Generation Ministries*

- **September 19:** Children's Missions Day

**OCTOBER***Focus on Cooperative Program*

- **October 4:** CP Sunday
- **October 18:** Day of Prayer for Associational Missions
- **October 25:** Student Baptism Sunday

**NOVEMBER***Focus on Christian Compassion*

- **November 1:** Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church
- **November 8:** Orphans & Widows Sunday
- **November 29-December 6:** Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**DECEMBER***Focus on International Missions*

- See end of November above
- **December 25:** Christmas

## MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11-12, 2019, the Convention referred the following motions to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for consideration, action, and report.\* The disposition of each referral is noted following its description in an adherence to SBC Bylaw 26B which states, in part, as follows:

“On all matters referred by the Convention, entities shall respond in writing at the close of their report in the *Book of Reports* and *Annual*, giving specific information on:

- (1) how the matter referred was considered;
- (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and
- (3) any actions on the matter taken by the entity or action proposed to the Convention.”

1. **SBC Referral: To Request the SBC Executive Committee to Amend the Business and Financial Plan to Strengthen the Fiscal Accountability of Entities (Items 24 and 61, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 58, 63)**

**Motion:** Morris H. Chapman, Tennessee

“That this convention, as the sole member of each entity corporation, request the Executive Committee to amend the Business and Financial Plan of the Southern Baptist Convention and other appropriate legal authorities where necessary to strengthen the fiscal accountability of SBC entities to the convention and to promote greater transparency regarding the use of Cooperative Program dollars.”

**SBC Executive Committee Action:\*\*** In May 2021, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, adopt the amended SBC Business and Financial Plan. (See **Recommendation 7**, page 58.)

2. **SBC Referral: To Request Each SBC Entity to Provide an Update on Addressing Abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects:

1. What is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care?
2. What additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas?
3. How is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

\* Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

\*\* Response has been updated from 2020 SBC Annual.



**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it wants to be fully transparent about its efforts to stand with Southern Baptist entities and churches against the evils of sexual abuse as reflected in its previous actions:

1. In September 2018, the SBC Executive Committee, on behalf of the Convention ad interim, approved setting aside the first \$250,000 of Cooperative Program Allocation Budget receipts in excess of the 2017-18 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget goal to provide two years of funding for the SBC president's initiative to study ways to address sexual abuse and related issues in a church or ministry context.
  2. In June 2019, the SBC Executive Committee developed and recommended an amendment to SBC Bylaw 8, which was passed overwhelmingly by messengers of the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, repurposing the Credentials Committee into a standing committee to make inquiries and recommendations for action regarding instances that call a church's relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention into question. While those instances can range beyond the issue of abuse, this sent a clear signal of the intention for SBC Executive Committee and Southern Baptist Convention processes to reflect the seriousness of sexual abuse.
  3. In February and June 2019, the SBC Executive Committee developed and recommended an amendment to SBC Constitution Article III to specifically and proactively state that churches considered to be in friendly cooperation do not act in a manner inconsistent with the Convention's beliefs concerning abuse. The messengers to the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention passed this amendment overwhelmingly for the first of two consecutive annual meeting approvals. It will be presented for the second and final vote to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021.
3. **SBC Referral: Requesting a Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church be Added to the SBC Calendar of Activities (Items 17 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, SBC Annual, pp. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Brent Epling, North Carolina

"That the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention consider that a day of special emphasis and prayer for the global persecuted church be added to the *SBC Calendar of Activities*."

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it approved adding a special emphasis Sunday "A Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church" to the *SBC Calendar of Activities* to be resourced and supported by the International Mission Board and that the IMB provide the date annually. Previously approved calendars will be amended to include the date.

4. **SBC Referral: To Ask the SBC Executive Committee to Devise a Plan for Churches to Request Funding for Investigating Sexual Abuse (Items 18 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, SBC Annual, pp. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Aaron Colyer, New Mexico

"That the SBC Executive Committee consider the viability of developing a plan or avenue for churches to request funding for investigating sexual abuse."

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it declines to establish a plan to assist churches to conduct or procure their own investigations of reported sexual abuse as these type of matters should be handled by appropriate law enforcement officers.

Additionally, the SBC Executive Committee recommends churches use resources already provided through SBC.net, their Baptist state convention or local association, their individual insurance providers, GuideStone Financial Resources (GuideStonePropertyCasualty.org), and the recently resourced Caring Well Initiative (caringwell.com) led by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and funded by the SBC Executive Committee, to learn how to respond appropriately in instances of reported sexual abuse to help protect children, youth, and other vulnerable populations.

5. **SBC Referral: Requesting a George Liele Evangelism Day be Added to the *SBC Calendar of Activities* (Items 20 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 60, 63)**

**Motion:** Robert Anderson, Maryland

“That George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism and Missions Day be added to the Baptist Annual Day calendar on the first Sunday in February.”

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it approves adding a special emphasis Sunday, “George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism and Missions Day” on the first Sunday in February, to be resourced and supported by the International Mission Board. Previously approved calendars will be amended to include the date.

6. **SBC Referral: To Ask the SBC Executive Committee to Modernize the Nomination Process for Convention Committees and Boards (Items 21 and 61, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 58, 63)**

**Motion:** Brad Cone, Georgia

“That the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention consider modernizing the initial stage of the nomination process and the technology involved including consideration of using the online submission of forms for recommending those that serve on our boards or committees either alongside or in place of the correct form that must be physically mailed or delivered.”

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it receives the motion to modernize the nomination process for committees and boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, will provide appropriate information and nomination forms on the SBC.net website for use by any Southern Baptist who is a member of a church in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and will continue to take steps to promote wider participation in the nomination of committee persons and trustees among Southern Baptists.

7. **SBC Referral: To Have the SBC Executive Committee Give a Progress Report on the Adopted 2011 Recommendations Promoting Diversity (Items 22 and 61, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 58, 63)**

**Motion:** Leroy Fountain, Louisiana

“That a comprehensive report be given at the 2020 annual meeting by the Executive Committee on the progress of 10 recommendations adopted in 2011 for promoting and preparing ethnic members into leadership on entities staff, national committees, and boards.”

**SBC Executive Committee Action:\*\*** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it (a) presented a comprehensive twenty-year review of the Southern Baptist Convention's Progress on Racial Reconciliation in 2015, which included an update on the 2011 report and recommendations; (b) has continued to monitor such progress through annual reports it solicits and reports from each SBC entity, the SBC president, and the chairs of the Committee on Committees and Committee on Nominations; (c) has actively pursued broader ethnic representation and participation through the appointment of seven SBC Executive Committee advisory councils, each of which was composed of a dominant ethnic minority group (Hispanic, African American, Asian American) or a multiethnic representation of other groups (Multi-Ethnic Churches, Bivocational/Smaller Churches, Women's, Younger Leaders), and an ongoing Convention Advancement Advisory Council designed to help implement the findings of the seven advisory councils; and (d) will continue to monitor, solicit, and report such progress for at least the next five years, through 2025, so that the racial and ethnic diversity reflected among the Convention's cooperating churches continuously becomes ingrained in Convention life and processes as our normal way of relating to and with one another as equal partners in ministry and brothers and sisters in Christ. (See page 30 for the Report on Ethnic Diversity and Participation in the Southern Baptist Convention.)

8. **SBC Referral: To Amend *The Baptist Faith and Message* Regarding Israel (Items 25 and 61, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 58, 63)**

**Motion:** Matt Dunn, Missouri

"That our convention assemble the needed agency to update our *Baptist Faith and Message's* 18 statements to include a 19<sup>th</sup> statement that our convention declares, 'God will restore national Israel like Romans II says, and bring about a reunion with her neighbors in the Middle East.'"

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The SBC Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that in light of the historic practice of holistic review, it declines to recommend amending selected portions of *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

9. **SBC Referral: To Amend the SBC Constitution and Bylaws to Allow Distance Voting for SBC Officers (Items 26 and 61, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 59, 63)**

**Motion:** Dennis Golden, Tennessee

"That the SBC Constitution and Bylaws pertaining to voting for president and vice president be amended allowing all SBC senior pastors to cast their votes electronically rather than requiring them to physically be present at the annual convention believing the majority of SBC pastors cannot afford to travel and attend the national convention."

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that, after a renewed examination, it declines at this time to further study the feasibility of distance voting and remote participation in the annual meeting, believing that:

- the simplicity of conducting business at a single site is preferable to the complexity of doing so via innumerable off-site computer configurations;

\*\* Response has been updated from 2020 SBC Annual.

- the Convention has a continuing interest in positively affecting various regions of America with as great a physical presence of Southern Baptists as possible during the Convention's annual meetings and ancillary events such as Crossover;
- the dependability of conducting business at a single site is superior to "distance" messenger participation because the susceptibility of the technology to interruption or failure could significantly and negatively impact the meeting, its actions, the trust of the Convention's constituents, and the relationships of the parties involved and affected;
- the present "public" method of casting ballots involves some level of "in-person" and "eye-witness" assurance that ballots have been received and cast only by qualified messengers, and is therefore preferable to any other system which would permit an individual to receive and/or cast a ballot privately and electronically from a remote location without accountability;
- ministry and service opportunities and resources are now well-conveyed by high exhibitor participation, which would decline if attendance were to become less concentrated;
- fostering and strengthening relationships with and between various affinity groups that schedule their meetings to coincide with the Convention's annual meeting is best accomplished by encouraging the physical presence of messengers;
- the funds required for any implementation would likely be substantial; and
- with there being no known model for web-based constituent participation in any similarly-sized, deliberative body, diverting missions' offerings to pioneer the use of such technology would be an inappropriate prioritization.

10. **SBC Referral: To Amend *The Baptist Faith and Message* to Limit the Function of Pastor to Men (Items 42 and 80, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 60, 80)**

**Motion:** Pam Richerson, Louisiana

"That this convention amend *The Baptist Faith and Message* 2000, Article 6, as follows: 'While men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office and function of pastor is limited to men as qualified by scripture.'"

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that in light of the historic practice of holistic review, it declines to recommend amending selected portions of *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

11. **SBC Referral: To Have the SBC Executive Committee Create a Statement Regarding the Social Gospel (Items 44 and 80, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, pp. 61, 80)**

**Motion:** Ryan Broers, Kentucky

"That the Executive Committee create an official statement regarding the social gospel by addressing the following questions: (1) What is the social gospel? (2) What role if any should the social gospel have in the ministries of the SBC and its churches?"

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it believes messengers to the SBC annual meeting have spoken repeatedly to the primacy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the only message with the power to redeem fallen people from the dire consequences

of their sins, while simultaneously lifting up biblical calls to care for humanitarian needs of people wherever human brokenness manifests itself; and, in keeping with the 2007 Garner motion that *The Baptist Faith and Message* “is the only consensus statement of doctrinal beliefs approved by the Southern Baptist Convention,” declines to recommend the addition of theological position papers to define for Southern Baptists that which they already capably define for themselves.

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas, June 12-13, 2018, the Convention referred the following motion to the SBC Executive Committee for consideration, action, and report. The disposition of this referral is noted following its description in adherence to SBC Bylaw 26B which states, in part, as follows:

**12. SBC Referral: To Study the Biblical Position Regarding a Woman Serving as President of the SBC (Items 69, 92, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-13, 2018, *SBC Annual*, pp. 63, 92)**

**Motion:** Michael Turner, South Carolina

“That the Executive Committee form a task force, commission, or committee of gender and ethnic background to study the biblical authority and biblical viability of a woman serving or not serving as the SBC president.”

**SBC Executive Committee Action:** The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it believes individual messengers to the SBC annual meeting are capable of expressing their collective opinion on the topic of this motion through the nominating and voting process for SBC officers at each SBC annual meeting and, therefore, declines to recommend the addition of theological position papers to supplement *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

## REPORT ON ETHNIC DIVERSITY AND PARTICIPATION IN THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

This report highlights the ongoing growth and participation of racially and ethnically diverse congregations in the Southern Baptist Convention. Since 1990, ethnic and racially diverse congregations have increased by 18.4% going from 3.9% to 22.3%. To date, 22.3% of Southern Baptist Churches are ethnically and racially diverse, creating the most diversity that the Southern Baptist Convention has experienced in its 175-year history. In addition, Southern Baptists have expressed their desire for increased engagement among the diverse congregations in cooperation with the convention. As a result, the committees appointed by the SBC President in 2019 and 2021 reflect significant levels of ethnic diversity. SBC committees and trustee boards elected by messengers to the SBC Annual Meeting further demonstrate the continued growth of leaders from this growing diversity of churches within the convention. The commitment to move towards a culture of engagement is reflected in these continued efforts of Southern Baptists to advance ethnic diversity and participation.

This “Report on Ethnic Diversity and Participation” provides an update on the recommendations set forth in the 2009 study regarding greater involvement of ethnic churches and leaders. This study was fueled by a 2019 referral to the Executive Committee requesting that a progress report be given on diversity in the Southern Baptist Convention (2019 *SBC Annual*, pp. 58, 63). The Executive Committee’s response to the referral (see pages 26-27) was adopted during its February 17-18, 2020 meeting with intent to report to the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting which was cancelled. The Executive Committee’s adopted report includes an ongoing commitment to continue to monitor, solicit, and report progress on diversity and ethnic participation for at least the next five years through 2025.

Dr. Ronnie W. Floyd, as the president and CEO of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, tasked the Executive Committee staff, specifically the Great Commission Relations and Mobilization Team, with developing a current snapshot of the ethnic diversity of both SBC churches and participation within the Southern Baptist Convention. The Executive Committee, being responsible for formatting the annual “data call” as outlined in SBC Bylaw 18 E (12), includes in its annual ministry inquiry of each SBC entity a request for specific information regarding ethnic diversity and participation. The Great Commission Relations and Mobilization team led by Willie McLaurin, vice president, and including Julio Arriola, executive director for Hispanic relations; Peter Yanes, executive director for Asian relations; Charles Grant, executive director for African American relations; and Ashley Clayton, executive director for church affiliation, have worked to collect the following data. They were assisted in their efforts by Minh Ha Nguyen, manager of research data and delivery for the International Mission Board.

## OVERVIEW

The following information tracks Southern Baptist congregations by race/ethnicity from 1990 to 2018 as reported in the Annual Church Profile (ACP). The analysis is done every five years, meaning that the last period from 2015-2018 is incomplete at this time.

**Congregations by Race/Ethnicity**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Anglo	35,937	37,203	39,268	40,168	40,738	40,597	40,033
African American	1,007	1,489	2,322	3,038	3,534	3,747	3,920
Hispanic	1,189	1,587	2,195	2,827	3,361	3,429	3,509
Asian American	649	881	1,271	1,551	1,747	1,936	2,095
Other Ethnic	668	914	1,109	1,300	1,562	1,735	1,981
Unknown	2,349	1,353					
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41,799</b>	<b>43,427</b>	<b>46,165</b>	<b>48,884</b>	<b>50,942</b>	<b>51,444</b>	<b>51,538</b>

**Growth of Ethnically Diverse Congregations by Percentage**

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2018</b>
Anglo	3.5%	9.3%	11.8%	13.4%	13.0%	11.4%
African American	47.9%	130.6%	201.7%	250.9%	272.1%	289.3%
Hispanic	33.5%	84.6%	137.8%	182.7%	188.4%	195.1%
Asian American	35.7%	95.8%	139.0%	169.2%	198.3%	222.8%
Other Ethnic	36.8%	66.0%	94.6%	133.8%	159.7%	196.6%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>10.4%</b>	<b>17.0%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>	<b>23.1%</b>	<b>23.3%</b>

A number of observations can be gleaned from this report regarding the ethnic diversity and participation among Southern Baptist congregations:

- 22.3 percent of our Southern Baptist congregations are non-Anglo or ethnic minority congregations. In 1990, 8.4 percent of our Southern Baptist congregations were non-Anglo or ethnic minority congregations. Therefore, our Southern Baptist non-Anglo or ethnic minority congregations have grown by 7,992 congregations since 1990, or by 22.3 percent.
- African American congregations saw the largest growth of 289.3 percent from 1990-2018, while the Anglo group saw the smallest growth of 11.4 percent. From 1995-2000, the African American group grew by 482 congregations and from 2000-2005, this group grew by an additional 833 congregations.
- The number of Southern Baptist congregations increased by 23.3 percent from 41,799 in 1990 to 51,538 in 2018.
- From 1990-2019, SBC membership declined from 14,826,580 to 14,813,206, a drop of 0.1 percent.
- From 1990-2019 ethnic minority groups increased by over one million (1,021,658) in membership.

- Asian American membership grew by 270.7 percent.
- Between 1990 and 2018, 6 in 10 new congregations in the SBC were ethnic minority or non-Anglo congregations.
- From 2000-2005 and 2005-2010, the most growth experienced among SBC membership was among African American, Asian American and Hispanics.
- With 22.3 percent of our Southern Baptist congregations being non-Anglo and many worshipping in multiple languages across America, the Southern Baptist Convention may be the most multi-ethnic and multi-lingual denomination in the United States.

In addition, the Great Commission Relations and Mobilization team gathered data to provide a current snapshot of ethnic diversity and participation among key committees appointed by the SBC President as well as SBC committees and entity trustee boards that serve the interests of Southern Baptists.

### 2020-2021 Committees of the Southern Baptist Convention

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Other	White
Committee on Committees	12	14	9	0	33
Committee on Resolutions	0	2	1	0	7
Registration Committee	4	8	4	0	13
Committee on Nominations	5	15	5	1	42
Committee on Order of Business	0	1	1	0	4
Credentials Committee	0	2	0	0	7

*Committees appointed by the SBC President: Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, and Registration Committee*

### 2020-2021 SBC Trustee Boards

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Other	White
Executive Committee of the SBC	1	5	1	0	72
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	1	2	1	0	30
GuideStone Financial Resources	0	6	0	0	36
Lifeway Christian Resources	1	7	1	0	45
International Mission Board	0	2	1	0	74
North American Mission Board	0	2	3	0	38
Gateway Seminary	2	3	2	1	29
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	0	3	0	0	39
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	2	2	2	0	30
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary	1	0	1	1	24
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	0	4	0	0	29
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	3	1	1	0	35

*SBC entity boards are nominated for service by the Committee on Nomination as outlined in SBC Bylaw 15, and elected by the messengers to the SBC Annual Meeting.*



In 2015, a robust review of the Southern Baptist Convention's progress on racial reconciliation from 1995-2015 was reported to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and can be found in the 2015 *SBC Annual* (pp. 142-155).

Dr. Floyd's commitment to diversity at every level in the Southern Baptist Convention has been exemplified in his hiring of an African American vice president, Willie McLaurin, who is charged with leading the Great Commission Relations and Mobilization team at the Executive Committee. Floyd brought on three executive directors, who provide specific focus on diversity and increased ethnic participation: Julio Arriola, executive director for Hispanic relations; Charles Grant, executive director for African American relations; and Peter Yanes, executive director for Asian American relations. Floyd's commitment to ethnic diversity and participation has resulted in an Executive Committee staff leadership team that demonstrates diversity.

	Asian	Black	Hispanic	Other	White	Diversity %
EC Leadership Staff	1	2	1	0	7	36%

Such expressed desire for increased participation across the Southern Baptist Convention distinctively aligns with VISION 2025 that Dr. Floyd introduced in February 2021: reaching every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state and every nation. VISION 2025 can only be fulfilled through broad participation and a diverse convention of believers unified around a common goal to fulfill the Great Commission.

### CURRENT RESPONSE TO 2011 RECOMMENDATIONS

As we move towards greater diversity and ethnic participation, the path forward is clear. The Executive Committee continues to cultivate awareness, recognizing the need to be proactive and intentional in efforts to increase inclusion of all ethnicities in the Southern Baptist Convention. Additionally, the Executive Committee, following the recommendations set forth in the 2009 study on greater involvement for ethnic churches and leaders (2011 *SBC Annual*, pp. 141-142), has done the following:

1. Request in its annual "data call" from Southern Baptist Convention entities a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and church leaders.

*As outlined in SBC Bylaw 18 E (12) the Executive Committee poses the following question to each SBC entity as part of its annual ministry inquiry: "Given this context, and using previous years' submissions to this question as a model, please give a robust descriptive report of ethnic participation, including active involvement of ethnic churches and church leaders, across all levels and aspects of entity ministry—such things as senior administrative staff, other professional staff, support staff, customer facing representatives, and written and spoken language resources—demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation over the past nine years, 2011–2020." Ministry Reports from each SBC entity are compiled and posted annually and can be reviewed at: [sbc.net/resource-library/ministry-reports](http://sbc.net/resource-library/ministry-reports).*

2. Include in the SBC President's Notebook a section encouraging the appointment of individuals who represent the diversity within the Convention to the committees under his purview.

*In 2011, a section of the President's Notebook was added to encourage diversity in presidential appointments and the need for reporting. The section includes the exact recommendations from the 2011 report specifically pertaining to the SBC President.*

3. Request the SBC president to report for release in Baptist Press the diversity represented on the committees the president appoints.

*As required by SBC Bylaws 8B, 19, and 20, the SBC President is to release through Baptist Press the names of committee appointments prior to the SBC Annual Meeting. Since 2011, the release of appointees has included the diversity of each committee appointed to service.*

4. Include in the SBC President's Notebook a section encouraging the selection of annual meeting program personalities, in conjunction with the Committee on Order of Business, that represent the ethnic diversity within the SBC.

*In 2011, a section of the President's Notebook was added to include the exact language of the 2011 recommendation to encourage diverse committee appointments and diversity in those participating in the annual meeting program of the convention.*

5. Request the Committee on Order of Business to consider ethnic diversity among program participants for the SBC Annual Meeting.

*The SBC president, as a primary member of the Committee on Order of Business, is requested in the President's Notebook to select program participants that reflected the diversity among Southern Baptists.*

6. Provide a place to indicate ethnicity on the nominating form of the Committee on Nominations.

*A request for nominees to the Committee on Nominations as well as nominees to SBC boards is included on nominating forms.*

7. Request the Committee on Nominations include in its annual report the total number of new nominees and total number among all nominees that represent the ethnic diversity within the SBC.

*As required by SBC Bylaw 15 the initial report of the Committee on Nominations is released through Baptist Press with names of nominees to SBC boards and standing committees. Since 2011, the chair's report to the Convention has included the diversity of nominees to SBC boards.*

8. Encourage SBC entities to consider the recruitment and employment to qualified individuals to serve as professional staff, faculty and missionaries to reflect the diversity of Southern Baptists.

*SBC entities continue to give due consideration to diverse recruitment and employment. This is evidenced by the diverse leadership staff of the SBC Executive Committee and other SBC entities. Each entity responds annually to the ministry inquiry making a specific request for a "robust description" of ethnic participation. This information is received by the SBC Executive Committee and is available for review at [sbc.net/resource-library/ministry-reports](http://sbc.net/resource-library/ministry-reports).*

9. Continue to provide through its various publications and news outlets news coverage of interest to individuals of all ethnic interests including stories that demonstrate the Lord's work through ministries of diverse Baptists of "every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

*Baptist Press regularly covers news for and about a diverse group of Southern Baptists. The focus on ethnic interests can be seen in the production of Baptist Press en Español (BPÉE) with stories translated by a team of translators to provide an overview of news in Southern Baptist Life. SBC Life pursues feature stories about*

*individuals, churches, and organizations that are making a difference. Special care is given to publish articles that portray a variety of demographics, including multiple ethnicities, in an effort represent all Southern Baptists as well as a breadth of ministry experiences and mission efforts around the globe.*

10. Receive a report from Executive Committee staff concerning the participation of ethnic churches and church leaders in the life and ministry of the SBC entities as reported through the various means previously outlined.

*During its regular meeting each February, the Executive Committee receives a report regarding diversity and ethnic participation among churches in cooperation with the convention.*

Knowing that it is the expressed desire of the Southern Baptist Convention to see diversity become ingrained in the life of the Convention and reflected among its cooperating churches, committees, boards and entities, Dr. Floyd is committed to increased diversity as an integral part of his call for culture change which includes living and breathing Gospel urgency; empowering all churches, all generations, all ethnicities, and all languages; telling and celebrating what God is doing; loving others like Jesus loves; prioritizing, elevating and accelerating generosity; and reaching the world for Christ so that "...a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language..." come to know Christ. Whatever the cost and whatever the risk we must be committed to advancing the vision to see every person in every town, every city, every state and every nation reached with the Gospel of Christ.

*This report will be received as information by the SBC Executive Committee during its June 14, 2021 meeting.*

## COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET

	<u>2021-2022*</u>	<u>2020-2021*</u>	<u>2019-2020*</u>
Convention Operating Budget	\$ 8,600,000	8,300,350	8,119,545
International Mission Board	278,000,000	255,300,000	245,123,000
North American Mission Board	99,860,000	99,860,000	118,291,130
Lifeway Christian Resources	220,000,000	218,300,000	223,042,000
GuideStone Financial Resources	99,500,000	91,400,000	90,800,000
Gateway Seminary	12,275,000	12,000,000	11,650,000
Midwestern Seminary	29,808,000	25,169,000	25,358,760
New Orleans Seminary	21,851,538	21,551,221	23,542,383
Southeastern Seminary	31,017,540	30,300,960	29,111,460
Southern Seminary	48,126,414	37,245,515	53,200,735
Southwestern Seminary	34,456,000	30,478,953	32,615,439
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	3,705,290	3,983,590	4,018,206
Historical Library and Archives	501,200	513,000	510,346
<b>TOTAL OF ALL BUDGETS</b>	<b><u>\$887,700,982</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 834,402,589</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 865,383,004</u></b>

\* Actual budget years will vary within each convention year

## SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SBC OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>Proposed Budget 2021-2022***</u>	<u>Budget 2020-2021**</u>	<u>Actual 2019-2020*</u>
<b>I. STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>			
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,675,020	\$ 5,581,583	\$ 5,767,735
Cooperative Program - Special Study Designations	260,000	307,000	321,960
Lifeway Christian Resources		-	50,000
Interest/Dividends	558,000	575,000	704,859
Global Relations	356,800	356,872	197,467
Vision 2025	200,000	-	-
Cost Recovery (Annual Meeting, <i>SBC Life</i> , etc.)	1,340,000	1,125,000	16,974
Other Income	210,180	354,545	1,060,550
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,600,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,300,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,119,545</u></b>
<b>II. SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>2021-2022***</u></b>	<b><u>2020-2021**</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2020*</u></b>
Convention Administration Expenses			
SBC General Operations		\$ 396,000	\$ 317,071
-- Global Evangelical Relations			
SBC Committees		75,000	59,520
SBC Annual Meeting		1,000,000	86,494
SBC Building Management		765,338	927,782
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 2,580,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,236,338</u>	<u>\$ 1,390,867</u>
Executive Committee Operations Expenses			
Administration & Financial Operations		\$ 1,887,680	\$ 2,370,411
Strategic Leadership Development		508,462	567,671
Executive Committee Meetings		250,000	88,230
Great Commission Relations & Mobilization		1,549,255	1,097,784
Convention Communications		1,868,265	1,455,567
Other Designated Expenditures			499,480
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 6,020,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,063,662</u>	<u>\$ 6,079,143</u>
Other Non-Cash Year End Adj.			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 8,600,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 8,300,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 7,470,010</u></b>

\* Source: Actual 2019-2020 Year-End Financial Statements

\*\* Source: SBC Operating Budget approved September 2020

\*\*\* Source: Estimates for 2021-2022 based on projected income

## INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

	<b>2022</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	<b>2021</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>2020</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Cooperative Program	\$ 97,000,000	\$ 94,100,000	\$ 97,241,000
Funded from PY Surplus	0	9,300,000	0
Lottie Moon	175,000,000	146,800,000	159,454,000
Other Income	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>5,100,000</u>	<u>5,668,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 278,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 255,300,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 262,363,000</u></b>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	34.89%	36.86%	37.06%

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on audited actuals for unrestricted contributions and other income.

<sup>(2)</sup> Amounts based on budget. In light of the reduced spending in 2020, the IMB trustees approved the use of \$9.3 million in surplus from 2020 to be used in 2021.

<sup>(3)</sup> Amounts based on estimates.

## ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET

	<b>2022</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	<b>2021</b> <sup>(2)</sup>	<b>2020</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Personnel Support	\$ 226,125,800	\$ 207,680,900	\$ 204,006,900
Global Engagement	17,243,000	15,835,000	15,122,000
President's Office	8,030,100	7,374,400	2,370,800
Mobilization	4,697,900	4,295,000	2,702,000
Logistics, Finance, Travel & Meetings	11,490,800	10,552,500	10,540,800
Human Resources	1,097,600	1,008,000	1,097,800
Training	1,581,300	1,452,200	1,072,000
Technology Solutions	<u>7,733,500</u>	<u>7,102,000</u>	<u>8,210,700</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 278,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 255,300,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 245,123,000</u></b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Amounts based on audited actuals.

<sup>(2)</sup> Amounts based on budget.

<sup>(3)</sup> Amounts based on estimates.

## NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

## STATEMENT OF INCOME

	<b>2022*</b>	<b>2021**</b>	<b>2020***</b>
Cooperative Program	\$ 42,590,000	\$ 42,590,000	\$ 43,962,104
Annie Armstrong	46,200,000	46,200,000	49,483,158
Unrestricted Gifts	3,020,000	3,020,000	4,691,640
Investment & Interest	7,750,000	7,750,000	19,528,612
Other	300,000	300,000	625,616
Total Budgeted Income	<u>\$ 99,860,000</u>	<u>\$ 99,860,000</u>	<u>\$ 118,291,130</u>
Restricted Gifts Received****			<u>\$ 11,083,573</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 99,860,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 99,860,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 129,374,704</u></b>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	42.65%	42.65%	33.98%

\* Estimates provided for FY22.

\*\* Approved budget for FY21.

\*\*\* Audited actuals for FY20.

\*\*\*\* Restricted gifts are not included in the fiscal operating budget.

## ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET

	<b>2022*</b>	<b>2021**</b>	<b>2020***</b>
Church Planting	\$ 49,609,393	\$ 49,609,393	\$ 69,478,230
Evangelism & Relief	12,579,342	12,579,342	19,426,394
Mission Education & Opportunities	8,517,835	8,517,835	8,815,536
Sending & Leadership	9,446,286	9,446,286	9,287,161
Administration	<u>19,707,143</u>	<u>19,707,143</u>	<u>17,290,746</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 99,860,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 99,860,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 124,298,067</u></b>

\* Estimates provided for FY22.

\*\* Approved budget for FY21.

\*\*\* Audited actuals for FY20.

## LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>2019-2020</u> <sup>(2)</sup>
Revenue			
Product Sales	\$ 185,000,000	\$ 172,400,000	\$ 183,704,000
Events & Services Sales	23,000,000	22,400,000	5,369,000
Other Operating Revenue	<u>15,000,000</u>	<u>14,900,000</u>	<u>16,540,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue From Operations</b> <sup>(3)</sup>	<b><u>\$ 223,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 209,700,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 205,613,000</u></b>
Costs and Expenses			
Product Costs/Operating Expenses	\$ 220,000,000	\$ 218,300,000	\$ 223,042,000
Cooperative Work With State Conventions	0	0	1,428,000
Southern Baptist Convention Support	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50,000</u>
<b>Total Costs and Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 220,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 218,300,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 224,520,000</u></b>
<b>Funds Provided From Operations</b>	<b>\$ 3,000,000</b>	<b>\$ (8,600,000)</b>	<b>\$ (18,907,000)</b>
	1.3%	(4.1%)	(9.2%)
Net Realized/Unrealized Reserve Fund Income	100,000	100,000	319,000
Pension/Postretirement Credit/Other	0	0	(34,358,000)
Other Adjustments	0	0	(5,850,000)
Donated Activity	0	0	101,000
Discontinued Operations (Lifeway Stores, Ridgecrest)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(50,288,000)</u>
<b>Inc (Dec) in Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,100,000</b>	<b>\$ (8,500,000)</b>	<b>\$ (108,983,000)</b>
Inc (Dec) in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<b>Inc (Dec) in Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,100,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (8,500,000)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (108,979,000)</u></b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Information is based on 2021 budget which was approved by trustees August 25, 2020.

<sup>(2)</sup> From audited financial statements.

<sup>(3)</sup> Per accounting guidelines, total revenue from operations excludes Ridgecrest which was sold in December 2020.

## GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>	<u>2021</u> <sup>*</sup>	<u>2020</u> <sup>**</sup>	<u>2019</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 128,000,000	\$ 144,000,000	\$ 122,000,000
Net Investment Income			
Retirement Servicing	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Insurance	2,000,000	4,000,000	5,000,000
Mission:Dignity	2,000,000	4,000,000	6,000,000
Other Reserves	<u>28,000,000</u>	<u>18,000,000</u>	<u>33,000,000</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>\$ 161,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 171,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 167,000,000</u></b>
<b>Entity Summary Operating Budget</b>			
Retirement Servicing	\$ 62,600,000	\$ 58,600,000	\$ 59,800,000
Insurance	35,200,000	31,400,000	29,300,000
Mission:Dignity	<u>1,700,000</u>	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>1,700,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 99,500,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 91,400,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 90,800,000</u></b>

\* Projected

\*\* Unaudited

## GATEWAY SEMINARY

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>	<b>Proposed*</b> <b><u>2021-2022</u></b>	<b><u>2020-2021</u></b> <i>Amended by Board Action</i>	<b><u>2019-2020</u></b>
Educational and General:			
Tuition and Fees	\$ 4,156,271	\$ 3,670,615	\$ 3,264,216
Endowment and Investment	2,791,500	2,999,925	2,701,228
Cooperative Program	3,564,312	3,634,909	3,836,589
Other Gifts	877,699	847,478	1,097,948
Other Income	<u>84,378</u>	<u>205,893</u>	<u>107,339</u>
Total Educational & General	11,474,160	11,358,820	11,007,320
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>674,840</u>	<u>641,180</u>	<u>642,680</u>
Total Unrestricted & Auxiliary Revenue	12,149,000	12,000,000	11,650,000
Restricted Transfers	126,000	-	100,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$ 12,275,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 12,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 11,750,000</u></b>
CP as Percent of Total Income	29.0%	30.3%	33%

<b>ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>2021-2022</u></b>	<b><u>2020-2021</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2020</u></b>
Educational and General:			
Instruction	\$ 4,850,307	\$ 4,762,453	\$ 5,033,629
Academic Support	729,406	529,695	468,569
Student Services	1,060,259	1,010,269	977,363
Institutional Support	3,266,860	3,248,093	3,245,792
Libraries	726,376	713,714	776,782
Plant Operations & Maintenance	<u>1,387,514</u>	<u>1,507,259</u>	<u>1,019,917</u>
Total Educational & General	12,020,722	11,771,483	11,522,052
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>254,278</u>	<u>228,517</u>	<u>227,948</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b><u>\$ 12,275,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 12,000,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 11,750,000</u></b>

\* Budget Pending Approval by Board of Trustees

## MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>	<b><u>2021-2022</u></b>	<b><u>2020-2021*</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2020</u></b>
Cooperative Program	7,536,000	5,890,000	6,815,347
Student Fees	18,289,000	15,543,000	15,166,984
Other Gifts	477,000	474,000	600,000
Auxiliary Enterprises	2,659,000	2,668,000	2,415,429
Other Income	<u>847,000</u>	<u>594,000</u>	<u>361,000</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$ 29,808,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 25,169,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 25,358,760</u></b>
CP as Percent of Total Income	25%	23%	27%
<b>ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b><u>2021-2022</u></b>	<b><u>2020-2021*</u></b>	<b><u>2019-2020</u></b>
Instruction	9,287,293	7,784,141	7,978,023
Administrative and General	5,847,623	5,385,566	5,250,199
Student Services	2,036,190	1,490,184	1,609,117
Operations and Maintenance	1,946,610	1,727,429	1,950,925
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,190,284	1,091,680	675,496
Capital Expenses & Reserves	9,500,000	5,890,000	6,995,000
Debt Retirement	-	<u>1,800,000</u>	<u>900,000</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 29,808,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 25,169,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 25,358,760</u></b>

\* 2020-2021 budget was revised lower by MBTS' Trustees in May 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated financial uncertainty.

## NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2021-2022*</u>	<u>2020-2021**</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Student Fees	\$ 9,500,000	\$ 8,121,750	\$ 9,400,000
Cooperative Program	6,601,538	6,385,814	7,032,583
Other Gifts	1,200,000	1,280,000	2,100,000
Endowment Income	275,000	500,000	750,000
Other Income	2,195,000	3,200,000	2,200,000
Auxiliary Income	<u>2,080,000</u>	<u>2,063,657</u>	<u>2,059,800</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$ 21,851,538</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 21,551,221</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 23,542,383</u></b>

CP as a Percent of Total Income 30.21% 29.63% 29.87%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2021-2022*</u>	<u>2020-2021**</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
Academic	\$ 9,836,974	\$ 10,052,080	\$ 10,678,793
Administrative and General	4,031,083	3,594,874	3,657,573
Maintenance	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
SUBTOTAL EDUCATION AND GENERAL	16,068,057	15,846,954	16,536,366
Auxiliary Expenses	5,783,481	5,704,267	5,906,017
Student Aid	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,100,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 21,851,538</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 21,551,221</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 23,542,383</u></b>

\* Projected

\*\* Revised

## SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2021-2022*</u>	<u>2020-2021**</u>	<u>2019-2020**</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 7,015,740	\$ 7,390,188	\$ 7,586,832
Student Fees	15,162,876	13,774,620	12,919,848
Auxiliary Enterprises	5,273,820	5,234,292	5,194,296
Other Gifts	1,400,004	1,300,008	1,500,000
Investment Income	2,003,856	2,345,604	1,648,776
Miscellaneous	<u>161,244</u>	<u>256,248</u>	<u>261,708</u>
<b>INCOME TOTALS</b>	<b><u>\$ 31,017,540</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,300,960</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 29,111,460</u></b>

CP as a Percent of Total Income 23% 24% 29%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2021-2022*</u>	<u>2020-2021*</u>	<u>2019-2020*</u>
Administrative & General	\$ 4,726,728	\$ 4,601,880	\$ 4,493,820
Auxiliary Expenses	5,111,256	4,892,496	4,663,704
Capital Expenditures	1,152,912	1,100,004	947,196
Instruction	12,225,636	12,202,956	11,820,720
Institutional Advancement	3,182,172	3,107,700	2,895,240
Plant Operation	3,158,040	3,025,056	3,007,152
Student Services	<u>1,460,796</u>	<u>1,370,868</u>	<u>1,283,628</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 31,017,540</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,300,960</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 29,111,460</u></b>

\* Projected Budget

\*\* Approved Budget



## SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	2021-2022*	2020-2021**	2019-2020**
Educational and General:			
Tuition and Fees	\$ 24,843,996	\$ 19,232,270	\$ 28,009,435
Cooperative Program	9,400,000	7,043,400	10,062,000
Other Gifts	3,040,000	2,170,000	3,100,000
Endowment and Other Investment Income	3,949,242	3,967,298	3,967,298
Other Income	<u>1,211,346</u>	<u>1,293,001</u>	<u>1,431,643</u>
Total Educational and General	42,444,584	33,705,969	46,570,376
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>5,681,830</u>	<u>3,539,546</u>	<u>6,630,359</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$ 48,126,414</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 37,245,515</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 53,200,735</u></b>
CP as Percent of Total Income	19.5%	18.9%	18.9%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET *	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
Educational and General:			
Institutional Support	\$ 14,556,765	\$ 10,053,731	\$ 15,132,153
Instruction	10,290,310	9,612,659	11,397,802
Academic Support	1,925,940	1,876,203	2,239,870
Student Services	5,250,564	4,874,743	5,403,160
Student Financial Aid	1,325,848	1,237,140	1,259,061
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant	<u>4,249,008</u>	<u>3,374,761</u>	<u>4,779,852</u>
Total Educational and General	37,598,435	31,029,237	40,211,898
Auxiliary Enterprises	4,354,480	3,559,680	5,785,788
Debt Service and Capital Appropriations	<u>6,173,499</u>	<u>2,656,598</u>	<u>7,203,049</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$ 48,126,414</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 37,245,515</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 53,200,735</u></b>

\* Projected Budget

\*\* Approved Budget

## SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Educational &amp; General</b>			
Net Tuition and Fees	\$ 14,571,000	\$ 13,824,310	\$ 14,722,711
Cooperative Program	7,000,000	6,120,000	7,323,868
Private Gifts	2,750,000	1,442,250	846,000
Endowment	4,000,000	3,982,143	3,203,860
Other Operating Sources	<u>400,000</u>	<u>164,500</u>	<u>450,000</u>
<b>Total Educational and General Revenue</b>	<b>28,721,000</b>	<b>25,533,203</b>	<b>26,546,439</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Revenue</b>	<b><u>5,735,000</u></b>	<b><u>4,945,750</u></b>	<b><u>6,069,000</u></b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b><u>\$ 34,456,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,478,953</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 32,615,439</u></b>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	20%	20%	22%
<b>Expenses</b>			
Academic and Student Services	\$ 13,500,000	\$ 11,949,570	\$ 13,385,451
Institutional Support	10,500,000	9,427,666	8,077,149
Operation of Physical Plant	<u>5,944,265</u>	<u>5,569,483</u>	<u>3,268,391</u>
<b>Total Educational and General Expenses</b>	<b>29,944,265</b>	<b>26,946,718</b>	<b>24,730,991</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Expenses</b>	<b>4,011,735</b>	<b>3,091,775</b>	<b>5,629,709</b>
<b>Depreciation/Capital Expenses</b>	<b><u>500,000</u></b>	<b><u>440,459</u></b>	<b><u>2,254,739</u></b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$ 34,456,000</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,478,953</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 32,615,439</u></b>

## ETHICS &amp; RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

	2021/2022 <u>Projected</u>	2020/2021 <u>Budget</u>	2019/2020 <u>Actual</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>			
Cooperative Program	\$ 3,131,700	\$ 3,050,000	\$ 3,182,864
Other Support	92,600	92,600	72,564
Event Related Income	378,540	378,540	282,978
Project and Other Related Income	102,450	102,450	84,148
Reserves (2020/2021)			
PPP (2019/2020)	0	360,000	395,652
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,705,290</b>	<b>\$ 3,983,590</b>	<b>\$ 4,018,206</b>

CP as a Percent of Total Income (not counting reserves/PPP)	85.3%	84.2%	87.9%
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	2021/2022 <u>Projected</u>	2020/2021 <u>Budget</u>	2019/2020 <u>Actual</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,370,349	\$ 2,648,649	\$ 2,505,771
Travel	278,660	278,660	147,933
Executive Office	57,850	57,850	97,687
External Affairs	114,965	114,965	N/A
Events & Strategic Initiatives	460,669	460,669	327,129
Business & Finance	177,176	177,176	138,948
Communications	187,046	187,046	164,623
Public Policy & Research	58,575	58,575	44,201
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 3,892,465</b>	<b>\$ 3,983,590</b>	<b>\$ 3,426,292</b>

## HISTORICAL LIBRARY &amp; ARCHIVES

	<u>Proposed</u> <u>2021-2022</u>	<u>Budgeted</u> <u>2020-2021</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2019-2020</u>
<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>			
Cooperative Program	\$ 455,500	\$ 471,500	\$ 467,341
Interest	31,700	29,000	30,142
Microfilm/Duplication	12,500	10,500	11,381
Designated & Miscellaneous	1,500	2,000	1,482
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 501,200</b>	<b>\$ 513,000</b>	<b>\$ 510,346</b>

CP as a Percent of Total Income	92%	92%	92%
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	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
<b>SUMMARY OF OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
Personnel	\$ 369,200	\$ 353,000	\$ 340,905
Office Expenses/Equipment	60,700	70,000	80,902
Outreach/Promotion	7,000	12,500	4,251
Acquisitions	8,500	12,000	11,145
Preservation/Microfilm	14,400	15,000	25,616
Travel/Employee Development	5,200	10,000	1,458
Information Services/Digitization	30,500	32,000	28,417
Contingency/Miscellaneous	2,700	4,000	4,326
Advisory Board	3,000	4,500	0
<b>TOTAL BUDGET/EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 501,200</b>	<b>\$ 513,000</b>	<b>\$ 497,020</b>

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
OF THE ENTITIES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET  
(Total Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets for Fiscal Year ended 2020)**

**GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**, as of December 31, 2020 (unaudited)

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 8,000,000
Investment in Funds	16,781,000,000
Notes Receivable from Participants	123,000,000
Other Assets	<u>42,000,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 16,954,000,000</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Restricted Insurance Reserves	\$ 53,000,000
Other Liabilities	64,000,000
Participant Accumulations & Fund Balances	<u>16,837,000,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 16,954,000,000</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to GuideStone Financial Resources for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of GuideStone Financial Resources' board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD**, as of September 30, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 5,512,000
Investments	355,575,000
Investments – Restricted	194,383,000
Property and Equipment	16,851,000
Other Assets	<u>5,425,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 577,746,000</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 49,866,000
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	128,978,000
Net Assets without donor restrictions	199,094,000
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>199,808,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 577,746,000</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the International Mission Board for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the International Mission Board's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231)

**LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES**, as of September 30, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 246,474,000
Fixed Assets, net	10,963,000
Other Noncurrent Assets	17,905,000
Total Assets	<u>\$ 275,342,000</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 38,260,000
Long-term Liabilities	8,329,000
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	269,871,000
Net Assets without donor restrictions	(41,334,000)
Net Assets with donor restrictions	216,000
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 275,342,000</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Lifeway Christian Resources for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Lifeway Christian Resource's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**, as of September 30, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 13,532,602
Investments	190,944,330
Investments – Restricted	5,482,214
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	55,410,938
Church Loans, net	78,602,605
Property and Equipment	87,893,849
Other Assets	6,992,536
Total Assets	<u>\$ 438,859,074</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 8,062,970
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	50,328,108
Net Assets without donor restrictions	312,296,235
Net Assets with donor restrictions	68,171,761
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 438,859,074</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the North American Mission Board for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the North American Mission Board's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**GATEWAY SEMINARY**, as of July 31, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 8,500,221
Investments	49,615,073
Beneficial Interest in Split Interest Agreements	6,298,547
Property and Equipment	<u>54,873,420</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 119,287,261</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,277,088
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	5,760,295
Loan Payable	1,589,000
Net Assets without donor restrictions	83,019,084
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>27,641,794</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 119,287,261</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Gateway Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Gateway Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, INC.**, as of July 31, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 16,038,353
Investments	7,997,929
Property and Equipment	42,517,254
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	<u>379,241</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 66,932,777</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,772,574
Notes Payable	4,209,093
Net Assets without donor restrictions	50,602,227
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>8,348,883</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 66,932,777</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, as of July 31, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 3,520,075
Investments	82,761,711
Investments – Held in Trust	2,836,860
Property and Equipment	<u>17,099,414</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 106,218,060</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,625,587
Net Assets without donor restrictions	38,333,131
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>66,259,342</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 106,218,060</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2020**

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 23,747,381
Investments	33,071,545
Beneficial interest in split interest agreements	6,950,574
Property and Equipment	<u>35,291,420</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 99,060,920</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,326,218
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	11,875,802
Bonds Payable	3,255,918
Loan Payable	3,509,900
Net Assets without donor restrictions	34,749,496
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>42,343,586</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 99,060,920</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2020**

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 35,622,829
Investments	80,768,985
Investments – Held in Trust	19,524,217
Property and Equipment	64,024,003
Other assets	<u>526,258</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 200,466,292</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 8,873,254
Notes Payable	20,651,064
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	5,130,515
Net Assets without donor restrictions	73,171,545
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>92,639,914</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 200,466,292</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**, as of July 31, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 13,124,917
Investments	2,991,882
Investments – Restricted	138,579,763
Property and Equipment	126,003,202
Other Assets	<u>686,581</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 281,386,345</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,650,001
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	1,395,002
Notes Payable	22,020,389
Liability Under Annuity Contracts	10,719,221
Net Assets without donor restrictions	95,477,611
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>148,124,121</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 281,386,345</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**, as of July 31, 2020

Assets	
Current/Other Assets	\$ 261,870
Investments	1,000,416
Property and Equipment	<u>906,868</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,169,154</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 25,680
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	550,868
Net Assets without donor restrictions	1,530,457
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>62,149</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,169,154</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION**, as of September 30, 2020

Assets	
Current/Other Assets	\$ 1,463,251
Investments	1,338,511
Property and Equipment	578,595
Total Assets	<u>\$ 3,380,357</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 120,595
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	407,931
Net Assets without donor restrictions	2,245,421
Net Assets with donor restrictions	606,410
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 3,380,357</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET**, as of September 30, 2020

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 3,493,193
Investments	14,425,163
Property and Equipment	3,166,010
Other Assets	1,465,799
Total Assets	<u>\$ 22,550,165</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,793,404
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	3,695,683
Note Payable	279,484
Net Assets without donor restrictions	12,200,490
Net Assets with donor restrictions	2,581,104
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 22,550,165</u>

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article. (See pages 230-231.)

**Summary of Compliance of Section XIII B6  
of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan**

The statements of the chairs of each entity's board confirming that the officers of their board can attest to the matters prescribed by Section XIII B6 of the Business and Financial Plan have been received by the Executive Committee. (Editor's note: See the provisions of the pertinent section at pages 230-231.)



**Contributions by State**  
 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget Receipts  
 Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee  
 October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020

<b>Contribution Sources</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Alabama	\$ 18,596,427.36	\$ 18,816,518.25	(1.17)
Alaska	120,235.87	156,171.87	(23.01)
Arizona	1,231,350.89	1,155,914.62	6.53
Arkansas	9,416,297.23	9,486,645.50	(0.74)
California	1,801,279.45	2,239,288.88	(19.56)
Colorado	682,976.94	650,544.64	4.99
Dakota	116,842.61	94,597.73	23.52
Florida	14,427,772.94	14,966,809.35	(3.60)
Georgia	15,983,266.99	16,174,800.63	(1.18)
Hawaii Pacific	259,825.75	244,988.73	6.06
Illinois	2,308,052.15	2,312,997.00	(0.21)
Indiana	796,379.48	812,509.12	(1.99)
Iowa	424,478.00	321,257.46	32.13
Kansas-Nebraska	806,970.87	803,808.84	0.39
Kentucky	9,676,637.91	9,865,588.33	(1.92)
Louisiana	6,492,679.97	6,838,064.26	(5.05)
Maryland-Delaware	1,607,542.66	1,686,659.23	(4.69)
Michigan	325,469.05	343,796.32	(5.33)
Minnesota-Wisconsin	241,587.13	233,099.31	3.64
Mississippi	12,020,666.93	12,318,599.09	(2.42)
Missouri	5,906,463.01	5,864,070.86	0.72
Montana	188,487.33	197,539.62	(4.58)
Nevada	461,129.54	623,419.52	(26.03)
New England	201,281.12	210,399.46	(4.33)
New Mexico	1,067,236.08	806,553.88	32.32
New York	248,169.41	223,748.00	10.91
North Carolina	11,549,062.67	11,621,226.37	(0.62)
Northwest	588,066.08	650,991.29	(9.67)
Ohio	2,445,763.98	2,079,821.24	17.59
Oklahoma	10,147,706.26	9,934,323.79	2.15
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	310,237.93	339,515.96	(8.62)
Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands	11,112.17	7,090.62	56.72
South Carolina	10,809,812.38	11,018,556.00	(1.89)
Tennessee	15,854,334.59	16,002,260.00	(0.92)
Texas - BGCT	9,892,609.32	10,208,418.63	(3.09)
Texas - SBTC	14,504,293.35	15,369,706.04	(5.63)
Utah - Idaho	231,996.01	211,675.57	9.60
Virginia - BGAV	855,545.87	823,067.69	3.95
Virginia - SBCV	4,595,757.52	4,620,757.74	(0.54)
West Virginia	492,602.20	522,680.36	(5.75)
Wyoming	108,228.69	108,920.78	(0.64)
Subtotal	<u>187,806,635.69</u>	<u>190,967,402.58</u>	<u>(1.66)</u>
Churches & Individuals	<u>5,094,215.49</u>	<u>5,764,300.86</u>	<u>(11.62)</u>
Grand Total:	<u>\$ 192,900,851.18</u>	<u>\$ 196,731,703.44</u>	<u>(1.95)</u>

**2019-2020 Disbursements**  
**Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee**

	<b>Cooperative Program Allocation Budget</b>	<b>Percent of CP</b>	<b>Designated</b>	<b>Percent of Designated</b>	<b>Total Gifts</b>	<b>Percent of Total</b>
International						
Mission Board	\$ 97,241,319	50.41%	\$ 128,044,642	73.48%	\$225,285,961	61.36%
North American						
Mission Board	43,962,104	22.79%	45,012,602	25.84%	88,974,706	24.24%
Gateway Seminary	3,766,396	1.95%	20,169	0.01%	3,786,565	1.03%
Midwestern Seminary	6,797,334	3.52%	29,003	0.02%	6,826,337	1.86%
New Orleans Seminary	6,903,841	3.58%	30,918	0.02%	6,934,759	1.89%
Southeastern Seminary	7,350,589	3.81%	43,623	0.03%	7,394,212	2.01%
Southern Seminary	10,194,338	5.29%	54,334	0.03%	10,248,672	2.79%
Southwestern Seminary	7,271,369	3.77%	69,353	0.04%	7,340,722	2.00%
Historical Library and Archives	462,962	0.24%	1,386	0.00%	464,348	0.13%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	3,182,864	1.65%	9,080	0.01%	3,191,944	0.87%
GuideStone Financial Resources	-	0.00%	32,365	0.02%	32,365	0.01%
SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating	5,767,735	2.99%	872,032	0.50%	6,639,767	1.81%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<u>\$192,900,851</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$174,219,507</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$367,120,358</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

## SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

### **Recommendation 1: Amendment of SBC Constitution Article III. Composition, Section 1, to Expand the Definition of a Cooperating Church Regarding Sexual Abuse and Racial Discrimination – Final Vote**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt the amended SBC Constitution Article III, Section 1 as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline.)

**Article III. Composition:** The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in cooperation with the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention’s current standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize from each cooperating church to attend the Convention’s Annual Meeting.

1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and sympathetic with its purposes and work (i.e., a “cooperating” church as that term is used in the Convention’s governing documents) which:

...

(4) Does not act in a manner inconsistent with the Convention’s beliefs regarding sexual abuse.

(5) Does not act to affirm, approve, or endorse discriminatory behavior on the basis of ethnicity.

Final amended version would read as follows:

**Article III. Composition:** The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in cooperation with the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention’s current standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize from each cooperating church to attend the Convention’s Annual Meeting.

1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and sympathetic with its purposes and work (i.e., a “cooperating” church as that term is used in the Convention’s governing documents) which:

(1) Has a faith and practice which closely identifies with the Convention’s adopted statement of faith. (By way of example, churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the Convention.)

(2) Has formally approved its intention to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. (By way of example, the regular filing of the annual report requested by the Convention would be one indication of such cooperation.)

(3) Has made undesignated, financial contribution(s) through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention’s Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any

(4) Does not act in a manner inconsistent with the Convention’s beliefs regarding sexual abuse.

(5) Does not act to affirm, approve, or endorse discriminatory behavior on the basis of ethnicity.

### **Recommendation 2: Amendment of SBC Constitution, Article V, Section 2, Regarding Officer Election**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, act in the first of the required two consecutive annual meetings to amend SBC Constitution Article V, Section 2, regarding officer election as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline, and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

#### **Article V. Officers**

2. The officers shall be elected annually and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. The term of office for the president is limited to two (2) years, and a president shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is named. ~~The first vice president shall be voted upon and elected after the election of the president has taken place, and the second vice president shall be voted upon and elected after the election of the first vice president has taken place.~~ No person may simultaneously be a candidate for two offices.

The final amended version would read as follows:

#### **Article V. Officers**

2. The officers shall be elected annually and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. The term of office for the president is limited to two (2) years, and a president shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is named. No person may simultaneously be a candidate for two offices.

### **Recommendation 3: Amendment of SBC Bylaw 36. Amendments, to Allow Voting in the Final Session**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt the amended SBC Bylaw 36. Amendments to Allow Voting in the Final Session as follows:

(Note: Addition of text is indicated by underline, and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

36. **Amendments:** The Bylaws may be amended pursuant to Bylaw 21 by a two-thirds majority vote ~~at any time except during the last session of the Convention except that~~ Bylaw 14, which lists the entities and auxiliary of the Convention, may be amended only by a majority vote of two (2) successive annual meetings.

The final amended version would read as follows:

36. **Amendments:** The Bylaws may be amended pursuant to Bylaw 21 by a two-thirds majority vote except that Bylaw 14, which lists the entities and auxiliary of the Convention, may be amended only by a majority vote of two (2) successive annual meetings.

#### **Recommendation 4: SBC Executive Committee: Request for Approval of Mission and Ministry Statement Amendment**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt the amended Mission and Ministry statements of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline, and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

#### **Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee**

##### **MISSION**

The SBC Executive Committee seeks ~~exists~~ to empower minister to the churches to prioritize, elevate, and accelerate the vision of reaching every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation through collaborative partnership, cooperation, and generosity. ~~of the Southern Baptist Convention by acting for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for in a manner that encourages the cooperation and confidence of the churches, associations, and state conventions and facilitates maximum support for worldwide missions and ministries.~~

##### **MINISTRIES**

- 1. Assist churches through conducting and administering the work of the Convention not otherwise assigned.**

The SBC Executive Committee serves as the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive entity of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically committed to some other board or entity. Furthermore, the SBC Executive Committee is authorized, instructed, and commissioned to act for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for. It also serves as the managing agent of the Southern Baptist Convention Building. Manage according to the Southern Baptist Convention Bylaws, Bylaw 18, The Executive Committee; manage the operation of the Southern Baptist Convention Building according to guidelines adopted by building occupants.

- 2. Assist churches by providing a Convention news service.**

Provide regular news releases about Southern Baptists; tell and celebrate stories of what God is doing through Southern Baptist churches and ministries; serve as the Convention's press representative; coordinate news operations for annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

- 3. Assist churches by developing and strengthening cooperative relationships. ~~providing a Convention public relations service.~~**

Interpret the Southern Baptist Convention to internal and external publics; ~~strengthen~~ relationships with state convention, associational, and other Southern Baptist affinity groups; and pursue cooperative relationships with theologically likeminded churches to fulfill our missional vision of reaching all people for Jesus Christ and making disciples of all the nations.

- 4. Assist churches, ~~Baptist general bodies and their entities, and other evangelical organizations,~~ and individuals with investment management and generosity. ~~through estate planning consultation and investment management primarily for funds providing support for Southern Baptist causes.~~**

Encourage and partner consult with Southern Baptist general bodies and their entities; and other evangelical churches, entities, organizations, and individuals to invest in Kingdom causes by providing comprehensive, regarding wills, gifts, trusts, or deeds which benefit investment, fiduciary, and planning services for maximum impact for Southern Baptist or other evangelical causes. ~~and provide investment management for a balanced portfolio of securities.~~

5. **Assist churches by promoting the Cooperative Program and celebrating other through the promotion of cooperative giving.**

In consultation Consult with cooperating state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities, prioritize, elevate, and accelerate giving through regarding cooperative giving advancement; interpret the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing Southern Baptist churches and extending our collective efforts to reach every person with the gospel and make disciples of all nations; celebrate all cooperative giving to achieve these ends. ~~basic channel of support for the ministries of the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.~~

6. **Assist churches in stewardship education.**

Produce, develop, publish, and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship.

7. **Assist churches through elevating the ministry of prayer.**

Provide strategic leadership to lift up and promote coordinated prayer for spiritual awakening, ministry effectiveness, and the completion of the Great Commission.

## RELATIONSHIPS

The SBC Executive Committee will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the SBC Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

The final amended version would read as follows:

### **Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee**

#### **MISSION**

The SBC Executive Committee seeks to empower churches to prioritize, elevate, and accelerate the vision of reaching every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation through collaborative partnership, cooperation, and generosity.

#### **MINISTRIES**

1. **Assist churches through conducting and administering the work of the Convention not otherwise assigned.**

The SBC Executive Committee serves as the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive entity of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically committed to some other board or entity. Furthermore, the SBC Executive Committee is authorized, instructed, and commissioned to act for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for. It also serves as the managing agent of the Southern Baptist Convention Building.

2. **Assist churches by providing a Convention news service.**

Provide regular news releases about Southern Baptists; tell and celebrate stories of what God is doing through Southern Baptist churches and ministries; serve as the Convention's press representative; coordinate news operations for annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**3. Assist churches by developing and strengthening cooperative relationships.**

Interpret the Southern Baptist Convention to internal and external publics; strengthen relationships with state convention, associational, and other Southern Baptist affinity groups; and pursue cooperative relationships with theologically likeminded churches to fulfill our missional vision of reaching all people for Jesus Christ and making disciples of all the nations.

**4. Assist churches, organizations, and individuals with investment management and generosity.**

Encourage and partner with Southern Baptist and other evangelical churches, entities, organizations, and individuals to invest in Kingdom causes by providing comprehensive investment, fiduciary, and planning services for maximum impact for Southern Baptist or other evangelical causes.

**5. Assist churches by promoting the Cooperative Program and celebrating other cooperative giving.**

In consultation with cooperating state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities, prioritize, elevate, and accelerate giving through the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing Southern Baptist churches and extending our collective efforts to reach every person with the gospel and make disciples of all nations; celebrate all cooperative giving to achieve these ends.

**6. Assist churches in stewardship education.**

Produce, develop, publish, and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship.

**7. Assist churches through elevating the ministry of prayer.**

Provide strategic leadership to lift up and promote coordinated prayer for spiritual awakening, ministry effectiveness, and the completion of the Great Commission.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

The SBC Executive Committee will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the SBC Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

**Recommendation 5: 2021-22 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, adopt the 2021-22 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget in the amount of \$190,000,000 as follows:

**2021-22 PROPOSED SBC COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ALLOCATION BUDGET**

	<b>2021-22 Budget <u>Allocation</u></b>	<b>2021-22 % of Total <u>Allocation</u></b>
World Mission Ministries:		
International Mission Board	\$ 95,678,180	50.41%
North American Mission Board	<u>43,255,420</u>	<u>22.79%</u>
Total World Mission Ministries	<b><u>138,933,600</u></b>	<b><u>73.20%</u></b>
Theological Education Ministries:		
Seminaries--		
Gateway	3,564,312	1.88%
Midwestern	7,627,303	4.02%
New Orleans	6,601,538	3.48%
Southeastern	7,018,454	3.70%
Southern	10,152,132	5.35%
Southwestern	<u>6,640,421</u>	<u>3.50%</u>
	41,604,160	21.92%
Historical Library and Archives	<u>455,520</u>	<u>0.24%</u>
Total Theological Education Ministries	<b><u>42,059,680</u></b>	<b><u>22.16%</u></b>
Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries:		
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	<u>3,131,700</u>	<u>1.65%</u>
Facilitating Ministries:		
SBCEC & SBC Operating Budget	<u>5,675,020</u>	<u>2.99%</u>
Total Budget Allocation	<u>189,800,000</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Special Priority Allocation:		
SBC VISION 2025 Initiative	<u>200,000</u>	
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 190,000,000</u></b>	

Any overage of gifts received above the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget will be distributed as follows: Initial 10% of the overage to be used to support the SBC VISION 2025 initiative with the balance of the overage to the other distributees in accord with the percentages approved for them in the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, and that such a distribution of overage continue until duly amended.



**Recommendation 6: 2021-22 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville Tennessee, June 15-16, 2021, adopt the 2021-22 Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,600,000, as follows:

**SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SBC OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY**

	Proposed Budget 2021-2022***	Budget 2020-2021**	Actual 2019-2020*
<b>I. STATEMENT OF INCOME</b>			
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,675,020	\$ 5,581,583	\$ 5,767,735
Cooperative Program - Special Study Designations	260,000	307,000	321,960
Lifeway Christian Resources		-	50,000
Interest/Dividends	558,000	575,000	704,859
Global Relations	356,800	356,872	197,467
Vision 2025	200,000	-	-
Cost Recovery (Annual Meeting, <i>SBC Life</i> , etc.)	1,340,000	1,125,000	16,974
Other Income	210,180	354,545	1,060,550
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 8,600,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,119,545</b>
<b>II. SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET</b>	<b>2021-2022***</b>	<b>2020-2021**</b>	<b>2019-2020*</b>
Convention Administration Expenses			
SBC General Operations		\$ 396,000	\$ 317,071
-- Global Evangelical Relations			
SBC Committees		75,000	59,520
SBC Annual Meeting		1,000,000	86,494
SBC Building Management		765,338	927,782
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 2,580,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,236,338</u>	<u>\$ 1,390,867</u>
Executive Committee Operations Expenses			
Administration & Financial Operations		\$ 1,887,680	\$ 2,370,411
Strategic Leadership Development		508,462	567,671
Executive Committee Meetings		250,000	88,230
Great Commission Relations & Mobilization		1,549,255	1,097,784
Convention Communications		1,868,265	1,455,567
Other Designated Expenditures			499,480
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 6,020,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,063,662</u>	<u>\$ 6,079,143</u>
Other Non-Cash Year End Adj.			
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 8,600,000</b>	<b>\$ 8,300,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,470,010</b>

\* Source: Actual 2019-2020 Year-End Financial Statements

\*\* Source: SBC Operating Budget approved September 2020

\*\*\* Source: Estimates for 2021-2022 based on projected income

**Recommendation 7: SBC Referral: To Request the SBC Executive Committee to Amend the SBC Business and Financial Plan to Strengthen the Financial Accountability of Entities**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt the amended SBC Business and Financial Plan as follows:

**BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN****Preface**

The Southern Baptist Convention combines the energies of like-minded autonomous churches voluntarily working in cooperation with each other to reach every person in the world for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. The critical importance of this intentional and strategic mission demands that Southern Baptists be steadfast stewards of the abundant blessings of God's provision. This Business and Financial Plan expresses the Southern Baptist Convention's expectations regarding cooperation between and among the entities, the Convention, and its Executive Committee in regard to the matters addressed so the cooperating churches of the Convention and their members might have confidence that their faithful and generous investment in the ministries of these organizations (as stated in the *Organization Manual*) are conducted in a manner that faithfully honors our Lord and Savior. Where not spoken to explicitly in this Business and Financial Plan (or in other governing documents of the Convention) the entities are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and follow prudent financial ministry practices to strengthen transparency, accountability and faithful stewardship of God's resources entrusted to them by Southern Baptists. The Business and Financial Plan is adopted by the Convention with the understanding that the legal authority for the control of the entities of the Convention is vested in the boards of trustees elected by the Convention except for the rights vested in the Convention, as the sole member of each entity corporation, by virtue of each entity's articles of incorporation and state law.

**COOPERATION****I. Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget:**

- A. *Development of Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget* - The Executive Committee shall develop and recommend a Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget annually to the Convention, which shall provide a detailed proposed distribution of Cooperative Program funds to support the missions and ministries of each cause or entity.
- B. *Distribution of Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget Gifts* - To ensure the financial plans and purposes of the Convention operate successfully, the Convention appeals to its constituents to give through the whole Cooperative Program and to recognize the wisdom and right of the Convention to distribute its receipts from the Cooperative Program, thus assuring an equitable distribution among the entities of the Convention.
- C. *Disbursement of Gifts* - By agreement, and in accordance with the principles of the *Relation of Southern Baptist Convention to Other Baptist Bodies* all sums collected by autonomous state Baptist general bodies for the causes fostered by this Convention are forwarded at least monthly by each state convention office to the Executive Committee of this Convention, which shall act as the disbursing agent of this Convention. The Executive Committee shall make every effort to remit at least weekly to each of the

entities of the Convention the funds, distributable and restricted, belonging to each entity in accordance with the Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget. The Executive Committee shall make monthly reports of receipts by states, and of disbursements by entities, and shall make available copies of those reports monthly through its Convention news service.

- D. *Promotion of Cooperative Program Mission Gifts* - Each Convention entity is expected to report on its efforts during the year in promoting missions giving through the Cooperative Program as stated in the Annual Entity Confirmation, Section XXI of the Annual Ministry Report.

## II. Operating Budgets:

- A. *SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget* - The Executive Committee shall recommend to the Convention an operating budget, itemizing receipts and expenditures, which shall include all expenses of the Executive Committee, Convention, committees, and other items as directed by the Convention.
- B. *Causes Not Sharing in the Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget* - The causes of the Convention not sharing in the direct allocation of distribution of Cooperative Program funds shall be provided for as follows:
1. Expenses of Standing Committees – The Executive Committee shall approve or recommend to the Convention, after a personal conference or correspondence with chairpersons of standing committees, a sum of money to be appropriated to each of them for the Convention year.
  2. Expenses of Special Committees –
    - a. The expenses incurred by special committees appointed by the Convention to perform duties connected with one or more entities of the Convention shall be borne by the entity or entities concerned on a basis pro rata to receipts unless the expenses are otherwise specifically provided.
    - b. The expenses incurred by special committees which do not directly concern any of the entities of the Convention shall be paid out of the Convention Operating Budget. Unless the amount of expenses is fixed by the Convention, the Executive Committee must agree to the amount to be expended before such expenditure is incurred.
    - c. Itemized accounts of expenses of members of such committees shall be required and approved by the chairperson before the same shall be paid.
- C. *Entities Sharing in the Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget* - The entities of the Convention sharing in the direct allocation of the distribution of Cooperative Program funds are expected to develop their budgets in accordance with sound, conservative financial planning principles taking into account the projected distributable Cooperative Program allocation, estimates of anticipated receipts, and expenses which can be substantiated by previous experience.
1. In making the annual appropriations on the basis set forth, contingent items and capital investments will be set up in the budget according to the needs of the entity.
  2. It is understood that an entity may borrow money for seasonal needs. Each entity board should establish policies and procedures governing the amount of seasonal borrowing levels appropriate for the entity.

**III. Comprehensive Summary of Entity Operating Budgets:**

Each entity of the Convention will submit an operating budget to the Executive Committee for compilation and for presentation annually to the Convention, including:

- A. an itemized estimate of its receipts for the next fiscal year; and
- B. an itemized estimate of its expenditures for the next fiscal year according to the guidelines set forth above (see Section II-C) for developing operating budgets.

The Executive Committee shall present annually to the Convention a comprehensive summary of entity operating budgets, which shall consist of all the budgets of the entities which have been submitted to the Executive Committee to inform the development of the Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget.

**IV. Inter-Entity Cooperation:**

All entities of the Convention are encouraged to utilize any applicable resources or services of other Southern Baptist entities when the resources and costs are beneficial to the entity and are consistent with good stewardship practices for the entity. If a dispute arises between two or more entities, it is encouraged that those entities, through their chief executives and board of trustees, work to resolve those disputes through biblical principles of conflict resolution. If a resolution cannot be reached, any party in the conflict can request the Executive Committee to help to mediate a resolution.

**V. Appropriations by the Entities:**

Allocations to an entity from the Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget can only be used by the entity for its Convention-approved ministry assignments except with the approval of the Convention or the Executive Committee.

In accordance with longstanding practice, Lifeway Christian Resources may make a transfer of funds to the Southern Baptist Convention each year to be used as the Convention determines if Lifeway experiences positive cash flow as reported on its audited financial statements.

**GOVERNANCE****VI. Boards of Trustees:**

In accordance with the governing documents of the Convention, a specific board of trustees is elected by the Convention to provide governance, direction, and accountability for each entity and the Executive Committee. In order to fulfill their duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Convention, the full board of trustees is encouraged to follow best practices for non-profit organizations by meeting at least two times annually. The entities shall disclose the actual number of board meetings that occurred in the previous year in the Business and Financial Plan annual confirmation. (See Section XXI.D.)

In addition to confirming the trustee requirements outlined in SBC Bylaws 15 and 16, the Committee on Nominations shall, prior to offering nominees to the Convention:

- A. Secure a criminal and sexual offender background check on the potential nominees.
- B. Require the potential nominees to disclose any potential conflict of interest they might have with the entity they may be nominated to serve.
- C. Require the potential nominees to complete an introductory orientation prepared and presented by the entity discussing the responsibilities of a trustee at a Southern Baptist

Convention entity and confirming the potential nominee's understanding of their responsibilities and willingness to serve. The orientation should include, but is not limited to: the trustee's accountability to the Southern Baptist Convention, support of and cooperation with the Great Commission mission and the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention, support the mission and purpose of the entity, faithful meeting attendance, support the entity's policy based governance system, their fiduciary responsibility to the entity, and govern the entity and the relationship with the CEO.

- D. Confirm the potential nominees' willingness to complete a trustee orientation provided by the respective entity prior to the first meeting.

## **VII. Ministry Operations:**

Entity boards of trustees should oversee the operations of the entity in such a manner as to ensure biblical stewardship and effective and ethical management.

- A. *Disclosure* - Disclosures of the entity's relationship with other entities, its activities, liabilities, commitments, and results of operations should be accurate and complete and include all material information.
- B. *Loans* - The entity should not make any loan from funds of the entity to a trustee. Such loans may not be permissible under applicable state law. The entity should not make any loan from funds of the entity to any employee without having first obtained the approval of its entire board (or its delegated subcommittee) after disclosure of all relevant details and in compliance with the full board's approved policy and applicable laws.
- C. *Internal Controls* - Internal controls should be put in place to prevent employees and trustees from appropriating, for personal advantage, any corporate property or business opportunities which should be for the benefit of the entity.
- D. *Financial Reports* - All entity trustees should have full access to applicable internal financial reports and financial metrics for their respective entity to allow them to properly fulfill their governance duties on behalf of the Convention.
- E. *Conflicts of Interest* - As a normal operating policy, each entity of the Convention should operate under a board-approved Conflict of Interest Policy for both employees and trustees that clearly outlines guidelines to prevent the entity from entering any business transaction with a trustee or employee, or a business enterprise in which a trustee or employee has an interest.

The full board of trustees should have the discretion to make an exception in situations where a commodity or service is unavailable on a more favorable basis from any other source or the transaction is found to be in the best interest of the entity. Competitive bids should be taken whenever possible. The extent of any trustee's or employee's interest should be disclosed to the entire board for all transactions considered for exception.

## **VIII. Board of Trustee Approved Policies:**

Each entity should operate in accordance with prudent and best ministry practices, and adopt the following board-approved policies, where applicable:

- A. Employee and Trustee Conflict of Interest Policies (see Section VII.E.)
- B. Gift Acceptance Policy (see Section XI)
- C. Contingency Reserve Policy (see Section XV)

- D. Investment Policy and Spending Policy for Endowed Funds
- E. Ministry Continuity and Risk Management Policy
- F. Record Retention Policy
- G. Harassment and Abuse Prevention Policy
- H. Employee and Volunteer Background Check Policy
- I. Salary Structure and Compensation Setting Policy
- J. Whistleblower Policy

## **STEWARDSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

### **IX. Financial Appeals to Churches:**

Because of the strength and importance of cooperation and the generous giving of Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program, no entity of the Convention or their employees should initiate an approach to any church for inclusion in its church budget for financial contributions. This provision does not address the practice of an entity receiving gifts initiated by a church or soliciting individual contributions in support of the entity's mission.

### **X. Financial Development Activities:**

#### *A. Financial Development, Capital and/or Named Campaigns -*

1. The Convention expects each entity that conducts capital and/or named campaigns to conduct such efforts with proper planning through feasibility studies and best industry practices. Each entity is to have such campaigns formally approved by its board of trustees and is to ensure fundraising efforts follow Section IX on *Financial Appeals to Churches*. This section does not apply to the IMB/WMU Christmas Offering for international missions or the NAMB/WMU Easter Offering for North American missions.
2. Annually, each entity, as a part of the Annual Reporting described in Section X.B., must submit a report to the Executive Committee including the title, timeframe and summary of the activity, financial goals, overall expense, and the results of the campaign during the past year.

*B. Financial Development, Annual Reporting* – As a part of each entity's annual audit report, it should submit to the Executive Committee the results of any financial development activities reflecting the amount of total contributions/gifts given to the entity in the prior fiscal year.

*C. Financial Development, Code of Ethics* – In accordance with standard fundraising codes of ethics, each entity should, and the Executive Committee shall, ensure annually that neither employed staff nor fundraising consultants are paid on a commission basis for development activities.

### **XI. Gift Acceptance Policy:**

Each entity should, and the Executive Committee shall, receive gifts in compliance with a gift acceptance policy approved by their respective board of trustees, and confirm this matter annually to the Executive Committee. Any gift acceptance policy should include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Each entity should, and the Executive Committee shall, accept only gifts that show clear charitable intent and are consistent with their Convention-approved mission.
- B. All development promotions and solicitations should be conducted in a manner that is biblical, ethical, and professional in compliance with Section X.C.
- C. The details of all gifts received (including, but not limited to, restricted gifts, endowment funds, and annuity agreements) should be kept in strict confidence in keeping with the donor's wishes. Every gift should be used for the stated purpose for which it was given and accepted in accordance with applicable laws and principles of faithful stewardship.

## FINANCIAL INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

### XII. Fiscal Year Ends:

In accordance with Bylaw 28, entities should close their books and accounts annually and have them audited as of September 30, or in the case of the seminaries, July 31, or in the case of GuideStone Financial Resources, December 31.

### XIII. Financial Reports:

- A. *Audit Reports* - Each entity should, and the Executive Committee shall, have their financial records audited annually by an external independent certified public accountant in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In order to uphold the highest standard of biblical stewardship, it is expected that each entity and the Executive Committee will maintain financial records in such a fashion necessary to receive an unqualified audit opinion from their external auditors.

Each entity is expected to forward a copy of its external auditor's report(s) to the Executive Committee, as soon as possible after the close of its fiscal year. Additionally, as a part of this annual reporting process, each entity should submit a copy of its annual Management Representation letter signed by its chief executive officer and its chief financial officer. This letter should affirm that the books and accounts are accurate and complete to the best of the officers' knowledge, and the officers believe the organization's internal controls are adequate.

Cooperating Southern Baptist churches have access through the Convention *Annual* to information from Convention entities regarding income, expenditures, debts, reserves, and operating balances. Additional inquiries may be made by official action of a cooperating Southern Baptist church. Such inquiries, including requests for salary structure information, may be submitted to the entity board and will be handled based on the entity board's approved guidelines.

- B. *Audit Committees* - Each entity should, and the Executive Committee shall, appoint a committee of its own trustees to undertake and accomplish duties pertinent to audit reports. These committees should be appointed, and the trustees serving on the committees should operate, independent of influence by their organization's management, and each committee should include at least one trustee who is competent by training and experience in fiscal matters. The duties these committees perform for their respective entities should include:
  - 1. recommending the appointment of the external auditor;
  - 2. studying the external auditor's report upon its completion and taking applicable action on outstanding items, if necessary;

3. maintaining the independence of the entity's financial auditors;
  4. reviewing the entity's critical accounting policies and decisions and the adequacy of its internal control systems;
  5. preserving the integrity of the financial reporting process implemented by management; and
  6. assuring that the business procedures listed in Section VII are followed.
- C. *Internal Controls* - As a part of each external auditor's report, the external auditor should prepare for the entity's audit committee a Communication of Significant Deficiencies and Material Weaknesses. If the external auditor reports a deficiency in internal control or a material weakness to the entity's audit committee, this report should be shared with the entity's board of trustees and the entity's management should provide further explanation and/or resolution plan to their board of trustees for review and response. The entity management and board of trustees should brief the chief financial officer of the Executive Committee regarding the situation reported by the external auditor, why the issue occurred and the plan to resolve the issue. As part of the Annual Entity Confirmation, the entity will attest to the receipt of a Communication of Significant Deficiencies and Material Weaknesses from their external auditor and provide assurance the entity management has properly addressed and resolved, to the entity board's satisfaction, all significant deficiencies and material weaknesses identified in the communication by the external auditors.
- D. *Publishing of Financial Reports* - The annual audited financial report(s) including an audit opinion for each entity and the Executive Committee shall be included in the *Convention Book of Reports* and the *Convention Annual*, and shall contain all of the financial statements and appropriate notes to the financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in compliance with guidance provided by the Financial Accounting Standards Board.
- E. *Required Board Communication to the Executive Committee:*
- In accordance with the principles of biblical stewardship, the Convention expects a statement executed by the chair of the entity's board to be provided annually to the Executive Committee attesting that the board's officers confirm the following fiscal conditions exist:
1. All executive compensation arrangements are considered fair and reasonable based on periodic comparable compensation studies, and all executive compensation has been approved in accordance with a board approved compensation setting policy.
  2. All expenses and perquisites of the president and CEO are reasonable and are in keeping with biblical stewardship, including that every emolument and personal benefit of any kind (specifically including housing, travel, automobile(s), and personal assistants) are all valued at market rates.
  3. All corporate expenses are reasonable and incurred to accomplish the entity's *Organization Manual* mission statement, *Organization Manual* ministry assignments, and any other responsibilities previously approved by the messengers of the Convention and still in force.
  4. All corporate expenses are incurred by the administration in a manner that reflects biblical stewardship and integrity, and avoids even the appearance of impropriety while upholding a positive Christian witness to the Convention and beyond.



**XIV. Indebtedness/Liability:**

Each entity should not, and the Executive Committee shall not, create any liability or indebtedness without the approval of its board of directors. Additionally, each entity board should establish a policy governing the indebtedness of the entity. Any liability or indebtedness amount which cannot be repaid out of its anticipated receipts from current operations within a period of three (3) years, should be approved in advance by the Convention or the Executive Committee. In order to obtain such approval, the entity must file a statement showing the source of such anticipated receipts.

**XV. Contingency Reserves:**

Each entity should, and the Executive Committee shall, establish a reserve for contingencies to provide for deficits that may occur either through decreased receipts or through emergencies or both. The board of each entity should establish a contingency reserve policy and maintain contingency reserves sufficient to meet the needs of the entity during times of deficits or emergencies as determined by the entity. Entities should disclose in the financial reports provided to their board the amount of reserve funds set aside for contingencies.

**XVI. Safeguarding Funds:**

The funds and securities of the Convention shall be held and maintained with a reputable and qualified custodian. Due diligence and periodic reviews of the third party and the arrangements for holding and safekeeping those financial instruments should be performed.

Internal controls over safeguarding of assets should be adopted and enforced to provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized use, acquisition, or disposition of the entity's assets.

All persons who transfer or safeguard funds or securities of the Convention or any entity of the Convention should be adequately insured or bonded.

**XVII. New Enterprises:**

No new enterprise involving expenditure of money shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two (2) succeeding annual meetings; however, this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of any entity of the Convention concerning its own work.

**XVIII. Professional Services:**

The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may employ an auditor, or qualified consultant, to study the audited reports of the entities in accordance with Convention instructions.

The Executive Committee, at its discretion, may employ an engineer or architect to study entity proposed capital projects or maintenance of present capital assets.

**XIX. Publications:**

The plans and methods set forth in this document shall be published each year in the Convention Annual, following the Bylaws of the Convention.

**XX. Amendments:**

This Business and Financial Plan may be amended by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting.

**XXI. Annual Entity Confirmation:**

To reassure the messengers of the Convention and cooperating Southern Baptist churches that the fiscal conditions set forth in this Business and Financial Plan continue to be followed by each entity and the Executive Committee, an annual confirmation by the organization's board chair, chief executive officer and chief financial officer, should be submitted to the Executive Committee and made publicly available, asserting the entity is operating in accordance with the Convention's expectations as described in this Business and Financial Plan, and specifically in accordance with the following items (see Attachment A [on page 67] for sample confirmation).

- A. Entity has provided a report to the Executive Committee on its efforts to promote giving through the Cooperative Program in accordance with Section I.D.
- B. Entity has provided an itemized estimate of its projected receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year in accordance with Section III.
- C. Entity is operating in accordance with provisions regarding incurring indebtedness/liability (as identified in Section XIV).
- D. In order to fulfill its duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Convention, the entity's board of trustees met \_\_\_\_\_ times during the calendar year of \_\_\_\_\_.
- E. Entity board of trustees approved policies are currently in place for all items specifically identified in Section VIII, where applicable.
- F. Entity is operating in accordance with all compensation matters as identified in Section XIII.E.
- G. Entity has made no direct financial appeals to churches for inclusion in the church's budget in accordance with Section IX.
- H. Entity is operating in accordance with expectations regarding preapproval of capital and/or named fundraising campaigns as identified in Section X and provisions regarding development of promotions and solicitations in Section XI.B.
- I. Entity has appointed an "audit committee" in accordance with Section XIII.B.
- J. Entity has provided all documents requested including their annual audit report, management representation letter, and has attested to the receipt of the Communication of Significant Deficiencies and Material Weaknesses and has responded to this communication in accordance with Section XIII.C.

Weekly distribution of approved Cooperative Program Allocation Missions Budget funds will continue to be distributed as long as this annual confirmation is submitted by the end of January. In the unlikely event the confirmation is not received in a timely manner, funds available for distribution may be escrowed until this confirmation is received. Any questions regarding this document beyond the annual signed confirmation should be directed first to the trustees of the respective entity.

At the end of the presentation of entity financial data in each *Book of Reports* and the Convention *Annual*, a statement shall be inserted which discloses that the entity board chair, chief executive officer and chief financial officer have affirmed the Business and Financial Plan statements required by Section XXI.

## ATTACHMENT A - SAMPLE CONFIRMATION

**Southern Baptist Convention Business and Financial Plan Annual Confirmation**

As stated in Section XII of the Southern Baptist Convention Business and Financial Plan, to reassure the messengers of the Convention and cooperating Southern Baptist churches that the fiscal conditions set forth in the Business and Financial Plan continue to be followed by each entity and the Executive Committee, the Convention expects that an annual confirmation by the organization's board chair, chief executive officer, and chief financial officer shall be submitted to the Executive Committee and made publicly available, asserting the entity is operating in accordance with the entire Business and Financial Plan and specifically in accordance with the following items.

By checking the space to the left of the statement and signing and dating in the space provided at the bottom of the page, I am asserting Entity name is operating in accordance with the entire Business and Financial Plan and specifically in accordance with the following items:

- \_\_\_\_ A. Entity has provided a report to the Executive Committee on its efforts to promote giving through the Cooperative Program in accordance with Section I.D.
- \_\_\_\_ B. Entity has provided an itemized estimate of its projected receipts and expenditures for the next fiscal year in accordance with Section III.
- \_\_\_\_ C. Entity is operating in accordance with provisions regarding incurring indebtedness/liability (as identified in Section XIV).
- \_\_\_\_ D. In order to fulfill its duties and responsibilities on behalf of the Convention, the entity's board of trustees met \_\_\_\_ times during the calendar year of \_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_ E. Entity board of trustees approved policies are currently in place for all items specifically identified in Section VIII, where applicable.
- \_\_\_\_ F. Entity is operating in accordance with all compensation matters as identified in Section XIII.E.
- \_\_\_\_ G. Entity has made no direct financial appeals to churches for inclusion in the church's budget in accordance with Section IX.
- \_\_\_\_ H. Entity is operating in accordance with expectations regarding preapproval of capital and/or named fundraising campaigns as identified in Section X and provisions regarding development of promotions and solicitations in Section XI.B.
- \_\_\_\_ I. Entity has appointed an "audit committee" in accordance with Section XIII.B.
- \_\_\_\_ J. Entity has provided all documents requested including their annual audit report, management representation letter, and has attested to the receipt of the Communication of Significant Deficiencies and Material Weaknesses and has responded to this communication in accordance to Section XIII.C.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Individual's Name**  
**Chairman of the Board of Trustees**  
**Entity Name**

**Individual's Name**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Entity Name**

**Individual's Name**  
**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Entity Name**

Areas shaded will be completed by the Executive Committee prior to annual compliance confirmation being sent to the entity for signing

## **Recommendation 8: Lifeway Christian Resources: Request for Approval of Mission and Ministry Statement Amendment**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt the amended mission and ministry statements of Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline, and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strike through~~.)

### **LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES**

of the Southern Baptist Convention

#### **MISSION**

Lifeway Christian Resources exists to assist churches and believers to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers, and grow churches by designing trustworthy experiences that fuel ministry and by being the best provider of relevant high quality, high value Christian products and services.

#### **MINISTRIES**

##### **1. Assist churches in the development of church ministries.**

Provide programs, products, events, and services that help churches grow in the areas of Bible study, discipleship, ~~music~~, worship, administration, media/~~library~~, ~~recreation~~, fellowship, and family ministry and ministry to all ages; consult with church leaders regarding total church growth concepts, strategies, and resources.

##### **2. Assist churches in ministries to the next generation ~~college and university students~~.**

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a programs, products, and services, camps, and events that may be used in establishing, administering, enlarging, and improving ministry to children and students in the church, as well as at home with college students, faculty, and administration.

##### **3. ~~Assist churches with Christian schools and home school ministries.~~**

~~Provide consultation, products, and services needed by churches with Christian schools and members educating through home schools.~~

##### **3. Assist churches through the resourcing of Vacation Bible School.**

Provide consultation, products, and services needed by churches to plan, promote, and host Vacation Bible School.

##### **4. Assist churches in ministries to men and women.**

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing programs, products, ~~and~~ services, and events that may be used in establishing, administering, and improving ministries to men and women.

##### **5. Assist churches through facilitating the experience of camp ministry ~~operation of conference centers and~~.**

Develop, promote, and operate camps ~~conference and resident camp facilities~~ useful to Southern Baptist Convention entities, state conventions, associations, and churches in establishing, enlarging, and improving their ministries to the next generation.

6. **Assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the publication of books and Bibles.**

Produce, publish, and distribute products, including books, of Christian content and purpose and Bibles that contribute to the effectiveness of churches and individuals.

7. **Assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the distribution of trustworthy Christian resources ~~operation of Lifeway Christian Stores.~~**

Serve people and the churches, associations, state conventions, and entities agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention by distributing appropriate products and services through Lifeway Christian Stores: proprietary distribution channels, as well as U.S. and global retail channels.

- ~~8. Assist churches through church architecture consultation and services.~~

~~Develop products and services needed by Southern Baptist churches, associations, state conventions, and denominational entities to assist them in planning, financing, furnishing, equipping, and utilizing property.~~

- ~~9. Assist churches in capital fund raising.~~

~~Provide leadership to churches in securing funds for capital needs.~~

- 10 8. Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics.**

Conduct research and compile statistics on matters relating to, and of interest to, Southern Baptists and the global evangelical church, noting future trends and possible effects on church practice, productivity, witness, and health; ~~and~~ tender reports to the SBC Executive Committee for review and possible report or action in an SBC annual meeting.

## RELATIONSHIPS

Lifeway Christian Resources will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

The final amended version would read as follows:

## **LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES** of the Southern Baptist Convention

### **MISSION**

Lifeway Christian Resources exists to assist churches and believers to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers, and grow churches by designing trustworthy experiences that fuel ministry and by being the best provider of relevant high quality, high value Christian products and services.

### **MINISTRIES**

1. **Assist churches in the development of church ministries.**

Provide programs, products, events, and services that help churches grow in the areas of Bible study, discipleship, worship, administration, media and ministry to all ages; consult with church leaders regarding total church growth concepts, strategies, and resources.

**2. Assist churches in ministries to the next generation.**

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing programs, products, services, camps, and events that may be used in establishing, administering, enlarging, and improving ministry to children and students in the church, as well as at home.

**3. Assist churches through the resourcing of Vacation Bible School.**

Provide consultation, products, and services needed by churches to plan, promote, and host Vacation Bible School.

**4. Assist churches in ministries to men and women.**

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing programs, products, services, and events that may be used in establishing, administering, and improving ministries to men and women.

**5. Assist churches through facilitating the experience of camp ministry.**

Develop, promote, and operate camps useful to Southern Baptist Convention entities, state conventions, associations, and churches in establishing, enlarging, and improving their ministries to the next generation.

**6. Assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the publication of books and Bibles.**

Produce, publish, and distribute products, including books, of Christian content and purpose and Bibles that contribute to the effectiveness of churches and individuals.

**7. Assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the distribution of trustworthy Christian resources.**

Serve people and the churches, associations, state conventions, and entities of the Southern Baptist Convention by distributing appropriate products and services through proprietary distribution channels, as well as U.S. and global retail channels.

**8. Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics.**

Conduct research and compile statistics on matters relating to, and of interest to, Southern Baptists and the global evangelical church, noting future trends and possible effects on church practice, productivity, witness, and health; tender reports to the SBC Executive Committee for review and possible report or action in an SBC annual meeting.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

Lifeway Christian Resources will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

**Recommendation 9: North American Mission Board: Request for Approval of Ministry Statement Amendment**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt the amended ministry statement of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline.)

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

**MISSION**

The North American Mission Board exists to work with churches, associations and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting.

**MINISTRIES**

- 1. Assist churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada; and provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the International Mission Board in assisting churches to plant churches for specific groups outside the United States and Canada.**

Work in partnership with churches, associations, and state conventions, and the International Mission Board to start new congregations with a priority to reach population centers and underserved people groups; lead a missional movement to encourage Southern Baptist churches to become church planting congregations.

- 2. Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

Equip Southern Baptists for faithful evangelism; encourage churches in evangelism and discipleship; implement direct evangelism projects; prioritize spiritual awakening; develop an evangelism strategy for reaching North America with the Gospel.

- 3. Assist churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.**

Appoint, approve, support and supervise missionaries assigned to accomplish the ministries of NAMB; endorse chaplains; enlist and assist bi-vocational ministers in mission service.

- 4. Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.**

Develop organizations, services, and materials for establishing, enlarging, and improving missions and ministry learning and involvement experiences in churches; assist in volunteer mission involvement.

- 5. Assist churches by providing leadership development.**

Equip pastors for effective congregational leadership, contextual evangelism, and church planting; connect pastors to pastors through leadership development; encourage pastors as they serve in diverse congregational settings.

**6. Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.**

Provide appropriate assistance and coordination in service to state Baptist conventions, when multi-state and national disaster responses are needed; coordinate with federal government as well as national disaster relief entities to ensure good response coordination on behalf of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; direct and assist Christian social ministries.

**7. Assist churches in reaching and mobilizing college and university students in the United States and Canada.**

Promote the advancement of college and university ministry efforts in evangelism, discipleship, churchmanship, leadership development, and missions mobilization through collaborative partnerships.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

The North American Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

The final amended version would read as follows:

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

**MISSION**

The North American Mission Board exists to work with churches, associations and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting.

**MINISTRIES**

**1. Assist churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada; and provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the International Mission Board in assisting churches to plant churches for specific groups outside the United States and Canada.**

Work in partnership with churches, associations, and state conventions, and the International Mission Board to start new congregations with a priority to reach population centers and underserved people groups; lead a missional movement to encourage Southern Baptist churches to become church planting congregations.

**2. Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

Equip Southern Baptists for faithful evangelism; encourage churches in evangelism and discipleship; implement direct evangelism projects; prioritize spiritual awakening; develop an evangelism strategy for reaching North America with the Gospel.

**3. Assist churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.**

Appoint, approve, support and supervise missionaries assigned to accomplish the ministries of NAMB; endorse chaplains; enlist and assist bi-vocational ministers in mission service.



4. **Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.**

Develop organizations, services, and materials for establishing, enlarging, and improving missions and ministry learning and involvement experiences in churches; assist in volunteer mission involvement.

5. **Assist churches by providing leadership development.**

Equip pastors for effective congregational leadership, contextual evangelism, and church planting; connect pastors to pastors through leadership development; encourage pastors as they serve in diverse congregational settings.

6. **Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.**

Provide appropriate assistance and coordination in service to state Baptist conventions, when multi-state and national disaster responses are needed; coordinate with federal government as well as national disaster relief entities to ensure good response coordination on behalf of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; direct and assist Christian social ministries.

7. **Assist churches in reaching and mobilizing college and university students in the United States and Canada.**

Promote the advancement of college and university ministry efforts in evangelism, discipleship, churchmanship, leadership development, and missions mobilization through collaborative partnerships.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The North American Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

### **Recommendation 10: VISION 2025**

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, June 15–16, 2021, adopt VISION 2025 as follows:

### **VISION 2025**

Vision 2025 is a call to reach every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation.

### **STRATEGIC ACTIONS FOR VISION 2025**

1. Increase full-time, fully funded missionaries by a net gain of 500, giving us 4,200 full-time, fully funded missionaries through the International Mission Board.
2. Add 5,000 new SBC congregations to our Southern Baptist family, giving us over 50,000 SBC congregations.
3. Increase total number of workers in the field through a new emphasis on “calling out the called” and then preparing those who are called out by the Lord.
4. Turn around our ongoing decline in reaching, baptizing, and discipling 12- to 17-year-olds in the prime of their teenage years.
5. Increase our annual giving in successive years and establish a new path of growth that will lead us to reach and surpass \$500 million through the Cooperative Program to achieve these Great Commission goals.



901 Commerce Street, Suite 600, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

**RONNIE FLOYD, Chairman**

**WARREN PEEK, President**

***“In the same way, let your light shine before others,  
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”  
Matthew 5:16***

The Southern Baptist Foundation was created in 1947 to help manage and distribute donations that strengthen Southern Baptist ministries. For over seventy years, the Foundation has provided services that enable individuals and families the opportunity to accumulate and preserve wealth, shelter estates from paying more taxes than necessary, and make both temporal and eternal impact through generosity. Over \$5 billion has been distributed since our inception. The Foundation is committed to serving your vision, your mission, and your values as we continue to follow the Great Commission. We are ready to assist in discerning God’s purposes for the resources He has entrusted to you, provide counsel about the most effective planning techniques to achieve these goals, and assist you in the completion of these plans.

It is clear throughout the Bible that we are to give generously. In the book of Exodus, we see the Israelites generously giving materials and time to build the tabernacle. Move forward in the Bible, in Malachi 3:10-12, and giving is the one thing God tells us to test Him in. In the New Testament, God gave us His only Son because He loves us so much, and that Son died on a cross for us. *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* John 3:16.

When faith and finances align, the multiplying power of generosity transforms the world. For believers, giving is more than a financial act. We understand that generosity is one of the greatest acts of worship. That is why the Foundation offers a full range of estate planning services to assist believers in providing for their families and supporting Christian organizations either during one’s lifetime or by will. Our team of legal and financial experts will ensure that your customized giving strategy meets your objectives. Nothing gives us greater joy than helping individuals and families discern the purposes and goals God has laid on their hearts, and then developing a plan to fulfill those goals.

The Foundation’s estate planning initiative formally launched in 2013 and continues to be incredibly successful. Through this program, the Foundation has been able to consult with over 2,500 different individuals and families. Over \$467 million in future gifts will be generated for Baptist causes through these estate plans (see graph on following page).

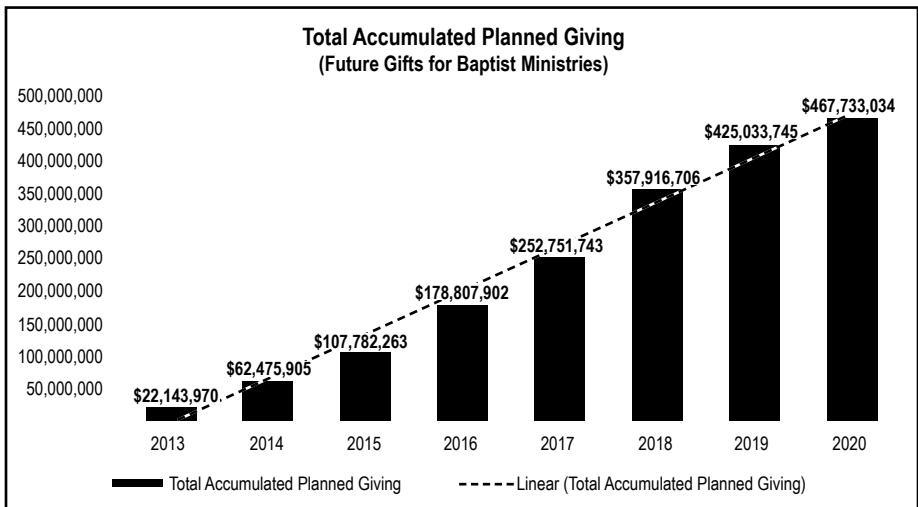
Believers integrating biblical stewardship in their financial lives can transform the world and estate giving can have a powerful impact for God’s kingdom. If only 10% of the more than two million Southern Baptists who are currently over age 65 (about 202,000) tithed their estates to SBC Great Commission causes, the Convention would receive an additional \$5 billion for kingdom purposes over the next twenty years. The eternal value of the number of new missionaries sent and people engaged for the Gospel is beyond measure.

We believe that every Christian should have the opportunity to participate in quality estate planning as an act of stewardship. Our desire is that the resources and the services offered by the Southern Baptist Foundation brings glory to our Lord and results in the advancement of His

kingdom. Can you imagine the impact if God's people developed plans that resulted in releasing billions of dollars to kingdom work in the next generation?

We also provide high-impact, biblically-responsible investing that supports Christian entities and ministries. Our prudent, socially-screened investment funds deliver long-term results that are consistent with our spiritual mandate. We invite everyone to compare the performance of their investments with those of the Foundation's. Our clients know that by partnering with the Foundation, we are transforming the world together through biblical stewardship.

In spite of the pandemic, the Southern Baptist Foundation was blessed with a strong year and we praise God for this. We pledge to continue to seek God's wisdom as we make decisions regarding the investments and management of the assets placed with us. Thank you for your confidence shown to us each day; we count it a privilege and a joy to serve Him and all Southern Baptists.



# GENERAL BOARDS

*One Hundred and Third Annual Report*



5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 2200, Dallas, Texas 75244

RENÉE A. TREWICK, Chairman  
O.S. HAWKINS, President and Chief Executive Officer

## INTRODUCTION

2020 was the “Year of Execution” for GuideStone. We had no idea what the year would hold, but we understood that we would have to *Keep Focused and Keep Faithful* to execute fully. Every employee working from home – some with barking dogs or crying toddlers nearby – never forgot our mission and vision; they were focused. Our mission: to serve those who serve the Lord with the integrity of our hearts and the skillfulness of our hands. Our vision: to honor the Lord by being a lifelong partner with our participants in enhancing their financial security.

Despite a global pandemic and the volatility in the stock market, Mission:Dignity® set records in fundraising during 2020 while growing the number of recipients significantly. Mission:Dignity finished the year with a record \$10.4 million from 9,606 donors, another record in total donations. A total of 1,870 recipients were helped throughout the year. The generosity of God’s people in supporting Mission:Dignity is a cause for joy among all who serve alongside Mission:Dignity. An endowment established many years ago covers all administrative costs for the ministry. This means that every penny given to Mission:Dignity can go to help a retired pastor or his widow near the poverty line.

The events that plagued the financial markets, economy, and employment market over 2020 were unprecedented. These unforeseen challenges were met with extraordinary remedies by the Federal Reserve and Congress since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the employment market made great strides toward recovery, at the end of 2020 it remained 10 million jobs below where it began the year, with the majority of those losses being lower-paid workers who were laid off from jobs that served the customer in person.

With such a wide range of potential outcomes, increased market volatility was the consensus prediction for 2021. The emergence of the vaccine and the impact it had on consumer confidence was forecast to be a clear tailwind for the economy heading into 2021. At the beginning of 2021, there was an upside potential in asset classes and sectors that have traditionally performed well in sustainable economic recoveries, including small-caps, emerging markets, and cyclical (e.g., financials, energy, industrials).

Under the leadership of new GuideStone Executive, Chu Soh, the Insurance Line of Business leadership team has been working to transform the line of business to both support their current clients and customers, but also to provide new opportunities to reach more ministries to make a greater Kingdom impact. With the everchanging landscape of the insurance industry, the leadership team is uniquely positioned to meet the challenge with decades of industry experience using the guiding business strategy of the Triple Bottom Line: Kingdom Impact (Kingdom Experience, Engagement & Transformation), People (Employee Wellbeing, Member Wellbeing, Ministry Empowerment) and Margins (Growth, Diversification, Risk Management).

The Insurance team, along with support from the Actuarial Services, Marketing, Legal, and IT teams, successfully launched the one-time, step-down opportunity for health plans in 2020. This new premium relief program went live in April. It allowed churches and individuals with financial challenges during the pandemic to lower their insurance premiums (sometimes by up to 50%) while maintaining true medical coverage. Efforts included legal and financial analyses, policy and procedure creation, resource development, marketing campaign design and execution, and technological setup.

In March, GuideStone launched our pastor advocacy page to aggregate helpful information and resources to help the small church and its pastor. Resources on the pastor advocacy page include a Q&A authored by Chief Legal Officer Harold R. Loftin. GuideStone was an oft-cited, go-to resource for churches and others looking to understand the federal relief efforts related to churches and ministries.

GuideStone and Brotherhood Mutual also decided to offer a 15% premium credit in June to all of GuideStone's P&C clients for two months of their liability and auto premiums resulting in over \$200,000 in returned premium to our direct written clients in the three states that GuideStone serves exclusively. GuideStone also worked in 2020 to offer a webinar to help our ministries understand the risks and opportunities available because of the pandemic, offering advice on the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan as well as the risks involved in taking it.

More than two million copies of the Code series of books have been sold now, with all author's royalties and proceeds benefitting Mission:Dignity. A new book, *The Bible Code: Finding Jesus in Every Book in the Bible*, sold out of its initial printings, but finally returned to store shelves in early 2021. Spanish versions of *The Easter Code*, *The Christmas Code*, and *The Joshua Code* debuted in 2020, offering a new avenue of readership. Perhaps most exciting with the Spanish translations is that bilingual congregations can use one devotional in both English and Spanish contexts, rallying around the same Scripture and the same study of God's Word. All author royalties and proceeds of the Code books benefit Mission:Dignity.

In February of this year, O.S. Hawkins and the senior leadership of HR presented a comprehensive strategy to help enhance our inclusion and diversity efforts and processes. In July, we announced the appointment of Kasan Boyd to lead GuideStone's efforts to recruit and retain a more diverse workforce.

GuideStone's efforts around inclusion & diversity are dedicated to developing and retaining key talent while building a God-centered culture of inclusion that promotes employees' relevance and awareness of those we serve and supports the organization's strategic initiatives. These efforts do not include quotas or demographic targets, but instead seek to create a culture that closes these gaps and promotes sustainable progress over time. While prayerfully considering with our leadership whether GuideStone's workforce reflects the diversity of God's Kingdom, we also benchmarked our diversity compared with financial services organizations. Having this baseline data will help us as an organization assess whether we are closing the diversity gaps our leadership has identified, and it will help us determine whether existing or developing programs are effective for all of GuideStone's strategic initiatives.

At the request of GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins, trustees appointed a search committee to begin considering a new president for the organization. No timeline was set regarding Hawkins' eventual retirement.

## PROGRAM REPORT

### **The Program of Management of Retirement Accounts**

The Program of Management of Retirement Accounts has as its objective making available retirement plans for all ministers and all other full-time Southern Baptist denominational workers. The objective is accomplished through a combination of plans.

Following is the statistical report of the retirement plans as of December 31, 2020.

**Church Retirement Plan** – At the end of 2020, there were 17,677 active churches with a total of 49,144 active participants.

**403(b)(9) Retirement Plan** – A total of 427 agencies and institutions provided retirement plans for their employees. A total of 37,749 employees comprise active participation in these agencies' plans.

**Ministers and Chaplains Plan** – The Ministers and Chaplains Plans enrolled 22 during the year.

**Qualified Plans** – GuideStone Financial Resources provides IRC 401(a) qualified plans as an alternative for use by Southern Baptist Convention organizations when IRC 403(b) approaches do not meet their needs. This includes 401(a) defined benefit and 401(k) defined contribution plans. At the end of the year, there were five qualified plan employers serving 97 active participants.

**Voluntary Retirement Plan** – The Voluntary Retirement Plan records 737 participants with an account balance at the close of 2020.

### **Retirement Income Paid to Participants**

The heart of GuideStone's ministry is our recipients. Annuity benefits were paid to 24,736 participants/beneficiaries in 2020. Systematic withdrawal payments were paid to 17,313 participants.

### **The Program of Ministers' Financial Assistance**

Since 1918, GuideStone has been on a mission to help retired ministers, denominational workers, their spouses, and widows live with dignity in their retirement years. The Mission:Dignity ministry is at the heart of that endeavor. Over 60% of Mission:Dignity recipients are widows of pastors, and one in four is over the age of 85.

Individuals who meet guidelines for income, assets, and 10 or more years of paid Southern Baptist service are eligible for \$225 per month, if single, or \$300 per month, if married. Applicants who meet the additional guidelines of poverty-level income and 25 or more years of ministerial service are eligible for \$450 per month, if single, or \$600 per month, if married.

Mission:Dignity assisted a total of 1,870 households in 2020.

A total of \$8,072,459 was paid out in financial assistance in 2020, compared to \$7,362,271 in 2019. Mission:Dignity granted \$841,221 in one-time emergency grants in 2020. Christmas gift checks of \$400, rather than the usual \$250, a tradition since 1945, were mailed to eligible recipients in early December.

Donations from churches and individuals provide the funding for the Mission:Dignity program. Fully 100% of direct annual gifts received by GuideStone Financial Resources is used to provide financial assistance to retirees in need and is not utilized for any of GuideStone's operating expenses or overhead.

### **The Program of Insurance Plans and Related Services**

GuideStone Financial Resources administers an insurance program that includes life, long-term disability, personal accident, accidental death and dismemberment, and medical coverage for employees of churches and agencies, and products for seminary students.

The following is the 2020 statistical report of the insurance plans (excludes non-Southern Baptist entities).

Life Claims – \$17,176,843

Disability Claims – \$6,432,886

Dental Claims – \$9,687,076

Medical claims (including pharmacy) – \$227,418,964

#### **Personal Plans:**

*Personal Plans Employee Term Life Plans* – A total of 14,462 members actively participated on December 31, 2020, a decrease of 597 since the same time last year

*Personal Plans Disability Plans* – A total of 1,025 members participated in the Short-Term Disability Plans, and 4,341 members participated in the Long-Term Disability Plans

*Personal Plans Medical Plans* – Members covered totaled 5,519, a decrease of 428 since the same time last year

*Personal Plans Supplemental AD&D Plan* – Members covered totaled 2,367

*Personal Plans Accidental Death and Dismemberment* – Members covered totaled 5,451

*Personal Plans Dental* – Members covered totaled 7,430

*Premium Waiver* – The Personal Plans employee life plans had 220 members

#### **Group Plans:**

*Group Plans Employee Term Life Plans* – A total of 29,088 members were covered on December 31, 2020, a decrease of 268 since the same time last year

*Group Plans Medical Plans* – A total of 18,601 members were covered

*Group Plans Dental Plan* – A total of 9,023 members were covered in a dental plan

*Group Plans Disability Plan* – A total of 1,636 members participated in the Short-Term Disability Plans, and 10,932 members participated in the Long-Term Disability Plans

*Group Plans Supplemental AD&D Plan* – Members covered totaled 3,726

*Group Plans Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan* – Members covered totaled 7,470

*Premium Waiver* – The Group Plans employee life plans had 224 members

#### **Property and Casualty Insurance Program**

The GuideStone Property and Casualty Program provides broad property and casualty coverages for eligible Southern Baptist churches and entities. Those coverages include property and liability, worker's compensation, commercial auto, and foreign missions and travel. An important aspect of the program is providing ministry protection education and resources for churches and ministries. The related distribution affiliate, GuideStone Agency Services, now serves over 1,640 clients with a premium volume of nearly \$40 million at the end of 2020. Since 2012, GuideStone Agency Services has worked in alliance with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company to be their exclusive agent serving Southern Baptists in Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana. GuideStone Property & Casualty endorses Brotherhood Mutual as the property and casualty provider of choice for GuideStone's participant churches and ministries.

## MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to GuideStone Financial Resources during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

### **1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention stands with all Southern Baptists, our sister entities, and the churches we are privileged to serve in advocating strongly against the scourge of abuse against the vulnerable. We are fully committed to working in conjunction with recommendations by SBC President J. D. Greear’s Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and others interested in protecting children, youth and other vulnerable populations, as well as responding well to reports from victims of abuse in churches and ministry organizations.

To that end:

1. GuideStone has worked closely with MinistrySafe, a leading entity that works with state conventions, churches, and other ministries to provide a complete child safety system. GuideStone has sponsored child safety trainings with MinistrySafe at large seminars in Texas and Alabama in 2019, as well as offering a nationally available webcast in conjunction with MinistrySafe and Prestonwood Baptist Church, attended by hundreds of church and ministry leaders.
2. Internally, GuideStone, which has robust employment policies, has reviewed its policies and procedures to ensure that all employees are free to work in an environment free of harassment and abuse. For our participants, GuideStone has made available articles and resources from MinistrySafe, a recognized faith-based company that helps churches and other organizations create and maintain secure environments, on our website.
3. GuideStone’s alliance with MinistrySafe and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company help augment the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group. GuideStone’s commitment is two-fold: helping churches respond well to reports of abuse, responding quickly to reports and providing appropriate care for victims, and providing resources and access to training to help churches mitigate, and we pray eliminate, the chances an abuser can access vulnerable populations in Southern Baptist churches.

GuideStone will offer a risk management review for churches and ministries in its Property and Casualty program to aid them in preparing and responding to potential issues, and will continue to offer resources and trainings to support the efforts of our sister entities and the churches we are privileged to serve as together we stand to protect the vulnerable populations entrusted to us.

*\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.*



*One Hundred Seventy-Fifth Annual Report*

3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23230

**SETH POLK, Chairman**

**PAUL CHITWOOD, President**

## INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the International Mission Board, I'm thrilled to report to you that for 175 years, the Southern Baptist Convention has not failed to have a witness among the nations! While 2020 brought us all the challenges of a global pandemic, the year also marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Southern Baptist mission work around the world. We give gratitude to God for all that Southern Baptists are doing to reach the world for Christ. We thank Him that He has maintained our collective missions efforts despite COVID-19 and other challenges that affect international work.

Each generation of Southern Baptists has answered the call to cooperative missions and given their prayers and support to their IMB missionaries. Today, more than 3,550 missionaries continue to journey into difficult and spiritually impoverished places on earth to sow seeds of love and truth, and to enable the lost to know the saving grace of Jesus.

Thank you for providing for these missionaries through your Cooperative Program (CP) and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO) gifts. Your faithful support through both CP and the LMCO are the financial lifeline for Southern Baptist international missions. Southern Baptists gave \$159.5 million in the 2019-20 LMCO campaign — the second-highest Lottie Moon offering ever received. IMB also received \$97.2 million from the Cooperative Program for 2019-20.

A concerted effort to enlist prayer support for “175 Days of Prayer” resulted in at least 12,000 supporters interceding on behalf of work around the world from May through December last year. Southern Baptists around the globe shared prayer requests through social media and email, lifting up those who have never heard the Gospel, and asking the Lord of the harvest to send forth more workers.

As a result of your financial gifts and your unwavering prayer support — because you gave, because you prayed, because you sent your family and friends — it's my honor to report that:

- 535,325 people heard a Gospel witness last year as IMB missionaries and their close indigenous partners continue to share the Gospel boldly.
- 89,325 people became believers, committing to follow Jesus Christ in their lives, with 47,929 following through with believer's baptism.
- 12,368 new churches were planted as your missionaries continue to disciple new believers, and then do the all-consuming work of pulling those new believers together in the birth of a new church. Missionaries also reported 174,393 people who are ongoing Bible study participants.
- And an incredible 90,532 people received theological training, which includes pastoral training, church-planting training, advanced training, and more.

While we rejoice in the advancement we have seen in the Gospel, we are sobered by the reality that 154,937 people die every day without Christ. That's one precious person every 2 seconds. We also face the reality that nearly 1.5 million people join the global population weekly (that's

more than 215,000 every *day*); and yet estimates indicate that evangelical Christians share the Gospel about 275,000 times per *week*. We cannot — we must not — be passive in our efforts toward Gospel advance. We must be strong, focused, and committed.

As the organization representing Southern Baptists and our calling before God to share Christ among the nations, the IMB has felt a great responsibility during this pandemic to care for the resources entrusted to us. To Southern Baptists, again, I want to say thank you for allowing us to serve you in carrying out the Great Commission in partnership with you and your church. Much remains to be accomplished — but together, under the power of Christ, we can continue to welcome the multitudes before His throne, as we see in the Revelation 7:9 vision.

The key is cooperation: working together.

Every church, regardless of its size or resources, has a part to play in reaching every nation with the Gospel. We continue to trust God and to call upon every Southern Baptist to be generous in your praying, sending, going, and your increased giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. There is no greater work than the one we share in proclaiming Christ to people who have never heard of His great name! Thank you for doing your part.

Paul Chitwood

President, International Mission Board

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of The International Mission Board.)*

**Ministry Statement: Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.**

For the IMB, 2019 was a year of orienting back to our vision of “*a multitude from every language, people, tribe, and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Revelation 7:9-10). Our mission defined in light of this vision is “to serve Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.” The part of our mission “to serve Southern Baptists” required a refocus of our efforts to include reaching out to Southern Baptists intentionally. Early responses to efforts have been received gladly and with increased interest in global missions.

Mounting opposition and tensions related to the missionary task in many areas of the world require our personnel to rethink IMB’s strategies. Our workers are designing and developing new tools and new ways to get the Gospel to unreached peoples and places. Evangelism is a constant priority to reach both peoples in whom the Gospel takes root quickly and among peoples who require persistent and repeated efforts to establish the Gospel in their hearts and lives. The IMB thanks the Lord for advances that have been seen in both types of peoples.

We are thankful for new churches with the characteristic of discipleship which develops other disciples. Discipling that results in disciples is vital to training and developing local leaders — leaders who are essential for the sustained health, growth, and multiplication of churches. Reports and evaluations from IMB workers and local partners indicate that training is making an impact in the planting of healthy, multiplying churches by local leaders. Training leaders of

churches who are owning the missionary task locally and regionally energizes local partners. We are praying that renewed passion and focus will result in vibrant and stronger churches, both those that are established and those that are recently planted.

Partnering in the Great Commission is key to accelerating our joint task of reaching the vast multitudes of a global population of 7.5 billion people. Sister Baptist conventions and networks of recently planted churches continue to ask for consultations that help them send missionaries. This is an exciting result of their owning the missionary task. We are challenging them to seek to work cooperatively as groups of churches as they join us in sending missionaries to unreached peoples and places. The number of those being sent out is growing yearly.

We are developing IMB missionaries to lead efforts to reach global cities — unreached places with many layers of peoples that require the development of comprehensive strategies. All of our strategies must begin in prayer by both our missionaries and the like-minded Christians who may already be in those cities. We have great challenges to evangelize, disciple, and plant churches among those who are upwardly mobile and among the vast slums in the rapidly growing cities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. One of our most exciting developments has been (and continues to be) developing networks of IMB city leaders across the world. These global-city initiatives are starting to take hold. We are praying for great advances in these new urbanization realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our SBC missionaries are involved in demanding work around the world. In order for Southern Baptists to carry out the Great Commission in ways that cross political, cultural, linguistic, economic, and spiritual barriers, we must increase the involvement and strengthen the partnership we have with Southern Baptist churches. We are grateful for churches that choose and prioritize carrying the Gospel to unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

**Ministry Statement: Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.**

In the last year, the Assessment, Deployment, and Training Team of the IMB processed 189 long-term candidates, 177 field-support candidates, and 21 field-support missionary candidates for missionary service to the point of approval for deployment. The team trained 278 new adult missionaries and their 108 children in Field Personnel Orientation, and further trained 314 adult missionaries and their 202 children in Stateside Assignment Conferences. They also conducted training in the components of the missionary task at a large, field-based Affinity Group Meeting. The Training Development Team completed numerous training and publication projects as part of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, along with orientation materials for students on mission, training modules to help churches work more knowledgeably with the IMB, and other training projects.

**Ministry Statement: Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.**

May 10, 2020, marked the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Foreign Mission Board, now International Mission Board. Throughout its 175-year history, Southern Baptists have maintained an uninterrupted witness among the nations, in spite of famine, war, civil unrest — and, in 2020, global pandemic. Undergirded by Cooperative Program funds, IMB was blessed to continue its work to assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions.

In January 2020, the IMB launched an expansive commemoration of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary that not only celebrated God's faithfulness through Southern Baptist missions throughout our history,

but also called Southern Baptists to commit to praying, giving, going, and sending to continue our work toward our Revelation 7:9 vision: “*A multitude from every language, people, tribe, and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ.*” The commemoration included launching a multimedia interactive timeline (IMB.org/175) featuring missionary vignettes and short videos of IMB work, decade by decade. It was no coincidence that the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Southern Baptist mission work around the world included a special emphasis on 175 days of prayer for the nations. IMB enlisted prayer advocates to pray daily for specific IMB requests. Each day, one request was sent as a push notification from the IMB Pray app; accessed online; through a Pray Daily newsletter; or seen through IMB’s social media channels. More than 12,000 people participated in the prayer initiative.

Also in January, IMB held its seventh Missions College with the purpose of mobilizing Southern Baptist churches to go deeper in missions training. Missions College is an annual mobilization and training event for Southern Baptist churches engaging in short-, mid-, and long-term missions with the IMB. More than 250 participants included lead pastors, missions pastors/directors and lay leaders, with the majority in partnership with IMB missionaries. IMB President Paul Chitwood challenged participants to join forces with the IMB in sound biblical missiology to fulfill the core missionary task. In the Americas alone, more than 350 churches are co-laboring with IMB field missionaries and national Baptist partners.

In the past fiscal year, IMB added an African American church mobilization strategist and an Asian church mobilization strategist with national reach to connect to and mobilize Southern Baptist ethnic churches. In IMB’s mobilization strategies — including events and communications — we diligently worked to increase presenting opportunities and information in multiple heart languages: American Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.

Twelve, part-time student mobilizers were hired from 10 states to help recruit the next generation to greater missions involvement. As a change this year, two of those part-time mobilizers were focused on engaging African American and Hispanic next generation-focused churches and ministries. The combination of these efforts has helped to diversify the Mobilization Team at the IMB and also will help to diversify the church partners and missionaries of the future. In conjunction with IMB, Barna released a report titled *The Future of Missions: 10 Questions About Global Ministry the Church Must Answer with the Next Generation*. The study provides insights to the next generation of young adults as Southern Baptists seek to offer biblically sound, strategic opportunities for missions engagement.

Pipeline development for future missionaries continues to be a significant focus for IMB. The organization revamped its entire brand of student marketing materials this year, which included an overhaul and relaunch of its existing IMB Students website. As a result, IMB recorded 1,900 student applications for short-term trips via IMB and ministry partners throughout the U.S. The IMB also partnered with NAMB and Summit Church of Durham, North Carolina, on a multi-year mobilization initiative to launch “GO2Years” (GO2). The desire of GO2 is to see a movement of young adults give two years of their life after college to serve on a missionary church planting team in North America or with IMB teams around the world. Two major virtual events were held during the year to help students understand their biblical call to missions as church members and to plug into SBC opportunities to serve.

Knowing missionaries are the IMB’s most important mobilizers, and in an effort to grow the organization’s engagement of churches, IMB launched an enterprise-wide Affinity Stateside Associate initiative. This initiative is intended to become an ethos and paradigm shift for the organization, where Southern Baptist churches see greater proactive engagement of their IMB missionaries on a regular basis. One missionary unit from each Affinity (except Deaf Peoples)

accepted a three-year stateside assignment to engage in strategy, training, and resourcing to not only connect missionaries with their partnering churches, but also to connect missionaries with those Southern Baptist churches which have shown little to no support of IMB missions or the Cooperative Program. IMB's Mobilization and Ministry Advancement teams worked closely with the group to sync the strategy with existing SBC engagement strategies.

IMB's Mobilization Team also added an associational missionary network associate for AMS/DOM relations west of the Mississippi River (for a total of three staff on the Convention and Network Relations Team). A study published in 2018 by the SBCAL reported that the associational leader (AMS/DOM) is the closest denominational entity to the local church. IMB recognizes the significant efforts of associational leaders as they partner with church staff to see Southern Baptists reaching their communities and the nations with the Gospel. Our desire in growing our Convention and Network Relations Team is to ultimately become a better partner to these key leaders in the mobilization task. Another regional church mobilization strategist is also being planned for the West Coast to increase connection with key partners and churches in that region.

Despite COVID's impact on the traditional means (conferences, annual meetings, etc.) to engage and mobilize Southern Baptists, IMB mobilization grew SBC engagement nearly 30% in 2020. The team completed 7,440 engagements with Southern Baptist leaders and completed 926 "next steps" with Southern Baptist churches toward increasing their praying, giving, going, and sending. Partnership opportunities, including short-term mission trip requests, were highlighted via outbound promotion to U.S. churches, state conventions, local associations, and other partnering agencies. And 165 new multi-year, church-to-field partnerships were started to better serve the strategies to engage the people groups from within IMB's nine Affinities.

In October 2020, the IMB hosted its second *Every Church. Every Nation.* Summit. The event, originally planned to be an in-person conference for 1,000 church leaders in Houston, Texas, made a COVID-forced pivot to an all-virtual event. In total, 5,200 people from 48 states and 30 countries registered for a live, two-hour event focused on *The Future of Missions*. Topics addressed by guest speakers included: biblical literacy and discipleship; globalization and urbanization; diversity in missions; and Generation Z. Dr. Chitwood gave a charge to Southern Baptists, sharing, "Now is the time, especially amid a global pandemic, to pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest, to send out laborers into His harvest. And now is the time for the church to renew our commitment to sending and supporting more career missionaries, recognizing their unequal value in fulfilling the Great Commission."

The IMB also moved two Sending Celebrations — which celebrate newly appointed missionaries while also challenging Southern Baptists to commit to pray and to reflect on whether they may be called to go — to a virtual format. The celebrations, available by livestream, inspire Southern Baptist churches to be a part of sending new missionaries and to pray for the work God has prepared in advance for them among unreached people and places. The second virtual Sending Celebration specifically highlighted critical needs each IMB Affinity has for additional missionaries. "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest*" (Matthew 9:37-38).

Throughout the year, IMB's newly reorganized Communications Teams sought to inspire and challenge Southern Baptists to greater missions involvement, while also reporting on their investments in international mission efforts. Working with media-trained missionaries around the world, the team produced more than 200 news and feature stories on IMB.org; largely expanded information available about each Affinity's work; and produced more than 400 videos, including Cooperative Program promotion; 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations; information

about COVID-19 impacts; and reports from the mission field. IMB social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) feature multiple daily updates about how God is at work around the world and how Southern Baptists can be a part of that work.

IMB's Global Research Team released a public Annual Statistical Report (IMB.org/ASR) which represented work done by IMB personnel and their missions partners in 2019. The report contains data from all nine IMB Affinities and reports on the six components of the missionary task: entry, evangelism, discipleship, healthy church formation, leadership development, and exit to partnership. The Global Research Team took great care to provide accurate numbers that represent IMB's commitment, and, as the Apostle Paul advised, to not report upon the work done outside of the sphere apportioned to us by the Lord (2 Corinthians 10:12-18). The report was a targeted effort to provide Southern Baptists a report of God's work among the people groups of the world — work completed through Southern Baptists' commitments to pray, give, go, and send.

In 2020 Cooperative Program promotion, IMB contributed stories of how God is at work on the mission field to the "52 Sundays" (now "CP Stories") resource. In our promotion of the 2020 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO), we reinforced how every dollar given by Southern Baptists supports the work of over 3,600 International Mission Board personnel on the mission field to reach the "multitudes" referenced in Revelation 7:9. The IMB sent 46,278 English-language LMCO resource kits — presented as a magazine-format Global Impact Guide usable year-round — to churches, as well as 4,972 language-specific kits. Of those language-specific kits, 3,788 were in Spanish, 900 in Korean, and 284 in Chinese. An additional 4,000 English-language DVDs and 350 language-specific DVDs were created to be distributed through IMB's Church Success Center. The information in the kits collectively celebrated the number of people groups engaged, professions of faith, baptisms, and new churches planted over the past year. The IMB educated church members with an understanding of LMCO and equipped church leaders with the necessary resources to easily and effectively engage their churches in missions through faithful giving.

IMB continued engaging advocates who, on behalf of the IMB, mobilize Southern Baptist churches. IMB trustees, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) leaders, missionary alumni, donors, associational mission strategists, and state convention leaders have committed to leverage their platforms to both increase and improve the engagement of our churches in praying, giving, going and sending.

The WMU and IMB worked together to mobilize churches to pray for the nations during the annual Week of Prayer for International Missions. The week of prayer focused on the ways God is at work around the world through Southern Baptists — such as missionaries in Kenya, Croatia, Thailand, Peru, Italy, South Asia, and among refugees. It also included a thank-you message from IMB missionaries for Southern Baptists who give generously to get good news to the nations. In addition, WMU and IMB's Mobilization Team worked together to mobilize WMU leaders across the country on a campaign to write to 19,000 churches who do not regularly support the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and, while doing so, share a testimony to the Lord's work through that offering to see the nations reached with the Gospel.

**Ministry Statement: Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs-based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.**

Send Relief partners with the IMB and its personnel to provide training, expertise, consultation, and resources to implement human needs ministries. This includes responses to acute needs due to disasters as well as long-term chronic needs from things such as poverty, hunger, and injustice.

So far in 2020, IMB, in partnership with Send Relief, has impacted over 1 million people in 7,000 communities internationally. Over 579,000 people have received food assistance; 150 microenterprises have been started; more than 2,000 people have received job skills training; and over 116,000 have benefited from clean water or improved sanitation. Through these efforts, more than 2,000 previously closed areas have been open, offering the hope of the Gospel to those who have not heard.

Many parts of the globe that have great human needs are also in desperate need for the Gospel, but lack easy access. Send Relief plays a strategic role for the IMB to not only meet critical physical needs, but also to gain access to these difficult places for the spread of the Gospel and church planting.

*Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?*

**Ministry Statement: Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.**

2019 appeared to move our world to another hinge in history. Due to population growth, this century has a larger population than the total of all who have lived in the previous 20 centuries since Christ's birth. New directions for Gospel advance must be developed that increase our ability to have a far greater impact than we as North Americans alone can have. We must increase our partnership with Baptists globally who are like-minded. We must have new and dynamic efforts to share resources. We must become more effective in cross-cultural teaming. We must learn to use digital tools to increase our effectiveness and accelerate our work.

The opposition to the Gospel and to God's people is increasing. New barriers are developing against the spread of the Gospel. The increased opposition and the barriers require that we design new ways to deploy workers to live and work among unreached peoples. These new strategies will give us greater opportunity to call out those in our congregations who have specific skills, abilities, and qualifications. A new way to prepare workers for the global harvest is required, and we must prepare for opposition that will have greater hostility. Our early efforts at new Gospel-advance strategies are starting to bear fruit.

World migration and forcibly displaced peoples provide new opportunities to reach unreached peoples. Over 120 missionaries are focused on these opportunities around the world. In North America, along with sister organizations and state conventions, we are developing an alliance that provides specialized training and tools to increase the effectiveness of outreach to groups of unreached peoples. A great resource for beginning to explore these opportunities is [peoplegroups.info](http://peoplegroups.info).

Our greatest opportunity is developing, assisting, and partnering with a new generation of leaders around the world. The challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that we face, particularly in the 2020s and 2030s, will demand creative thinking and collaboration. Exciting opportunities will come as we work together to carry out the Great Commission as we move towards 2033, which will be the 2,000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our receiving the Great Commission from our Lord.

**Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.**

In addition to continuing to assess, deploy, and train new missionaries, as well as providing ongoing training for existing missionaries, the Assessment/Deployment and Training Team is actively engaged in developing missionary pipelines within Southern Baptist churches and associations. We continue to streamline our processes and develop new training modules to advance the work of the IMB. In keeping with the vision of IMB President Dr. Paul Chitwood, the Training Development Team will continue to devote much of its energy in the year ahead to engaging with Southern Baptist churches and entities to enable them to participate in global missions more effectively in partnership with the International Mission Board.

**Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.**

IMB's Mobilization Team will continue to focus on increased engagement with Southern Baptist pastors and churches. Research has shown us that missions is an identity of the church led by its pastor, not simply an outsourced activity to the IMB. We are finding that for many churches today, the IMB is one of many options that mission-minded churches consider in order to get involved in international missions. As the official international sending agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, the IMB wants Southern Baptist pastors to prefer the IMB as the primary organization to partner with in praying, giving, and going to the nations. To accomplish that, we are committed to work harder than ever to build strong relationships, enhance service levels, and promote more field-to-church interaction with 46,000 Southern Baptist churches in the U.S.

COVID-19 had a profound impact on most ministry areas in local Southern Baptist churches, but one of the biggest was in the area of international missions trips to advance the Gospel overseas. An average year will see thousands of volunteers go to work with IMB missionary teams in fulfillment of the Great Commission, yet due to a prolonged timetable of inability to travel and uncertainty for the future, many mission volunteers were forced to stay home. The number of college students applying to serve overseas also was greatly reduced, if comparing numbers year over year. This created an opportunity for innovation. Missionary teams and IMB's mobilization offices created a number of virtual mission trips, giving church members the opportunity to experience a new culture and hear about the work without having to step foot on a plane.

Knowing there will continue to be an impact of the virus on mobilizing Southern Baptists, IMB will continue to create virtual experiences and connections between churches and field teams so Southern Baptists don't lose focus on how God is at work now; how to help in preparing for 2021; as well as by praying and giving.

One opportunity that lies before the organization is a solid set of 2025 targets to increase relationships with Southern Baptists to lead to more sending and support over the next five years. With these targets, IMB leadership has skillfully cast a vision for how we will all get there together. With one focus, the organization is working in a team-of-teams approach. A prime example is the birth of the church connection strategy. In this strategy, over the next 18 months, the organization aims to greatly expand its number of relationships with Southern



Baptist churches. Missionary units will begin to proactively engage a portfolio of 15-20 churches in addition to their communication and work with partner churches. The aim is for greater Southern Baptist involvement in praying, giving, going, and sending by leveraging the voices of our missionaries to share how God is at work among their teams and the people groups they engage.

Identifying that inflation is outpacing revenue in the SBC, IMB leadership is pursuing an aggressive strategic growth plan to ensure that it can sustain support of both current and future IMB missionaries and achieve its 2025 targets.

**Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs-based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.**

The needs of people around the world will only increase and, thus, continue to grow the need for strategic engagement of human needs and lostness by the IMB. As the IMB leads Southern Baptists in the push toward the remaining unreached and unengaged peoples of the world, they will encounter more and more physical challenges such as poverty, hunger, and war. The continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic add additional challenges — but also more opportunities — as we enter 2021 and beyond.

Indicators point to growing hunger needs around the world as a result of the pandemic. Increased needs like this, combined with limits on travel and restrictions designed to prevent the spread of the virus, demand new opportunities for creative response and re-thinking engagement with compassion ministry. They also bring with them new hurdles on how to implement responses, connect with people, and meet needs in light of these restrictions, as well as the predicted peaks and valleys of the pandemic.

### MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to the International Mission Board during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

**1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:\*\*** THAT the International Mission Board trustees and leaders, in response to the request that the IMB provide an update related to our efforts to address abuse, hereby reports:

The International Mission Board has added the role of a designated Prevention and Response Administrator whose primary responsibility is to oversee and manage prevention and

\* Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

\*\* Response has been updated from 2020 SBC Annual.

response efforts for child abuse (physical and sexual), sexual harassment (including sexual assault), and domestic violence. This includes overseeing all aspects of training (development of material, delivery of training, and ensuring compliance) for field and staff employees, specific departments, volunteers, investigators, Third Culture Kids, partners, and others. At least twice annually, IMB senior leadership sends all field and home-office staff reminders a) of the IMB's policy on abuse and harassment <sup>1</sup>; b) that IMB encourages anyone who has been a victim of abuse by its personnel to report it to authorities; c) and, in addition, that victims can contact IMB on a confidential hotline at (855) 420-0003 or email [advocate@imb.org](mailto:advocate@imb.org) so that IMB can provide compassionate care to that victim and take appropriate steps to ensure the safety of others. In numerous outlets, including Baptist Press <sup>2</sup> and IMB.org <sup>3</sup>, the IMB has stated that it strongly encourages any church, entity, or other employer who is considering working or partnering with a former IMB personnel to contact IMB at [references@imb.org](mailto:references@imb.org) to obtain a reference on that individual so that the IMB can do its part to help employers make wise and informed hiring decisions.

1. Following the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas, (since Fall 2018), the International Mission Board has undergone a rigorous examination of IMB's handling of past allegations of abuse and sexual harassment and IMB's present policies and practices. In May 2019, IMB trustees heard a report from Gray Plant Mooty <sup>4</sup> (the firm conducting the examination), and IMB President Paul Chitwood responded immediately <sup>5</sup> with an apology to victims and a pledge for IMB to lead the SBC in abuse prevention and response. IMB trustees and senior leadership are committed to implementing all the recommendations from Gray Plant Mooty. IMB maintains publicly accessible Web pages with its statement on abuse and harassment <sup>1</sup> as a resource for churches; and frequently asked questions <sup>3</sup> about the external examination and related resource links.
2. The actions of the International Mission Board are consistent with the suggestions presented by the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group report. International Mission Board leaders are accessible for communication and collaboration with leaders of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.

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Footnotes:

1. IMB Statement on Child Abuse and Sexual Harassment. (n.d.). Retrieved from [imb.org/for-churches/abuse-harassment](http://imb.org/for-churches/abuse-harassment)
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3. IMB Staff (2019, May 22). Frequently Asked Questions about Examination Update. Retrieved from [imb.org/2019/05/22/faqs-examination-update](http://imb.org/2019/05/22/faqs-examination-update)
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## ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT BASED ON 2019 DATA

*Global summary reflecting work in calendar year 2019, reported in 2020*

### Evangelism

How many people heard a **Gospel witness**? **535,325**

How many people had an **opportunity to respond** to Christ? **396,499**

How many who received a Gospel witness do you believe are **seekers**? **107,760**

How many who heard a Gospel witness became **new believers**? **89,325**

How many believers were **baptized**? **47,929**

### Healthy Church Formation

How many **total groups** intending to become churches are meeting now? **35,659**

How many **new groups** were formed that intend to become churches? **15,394**

How many **new churches** were formed? **12,368**

How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** are **meeting now**? **57,886**

How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** have **ceased to meet**? **670**

*Note: In some cases, churches cease to exist as people change locations or as members are absorbed into other congregations. In other cases, IMB personnel lose direct contact with the work and consequently have no interaction to be able to include them in the totals.*

How many **baptized believers met** in groups or churches? **364,530**

### Discipleship

How many people met in **on-going Bible studies**? **174,393**

How many people are being **personally mentored**? **36,642**

### Leadership Development

How many men have received practical **pastoral training**? **18,598**

How many people received **training** to start **new churches**? **38,866**

How many individuals received **advanced theological education**? **33,068**

How many believers were trained in **other training opportunities**? **56,055**

*The International Mission Board's Annual Statistical Report (ASR) contains the most accurate information for the stated reporting period available at the time of publication. Figures reported are for work related to IMB personnel and their close, indigenous baptistic partners only. Since 2009, the ASR no longer includes reports from partner conventions and unions. Major movements and baptistic church planting partners that are self-sustaining and require only occasional guidance and assistance from IMB personnel are removed from the statistics annually. This is a cause for celebration but can result in some statistics being different from earlier reporting periods.*

*After publication, the Board's Global Research Department continues to process both new and revised reports as field personnel continually strive to provide the most accurate picture of the Board's work and influence during the given reporting period. New or revised reports may be submitted for a variety of reasons, including typographical errors in the original report, newly received or corrected information, clarification of reporting categories, etc.*

*All analyses utilize the most current data for the reporting period available at that time, including any new and revised reports submitted since publication. Thus, subsequent ASRs will reflect corrected data and may differ from previously published reports. For current data regarding a given reporting period, including the latest revisions, visit [IMB.org/ASR](http://IMB.org/ASR) or contact the Global Research Information Center ([GRIC@imb.org](mailto:GRIC@imb.org).)*

# Lifeway

One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37234

**TODD FANNIN, Chairman**

**BEN MANDRELL, President and CEO**

Dear Southern Baptist Family,

Greetings on behalf of the entire team at Lifeway Christian Resources. I'm honored to provide this report on the work of Lifeway. But first let me say thank you for your faithfulness to Jesus Christ's call to go and make disciples of all people. We're grateful to be partners with you in this global mission.

As I look back on 2020, I am humbled and awed by the many ways God has shown His tremendous blessing and provision during a difficult year. The past year brought strange and challenging days for the local church and its leaders, as well as for Lifeway. We have been tackling these challenges head-on as we adapt and find new ways to serve churches during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. You'll find many details within our ministry report, but allow me to share some highlights.

Little did we know at the beginning of 2020 how the coronavirus would impact the ministry of the local church. In March, when COVID-19 began to impact the ability for churches to gather, Lifeway very quickly felt the effects of nationwide shelter-at-home orders. It seemed like overnight we went from serving the church gathered to serving the church scattered.

I'm proud of how quickly the teams at Lifeway came together to provide free digital resources to churches, families, and individuals so discipleship could continue. We saw numerous churches shift to online services while Sunday School classes and small groups continued to meet using Zoom and Facebook. And Lifeway was there to help.

Lifeway Leadership released Curriculum Powered by Ministry Grid, which gave churches free digital access to Lifeway Bible studies: *The Gospel Project*, *Bible Studies for Life*, *Explore the Bible*, and *YOU*. This free access allowed more than 7,200 churches and 72,000 individuals to continue using Lifeway Bible studies during the spring and summer months when many churches did not meet in person. Our Sunday School and small group specialists regularly led online webinars and consulted daily with church leaders around the country to help them navigate leading groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As spring turned to summer, we began to hear from children's ministers looking for ways to host Vacation Bible School. Our Lifeway Kids team developed strategies to help churches adapt their traditional VBS. Evangelism and Christian education continued even during a difficult and dangerous pandemic. Based on early reports, churches saw more than 900 participants make professions of faith through VBS in 2020.

Throughout the summer and fall, our Lifeway events team worked hard to provide a number of online experiences in place of in-person gatherings. Lifeway's ETCH Conference for children and student leaders moved from being a physical event in 2020 to a virtual one, reaching more than 900 leaders who serve in their church's ministries to kids and students. More than 6,000 people tuned in for the 2020 Black Church Leadership and Family Conference held virtually for the first time.

Throughout the year, Lifeway reached more than 40,000 women with a number of digital events hosted by hundreds of churches and streamed by over 27,000 individuals. We saw more than 100,000 women join one of the Lifeway Women's online Bible studies in 2020.

It was exciting to hear how thousands of people gathered together virtually throughout the year for Bible study, worship, and ministry training.

In January of 2021, we unveiled a new logo and began a significant update and refresh of our website at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com). The new logo and visual elements reflect a new season of ministry for Lifeway. And our brand promise is true to the legacy of Lifeway and affirms our commitment to serve churches and provide fuel to their ministries.

We know the COVID-19 crisis created a unique challenge for churches as they found new ways to gather and minister to their communities. The local church has experienced a massive transformation as a result of the pandemic that will alter the way it functions in the future. We've been working on solutions for supporting local churches as they begin to rebound and regather in person. As churches transform to meet the needs of their communities, we know Lifeway must adapt as well.

Through this difficult season, Lifeway has continued to provide trustworthy biblical resources for spiritual growth to churches and individuals. Whether through ongoing Bible study curriculum, creating discipleship experiences for all ages, or equipping church leaders, our team continues to work on opportunities to better serve churches.

Yes, these are challenging times, but we must never forget that we are in God's hands. I am confident the Lord will use this season for His glory and will push His church into the future in a fresh way.

Again, thank you for partnering with us, and God bless you.

Gratefully,  
Ben Mandrell  
President and CEO

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### 1. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in the development of church ministries.

#### *Sunday School*

**Significant Accomplishments** — 2020 was an especially challenging year for the publishing team at Lifeway because of the effects of COVID-19 on churches, our culture, and the regular work of the publishing team. Team members worked from remote locations using new technologies to continue their work of providing ongoing, trustworthy, and doctrinally-sound materials for the church.

In the early months of COVID-19 when workers were sent home for safety reasons, Lifeway's executive leadership team and others moved quickly to provide the church with digital resources for Bible study groups. Preschool, children, student, and adult curriculum were provided electronically through a new iteration of Ministry Grid, an online training tool. Ministry Grid was used to not only provide online training, but during COVID-19 it became the delivery mechanism for providing the church with digital curriculum. Thousands of churches took advantage of free curriculum and used it to resource their groups when groups were not able to meet in person. Instead, group leaders across the country used Lifeway's ongoing Bible studies in settings like Zoom or Facebook Live to continue meeting with their group members. Bible

study continued through the pandemic because of the efforts of Lifeway leaders, Lifeway team members, and thousands of group leaders who quickly pivoted to online study groups.

The Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG), an alternative study guide to the widely popular Personal Study Guide, continued to be received well by church leaders. The DDG is available for student and adult groups, and it continued to reach new audiences during COVID-19. The DDG is used in the group Bible study, and group members continue their learning through five daily studies that build upon the learning that took place in their group. This ongoing study tool, available in *Explore the Bible*, *Bible Studies for Life*, and *The Gospel Project*, provides group members with a way to study God's Word daily.

The annual Sunday School support booklet, *Building a Disciplemaking Ministry: The Timeless Principles of Arthur Flake for Sunday School and Small Groups*, released on December 1, 2020. The book was produced as a tribute to Arthur Flake, widely regarded as “the father of Sunday School” in the SBC. His five-step formula for growing a healthy Bible teaching ministry has been forgotten by too many church leaders today, and a decision was made in 2019 to honor his life and work as Lifeway's first superintendent of Sunday School in 1920. The book is a compilation of several Sunday School experts who contributed chapters to the book. Ken Braddy, the current director of Sunday School, provided oversight to the book's creation. A training plan was also created so churches could teach the principles to staff and group leaders.

*Building a Disciplemaking Ministry* was made available as a purchasable booklet and as a free PDF download from lifeway.com. This resource included teaching plans, PowerPoint® presentations, and other downloads for church leaders who are training others to start new groups.

**Future Plans** — *Explore the Bible*, one of Lifeway's most popular ongoing studies, will begin a new nine-year cycle in Fall 2023. Prior to that, *The Gospel Project* will begin its fourth cycle in Fall 2021; kids, student, and adult versions will have new updated content and design for this fourth iteration of Lifeway's Christ-centered Bible study for all ages.

### **Discipleship**

**Significant Accomplishments** — Serving the church through discipleship resources and training remains at the very core of what Lifeway seeks to accomplish. To that end, in the past year, Lifeway has focused on creating clear, simple ways to help churches prepare their people to make disciples.

To better serve and train a scattered church during a global pandemic, Lifeway has hosted multiple, well-attended webinars and Facebook Live events, written articles to help church leaders continue discipleship through their groups, and transitioned ongoing curriculum and training to the new Ministry Grid online platform to better facilitate digital distribution. We will continue to adjust our offerings as this “new normal” of ministry practices continue to evolve.

In addition, Lifeway has focused on providing helpful content to disciple-makers through our *Group Answers* podcast, which has continued to see exponential growth.

Lifeway continues to serve tens of thousands of churches through our primary, ongoing curriculum lines, *Explore the Bible*, *Bible Studies for Life*, and *The Gospel Project*. This year, Lifeway released a new expression of the popular curriculum, *Explore the Bible*. This new version, called *Characters*, is a one-year exploration of the Bible through the lives of its people. This 7-volume series helps disciples and disciple-makers understand how the Bible fits together and how God works through regular people like them.

Finally, classic discipleship studies from Lifeway like *Experiencing God* continue to provide great value for deep discipleship experiences in the church.

**Future Plans** — Future short-term study releases include Dean Inserra's *Marks of a Disciple*, Matt Chandler's study on the first three chapters of John, Greg Laurie's *Jesus Revolution*, and Levi Lusko's *Through the Eyes of a Lion*.

There will also be a new podcast launched: *Free Bible Teaching*. This podcast will feature audio from popular Bible studies, with additional commentary and discussion questions at the end for individual or group use.

Lifeway will also continue to seek new discipleship training opportunities and strategic partnerships in order to educate churches and leaders on how flexible Bible study resources can help move people into greater engagement with God's Word, regardless of how or where their groups are meeting.

### **Leadership Development**

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway Leadership's key initiatives in 2020 focused on equipping church leaders and volunteers with training, Bible studies, and resources to respond to changing church and ministry needs in light of COVID-19. The team continues to see great momentum with its digital training and development platform, Ministry Grid.

In March 2020, Lifeway Leadership released Curriculum Powered by Ministry Grid, which gave churches free digital access to Lifeway Bible studies: *The Gospel Project*, *Bible Studies for Life*, *Explore the Bible*, and *YOU*. This free access allowed more than 7,200 churches and 72,000 individuals to continue using Lifeway Bible studies during the spring and summer months when many churches did not meet in person. To continue equipping churches with digital access to resources, Lifeway Leadership now offers digital Bible study bundles in addition to leader and volunteer training on Ministry Grid.

In the spring and summer, Lifeway Leadership released eight free courses and one e-book on Ministry Grid to help churches with emerging digital needs, new and adapted ministry roles, rapid volunteer recruitment, agile leadership, digital pastoral care, digital small groups, and more. From March to December 2020, more than 3.8 million videos were viewed on Ministry Grid.

Lifeway Leadership continues its partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) to host 10 free, online, open courses on Ministry Grid, which includes more than 6,700 users. Ministry Grid also partnered with SEBTS in the spring to host "ReGather: Opportunities, Burnout, and the Future," a webinar featuring Ed Stetzer, Jimmy Scroggins, and Tate Cockrell.

Lifeway Leadership also continues its partnership with the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and hosts the video lessons and downloadable workbook for *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused* on Ministry Grid. This free access allows churches and individuals to complete step five of the Caring Well Challenge, an initiative of the ERLC and the SBC's Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.

Lifeway Leadership continues to see success in Leadership Pipeline coaching as an underlying philosophy and framework for leadership development.

Lifeway Leadership has also continued partnering with Josh Patterson and Kevin Peck to launch three Strategic Learning Communities. These cohorts met in-person in January and February 2020 and continued meeting digitally throughout 2020 to grow in executive and organizational leadership.

The team also continues to see success with the Lifeway Leadership Podcast Network, which includes *Ask Me Anything* by J. D. Greear; *5 Leadership Questions* by Todd Adkins and Chandler Vannoy; *New Churches Q&A* by Ed Stetzer, Todd Adkins, and Daniel Im; *Unseen Leadership* by Chandler Vannoy and Josh Hunter; *The Ron Edmondson Leadership Podcast* by Ron and Nate Edmondson; *Group Answers* by Chris Surratt and Brian Daniel; and *The One Thing* by Scott Sanders and Derek Hanna. The Podcast Network saw more than 1.2 million total downloads in 2020.

**Future Plans** — The Lifeway Leadership team plans to continue to add features and enhancements to Ministry Grid to enable church leaders to provide training, ongoing Bible studies, and resources to their volunteers and leaders for ongoing development and discipleship.

### *Worship and Music Ministry*

**Significant Accomplishments** — As the church music and church supplies arm of Lifeway Christian Resources, Lifeway Worship continued expansion of its release calendar in significant fashion this year. An overall increase in the number of albums/playlists was realized in the digital streaming market, bringing the total number of worldwide streams of Lifeway Worship music to nearly 25 million since this effort began. Specialized COVID-19 resources were created and released. Many churches benefited greatly from access to free resources and gratis streaming licenses. Lifeway Worship continues its partnership with Daywind Music Group in both choral music and song publishing, yielding two #1 Southern Gospel radio hits and a Dove Award-winning church musical. Lifewayworship.com continues to see tremendous growth in total revenue and the number of customers served. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, this site has sustained a successful trajectory.

The Church Supplies line experienced its largest growth year ever serving churches through communion supplies, bulletins, evangelistic tracts, and more in North America and around the world. *The Fellowship Cup* prefilled communion cup led the increase as churches overwhelmingly chose it for their communion services. With increased channels of distribution, our Church Supplies and Lifeway One Source Program continues to show growth with diverse offerings of church services and solutions.

**Future Plans** — The Church Supply line continues to expand through new markets and channels to reach churches and individuals with new products and services. A new collection of Spanish translations of several hundred hymns/worship songs will be released at lifewayworship.com during the first quarter of 2021. These resources will serve churches all over Latin America and the world. In addition to resources offered via the Lifeway Worship choral club, a steady stream of digital anthems and collections for church choir is scheduled to release throughout 2021.

### *Christian Education*

**Significant Accomplishments** — The largest gathering of people outside of the weekly worship service in Southern Baptist churches takes place in the ministry of Christian education. Sunday Schools and small groups are foundational to the discipling of God's people, and groups serve as the primary way people are taught God's Word and are assimilated into the life of the local church. A church's Christian education ministry is its expression of obedience to the Great Commission.

The church's groups ministry faced difficult days during the onset of COVID-19. Unable to meet in person, groups quickly moved online. Because the church faced uncertain times and operated in strange new waters, Lifeway leaders quickly moved to help the church's education ministries through COVID-19. Ken Braddy, Lifeway's director of Sunday School, and Chris Surratt, Lifeway's small group specialist, used their knowledge and influence to help the local



church navigate in the uncertain early days of COVID-19. Between March 2020 and August 2020, these men produced dozens of articles, blog posts, and podcasts to help state and local church leaders shepherd Christian education ministries in churches. Ken and Chris regularly led online webinars and consulted daily with leaders from around the country to create and provide the content needed to help churches face COVID-19 successfully.

The Lifeway Kids team, led by Jana Magruder, pivoted quickly as well. Her team worked fast to recommend new ways for churches to conduct time-honored ministries such as Vacation Bible School in an online environment. Suggestions were also provided so churches could take VBS materials and safely conduct age-appropriate studies in backyards and other locations. Parents were encouraged to consider conducting a family VBS using the materials provided by Lifeway under the 2020 theme “Concrete and Cranes.” Christian education continued even during a difficult and dangerous pandemic.

The ETCH Conference for children and student leaders moved from being a physical event in 2020 to a virtual one. The 2020 virtual event reached more than 900 leaders who serve in their church’s ministries to kids and students.

**Future Plans** — Online training will continue to increase in 2021 and beyond as people become more comfortable and accepting of distance learning. Training events such as the ETCH Conference and Black Church Leadership and Family Week have demonstrated that many more leaders can be reached through digital delivery than might attend an in-person event. Plans are underway to move the adult Christian Education Essentials and Sunday School Director’s Seminar to an online environment through Lifeway’s Digital Pass platform.

### *Evangelism*

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway continues to position evangelism as a crucial component of its publishing strategy. By keeping existing evangelism resources in front of churches through consistent messaging and developing new concepts and titles, Lifeway is taking measures to ensure that evangelism and evangelism strategies maintain their rightful place as a core discipline. *Three Circles* by Jimmy Scroggins walks through the three circles evangelism strategy to help believers discover just how simple sharing the Gospel can be.

*Something Needs to Change* by David Platt is a powerful message that focuses on reaching unreached people groups with the Gospel. This small-group Bible study experience points out the need to take the Gospel message of Jesus into unreached regions. Specifically pointing to the Himalayan areas of the east, *Something Needs to Change* makes it clear that even though the mountains have proclaimed God’s creation for generations, there are still fewer than 100 believers among the millions of inhabitants, showing the need for Christians confessing Jesus as Lord as the only way to reach these unbelievers.

*Marks of a Disciple* by Dean Inserra examines six helpful measurements to test whether or not we’re growing spiritually. This is not a checklist of a punch card, but rather a group of traits distilled from Scripture that should be evident in the life of a follower of Jesus. In addition to topics like the spiritual disciplines, generosity, and theological groundedness is a heart for evangelism. This last small group discussion of *Marks of a Disciple* focuses on Jesus’ command to share the Gospel story, be a witness for Him, and lead people to Jesus.

Lifeway continues to provide training resources to assist churches to reach the millions of people in the U.S. and Canada who have no relationship with Jesus Christ. The video-enhanced resource *Tell Someone: You Can Share the Good News* by Greg Laurie encourages believers to share the Gospel by sharing Jesus’ story and their own story of how Jesus changed their lives.

Lifeway continues to prioritize evangelism through its summer camp ministries by clearly presenting the Gospel to teenagers and kids and by training teenagers to share their faith through mission opportunities and evangelism track times.

Sharing the Gospel with kids is one of the most important elements of kids ministry. *The Gospel: God's Plan for Me* study presents the Gospel story in kid-friendly language with applicable Scripture verses. It includes information about how to respond to the Gospel, pages to guide parents in at-home conversations, and downloadable leader content.

*What is a Christian? Answers for Kids* is an eight-week activity book for kids that helps them answer questions about becoming a Christian. This study includes questions about God, Jesus, sin, the Gospel, becoming a Christian, heaven, baptism, and the Lord's Supper. An included parent section equips parents to have conversations with children who are asking questions about the Gospel. *What is a Christian?* can be used in a class setting at church or in a home environment to help kids work through their questions related to what it means to be a Christian and how to receive God's gift of salvation.

To model presenting the Gospel to kids, kidsministry101.com provides several video examples of how to talk to kids about becoming a Christian.

Another way that Lifeway Kids is helping parents evangelize their own children is through the new *At Home* digital resources available for churches to distribute to families through Ministry Grid. Simple to access and easy to use, *At Home* provides families with weekly worship experiences, prayer prompts, and family activity ideas.

*Share Jesus Without Fear*, revised edition, presents a simple and relational approach to witnessing that underscores dependence on God's power for the results. Birthed out of the radical life-transformation of its author, Bill Fay, *Share Jesus Without Fear* teaches believers how to navigate a witnessing conversation in everyday situations. Lifeway has released additional *Share Jesus* tools to equip believers to share their faith: the *Share Jesus Without Fear* app and *Share Jesus Without Fear Scripture and Question Cards*.

Many churches continue to experience great success with *FAITH Evangelism*. The resources for *FAITH Evangelism*, highlighted at [lifeway.com/faith](http://lifeway.com/faith), include:

- *FAITH Evangelism 1*, designed to equip believers to grow in their personal faith while, at the same time, taking the Gospel and needed ministry into their communities.
- *FAITH Evangelism 2*, designed to continue the evangelism journey while focusing on building strong, committed leaders who will pour and multiply their lives into the lives of learners.

*Go & Tell Kids Mission Trip VBS* is an easy-to-use, transportable VBS designed to help mission trip teams host a Vacation Bible School anywhere in the world. Simple visuals, 100+ recreation games, and five sessions of Gospel-centered content equip volunteers to explain the good news to kids in any context.

Born out of the needs of churches during COVID-19, *Kids Ministry from Anywhere* is a new set of resources, many of which are free, to help churches continue the work of sharing the Gospel with kids. At [lifeway.com/kmfa](http://lifeway.com/kmfa), churches can find strategy ideas, e-books, training videos, and Bible study resources to help them reach, teach, and disciple kids in new ways.

*Vacation Bible School* is the largest outreach to unchurched kids in a given year for 78% of churches hosting VBS, according to Lifeway Research. In fact, 69% of American parents will encourage their child to participate in a VBS event at a church they don't attend if they are

invited by a friend. Since the opportunities for evangelism, discipleship, and relationship-building that can take place in one week of VBS and might take half a year for a Sunday School teacher, Lifeway provides churches with evangelistic VBS and Backyard Kids Club curriculum materials.

With the challenges presented by COVID-19, Lifeway helped churches navigate VBS in 2020 with the free e-book, *4 VBS Strategies for This Summer*, in order to capitalize on the inherently evangelistic impact of VBS, even during a global pandemic. Additionally, Lifeway will support two primary VBS themes in 2021: *Concrete and Cranes* from 2020 and the newly released *Destination Dig*.

### ***Marriage and Family Ministry***

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway continues to resource churches in family ministry through the publication of quality family and devotional magazines. Included are:

- *HomeLife* — A monthly magazine with articles and fresh ideas for families, marriages, and personal development; focused on faith, family, and life.
- *Mature Living* — A monthly magazine focusing on the spiritual and personal needs of adults, from boomers to seniors.
- *ParentLife* — A monthly magazine offering biblical and relevant content. Each issue offers practical help with insights written especially for parents.
- *Parenting Teens* — A monthly magazine providing encouragement, information, and insights to address the unique challenges of guiding a teen through adolescence into adulthood.
- *Journey* — Monthly devotional magazine for women with content that is substantive but not overwhelming for busy schedules. This devotional is now available through digital subscription.
- *Stand Firm* — A monthly devotional guide for men with daily encouragement and small group questions that fit into a man's busy schedule. This devotional is now available through digital subscription.
- *Open Windows* — A quarterly devotional guide featuring individual daily readings and selected Scripture passages (also available in large print). It also includes a prayer guide that focuses on praying for SBC missionaries.

Churches use these resources to help families realize and prepare for the fact that life happens between Sundays. While these magazines provide wonderful leisure reading, they also hit difficult topics of life from a strong biblical perspective.

### ***Lifeway Global***

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway Global continues to develop a unified strategy to better serve global churches and individuals, anchored by our market-leading publishing lines: Bible and Reference, Trade Books, Leadership Resources, Women's Resources, Kids Resources, On-Going Curriculum, and Short-Term Studies. Lifeway Global enjoyed another record year in 2019 with more than 4 million lives impacted in more than 160 countries through print, digital, licensing, and training.

Contextualization continues to be a strategic imperative for Lifeway Global. To that end, we have indigenous staff in Delhi, Mexico City, Cali, and Guatemala City. Our publishing ministry is primarily focused on indigenous authors, including key Hispanic communicators: Miguel

Núñez, Sugel Michelén, Wendy Bello, and Juan Sanchez. Key Indian authors include: Stanley Mehta, Rajiv Chelladurai, Sam Varghese, Joel Gummadi, and PC Matthew. In 2020, Lifeway reached a milestone as we acquired our 55<sup>th</sup> global author.

In Biblias Holman, we launched the *Minister's Bible*, which is designed to equip pastors to handle the Word accurately. We also launched the *Chronological Study Bible*.

Last year was also a solid year for Spanish ongoing curriculum, anchored by *Bible Studies for Life*. We experienced another year of growth in Spanish kids publishing, built around *Gruas y Concreto* (Concrete and Cranes)—our VBS program. We continue to expand our market-leading Spanish Bible program, anchored by the RVR60 and NVI texts. In 2020, we started a new strategy that focuses on ministry to the global Spanish-speaking church. This implies a more significant and comprehensive contextualization of our resources. Our new *Proyecto Evangelio para niños* is our first resource that offers contextualized music, exercises, activities, and guidelines that better suit not only Hispanic churches in the U.S. but across Latin America. Lifeway will continue to innovate around customer engagement—especially on proprietary platforms like lifeway.com.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway Global will expand its leadership in Spanish publishing in 2021 with the introduction of the *Women's Devotional Bible* and the *Easy Reading* books, which are designed to reach unbelievers and equip new believers with the Gospel through short and simple books.

In 2021, Lifeway Español is launching UNIDOS, a growing series of resources designed and produced to serve churches all across Latin America. Although this series is based on pre-existing content (*Bible Studies for Life*, *Explore the Bible*, *The Gospel Project*), it is now offered in a new format specifically designed for the cultural and socioeconomic needs of churches in Latin America.

## **2. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in ministries to college and university students.**

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway continues to serve churches seeking to reach and equip college students with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There are almost 23 million college students in North America and churches are continuing to seek ways to reach and equip this important segment of our population. Lifeway provides churches and collegiate ministries with resources and events that will assist in making disciples of Jesus among college and university students.

Ongoing curriculum provides churches with trustworthy resources that give college students the opportunity to study the Scriptures in small groups, Sunday School, or on their own. *Bible Studies for Life – Young Adult*, *Explore the Bible – Daily Discipleship Guide*, *The Gospel Project*, and *YOU* all address relevant and crucial issues of how the Scriptures intersect with the lives of college students. Whether the starting point in these groups is life, the text, or theology, the various lines of curriculum that Lifeway offers for college ministry will help students grow in their walk with Christ.

Short-term studies continue to be produced by Lifeway that are great for college students. These short-term studies are ideal for semester small groups and retreat settings. A variety of authors and subjects are considered extremely relevant to the life of college students and young adults. These titles can be found on lifeway.com (lifeway.com/en/bible-studies/young-adults) and recently include *Help My Unbelief* by Barnabas Piper, *Everyday Theology* by Mary Wiley, and *Matchless* by Angie Smith.

Lifeway also offers meaningful and relevant events that promote spiritual growth and missions to churches and collegiate ministries including:

**Beach Reach.** Lifeway was able to hold one of two planned Beach Reach events in Panama City Beach before cancelling the second due to COVID-19. This week was filled with ministry through daily pancake breakfasts (in partnership with the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief Team), free van rides, and street/beach ministry where the Gospel was shared.

**Collegiate Week.** Due to COVID-19, 2020's Collegiate Week was cancelled.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway has turned the management of the SBC collegiate ministry over to the Baptist Collegiate Network (BCNet). BCNet consists of seven committees staffed by church and campus-based college ministers in coordination with Baptist Collegiate State Directors (BCSD). Lifeway partnered with BCNet to host the National Collegiate Ministry Summit in May 2021.

Short-term studies will continue to be offered that are relevant to issues that young adults and college students are facing within their culture. Some studies planned in the next year include: *Through the Eyes of a Lion* by Levi Lusko and *With Us in the Wilderness* by Lauren Chandler.

### 3. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches with Christian schools and homeschool ministries.

**Significant Accomplishments** — A biblical philosophy of education to guide the training of children and youth is presented in *Kingdom Education: God's Plan for Educating Future Generations, 2nd edition*. This resource provides the driving principles that shape essential biblical education services and resources to Christian schools, churches, and families.

*The Gospel Project for Kids: Home Edition* is designed to help families—whether they homeschool or engage in traditional education—supplement biblical education and child discipleship.

Lifeway's Student Ministry continues to provide *CharacterQuest* Bible Curriculum for Christian schools and home schools.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway continues to provide consultation to schools and churches related to a wide range of topics about Christian school and homeschool education.

### 4. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches with ministries to men and women.

#### *Men's Ministry*

**Significant Accomplishments** — *No More Excuses* by Dr. Tony Evans continued to be popular with men and men's groups throughout 2020. This 2019 release was not only popular with men, but was also among Lifeway's best-selling Bible studies in broader categories. This Bible study experience challenges men to get off the sideline and engage in the crucial areas of life. This study includes a discussion guide for D-groups and uses historical figures from Scripture to develop topics like "No More Hiding Behind Your Past," "No More Going through the Motions," and "No More Standing on the Sidelines."

Based on the popularity of *No More Excuses*, Lifeway also developed and released a 90-day devotional for men. *No More Excuses: A 90-Day Devotional for Men* challenges men to lay down their excuses, stop compromising, and fight to be a man of character and commitment. Each day, men engaging this content will find a Scripture verse, short devotion, and thought-provoking question to help them find purpose, meaning, and direction in life and become the man God has called them to be.

In 2019, Lifeway released the feature documentary *Kingdom Men Rising* and it remains available through various streaming platforms. *Kingdom Men Rising* wrestles honestly with the unique questions and circumstances men face today. Matters of addiction, sex, race, and passivity are addressed from a biblical perspective. *Kingdom Men Rising* takes a journey that challenges men to rise above cultural or “toxic” masculinity to biblically defined examples. Lifeway made *Kingdom Men Rising* available for free over Father’s Day and was encouraged that more than 3,000 men logged on, with many more watching over a three-day span. Additionally, Lifeway has seen a great deal of success in DVD sales, digital purchases, and movie licenses since the movie’s theatrical run.

As a response to the anxiety and stress placed on men by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lifeway partnered with The Urban Alternative on a virtual event called Kingdom Men Calling. Lifeway President and CEO Ben Mandrell opened the event with a prayer and introduction, and Dr. Tony Evans prepared an inspirational message intended to help men respond to the crisis in faith. The event was held on Good Friday and there were more than 1 million views.

Lifeway Men released *Kingdom Men Rising*, a new Bible study by Dr. Tony Evans, earlier this year. This study is designed to exhort men to exercise the God-given place in the home, community, and culture they were created for through an examination of landmark texts from the Bible and historical biblical figures.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway Men continues to provide biblically trusted resources, most notably *Kingdom Man* and *No More Excuses* with Tony Evans and six volumes of *33 The Series* with Authentic Manhood. In August, Lifeway Men plans to release a men’s Bible study by Mark Richt adapted from the B&H book *Make the Call: Game-Day Wisdom for Life’s Defining Moments*.

### ***Women’s Ministry***

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway Christian Resources and the Women’s Event and Publishing Team continue to equip and minister to women across the country and beyond with multiple live events and resources for a diversified audience, both to the SBC and other women of faith.

2020 proved to be a challenge for our Women’s Event Team due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Though able to hold five live events in January, in March 2020, the team ultimately cancelled over 30 events that would have reached more than 50,000 women. The team shifted to digital events and offered multiple options for women, including the Going Beyond Simulcast with Priscilla Shirer, The Word Alive Livestream with Lysa TerKeurst, Living Proof Live Simulcast with Beth Moore, Cultivate Online with Kelly Minter, and the Lifeway Women Live Simulcast, which featured multiple Lifeway authors and speakers. Lifeway reached more than 40,000 women through these digital events that were hosted by over 310 churches and streamed by over 27,000 individuals.

The year was a full year of releases from the short-term Bible study team. These included: *Better* by Jen Wilkin, *Everyday Theology* by Mary Wiley, *Jesus and Women* by Kristi McLelland, *Into the Light* by Mary DeMuth, *Take Courage* by Jennifer Rothschild, *Matchless* by Angie Smith, and *Truthfilled* by Ruth Chou Simons. A study for Advent (*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*) and a study for Easter (*Easter: Behold Your King*) were also released from the Lifeway Women team.

Lifeway Women continued to offer online Bible studies in 2020, but when COVID-19 began to keep churches from being able to meet in person, the team shifted to allow multiple studies to be accessed for free through the Online Bible Study platform. Well over 100,000 women have been part of these studies.

The 2020 Women's Leadership Forum was held with a small group of live attendees and a larger group of virtual attendees. More than 700 women participated. In light of canceling leadership events due to COVID-19, the Lifeway Women's team offered training for ministry leaders through the use of multiple *You Lead* webinars, a *You Lead Virtual* option, and offering ministry care to leaders through online support called You Lead Ministry Care.

Lifeway Women continued to expand its social media reach through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and its blog, lifewaywomen.com. In 2020, the blog had 2.9 million total page views and 940,000 users. The Lifeway Women's Facebook page had over 201,000 followers. There are 75,500 Twitter followers and 451,000 Instagram followers.

Lifeway Women also launched an app in 2020 and have had over 10,000 downloads. This app provides plans that correspond with our Bible Studies and allow women to form groups within the app to study together. It also makes it easy to listen to the *Marked* podcast and read the latest news from Lifeway Women.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway Women will continue to offer the multi-platform Lifeway Women Live event as well as events with Priscilla Shirer and Jackie Hill Perry.

The publishing pipeline for 2021 includes plans to publish the following women's Bible studies: *Elijah: Faith and Fire* by Priscilla Shirer, *With Us in the Wilderness* by Lauren Chandler, *Complement* by Aaron and Jamie Ivey, *Seek First the Kingdom* by Christine Hoover, *God of Deliverance: Exodus (Part 1)* by Jen Wilkin, *How Much More* by Lisa Harper, *Anxious* by Scarlet Hiltibidal, *He's Where the Joy Is* by Tara-Leigh Cobble, *Closer: Encountering God through Spiritual Disciplines* by Kelly Minter, and *Never Alone: Parenting in the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Jeannie Cunnion. Lifeway Women will also release a new Advent study titled *Our Hope Has Come*.

## **5. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through operation of Conference Centers and Camps.**

**Significant Accomplishments** — Due to COVID-19 and restrictions on large-group gatherings, Lifeway canceled all 2020 summer camp sessions for CentriKid, Student Life, FUGE, and World Changers. Shifting from in-person to virtual experiences, the Lifeway Students team hosted four online worship events to enable kids and students to experience a taste of camp at home this year. Alongside these events consisting of worship and age-specific Bible teaching, Lifeway provided free digital resources to allow parents and church leaders to lead multi-day devotions, games, and mission activities.

Prior to March 1, 2020, Ridgecrest Conference Center and Summer Camps were on track for a record year. Due to COVID-19, the conference center stopped hosting events for several months and the camps were unable to hold their traditional two-week residential sessions. Instead, the conference center and camp teams collaborated to offer all-inclusive Family Getaways, a new experience where families could stay, eat, and enjoy activities as a family unit at all three sites with physical distancing and other COVID precautions. It was a huge success, as more than 400 families participated.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway now looks ahead to 2021 as camps have opened registration for summer 2021. Lifeway plans to host its student and kids camps across 78 locations in the U.S.

The Lifeway camps team continues to monitor COVID-19 and is actively working to create a plan to help keep campers healthy and safe. In addition to forming a Camp COVID Task Force composed of experienced, full-time camp staff, the Lifeway camps ministry is working closely with host locations to plan ahead. This planning includes guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and prevention along other local health organizations.

In April 2020, Lifeway's board of trustees authorized a recommendation for the organization's executive team to pursue viable options for the disposition of Ridgecrest Conference Center and Summer Camps. Lifeway's transfer of the conference center and camps to the Ridgecrest Foundation was completed by December 30, 2020. Lifeway plans to continue using Ridgecrest for future events including student camps and the Black Church Leadership and Family conference.

## **6. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through the publication of books and Bibles.**

**Significant Accomplishments** — B&H Books publishes trustworthy books that impact children, teens, adults, families, churches, and God's work around the world. In 2020, B&H made significant contributions to Christian publishing, such as the authorized biography of Elisabeth Elliot, entitled *Becoming Elisabeth Elliot*.

B&H also partnered with SBC president J. D. Greear to publish a message that dovetails with NAMB and the IMB's "Go Two Years" (GO2) strategy, entitled *What Are You Going to Do With Your Life?* Additional books include Russell Moore's *The Courage to Stand*, Trevin Wax's *Rethink Yourself*, Jeff Iorg's *Shadow Christians*, Tony Merida's *Christ-Centered Conflict*, and more.

Key titles published for children include: *The Marvelous Maker* by April Graney, *Gracie's Garden* by Lara Casey, *The Money Challenge for Teens* by Art Rainer, *25 Days of the Christmas Story: An Advent Family Experience* by Josh and Christi Straub, *Echo Island* by Jared C. Wilson, *Defend Your Faith Devotional* by Jesse Florea, *The Bright Light that Defeats the Super Scary Darkness* by Dan Dewitt, and more.

During the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic, B&H partnered with churches for the "Stay On the Same Page, by Reading the Same Pages" campaign. Lifeway discounted books, often sold in bulk, in order to support churches who could not safely gather. Evidenced by book sales at Lifeway, the campaign was a relative success, and many churches used books as a means to deploy ministry resources to their congregations.

B&H is honored to partner with others throughout Lifeway and across the denomination to produce resources that elevate the kingdom work of the SBC.

**B&H Bible & Reference** — Holman Bibles publishes Bibles, commentaries, and reference titles in order to support individuals of all ages in their understanding of Scripture. In 2020, Holman Bibles has continued the strategic initiative of developing CSB awareness and growth in the market. Part of the overall translation awareness and growth comes from the successful release of *The Tony Evans Study Bible and Commentary*, both titles having a combined unit sale of over 200,000 units. Continued focus on quality, new CSB releases in 2020 in combination with strategic promotional focus on backlist titles resulted in continued growth of CSB as a leading translation in the market.

Other notable 2020 releases and contributions in the CSB portfolio include an ECPA Bible Award for the *Ancient Faith Study Bible*, the release of the CSB *Verse-by-Verse*, the CSB *Reader's Bible – Multi-Volume Set*, the CSB *God Loves You Bible* for Kids and Teens, the CSB *Holy Land Illustrated Bible*, and a host of other CSB text Bibles in various print and trim sizes.

In addition to CSB, Holman Bibles continues to extend the reach of Scripture by publishing KJV Bibles, many of which are delivered all over the world through partnership with Lifeway Global. The new KJV typeset has been well received, finding opportunities in both trade and mass market. We continue to introduce new print and trim sizes to the market as part of our strategic initiative of growing our KJV offerings.



To continue to serve both church and lay leaders in their understanding of Scripture, the Holman Reference team continues to release commentaries and reference titles that edify and equip God's people, most notably the Christ-Centered Exposition series, the New American Commentary series, and the recently released Christian Standard Commentary Series. In addition, Holman Reference continues to publish illustrated guides that appeal to the church as well as mass market and Christian Book Association customers. The *Ultimate Guide* series continues to develop and perform well in trade, as well as the CSB *Ultimate Bible Character Encyclopedia* for kids.

**B&H Academic** — B&H Academic publishes trustworthy textbooks and classroom resources for colleges and seminaries that can also be used in homeschool classes, church education, and individual study. In 2020, we released 27 new titles. Notable among these were the first major Baptist systematic theology published in some years, *Christian Theology* by Christopher Morgan; the launch of the Theology for the People of God series, which combines biblical theology and systematic theology in each book, with a volume entitled *The Holy Spirit* by Andreas Köstenberger and Gregg Allison; and *Baptists and the Christian Tradition*, a collection of essays by top Southern Baptist scholars that advocated for greater Baptist interaction with the Great Tradition, even while maintaining core Baptist beliefs.

B&H Academic also published books on timely issues, such as Walter Strickland and Dayton Hartman's *For God So Loved the World* on race and racism and Darrell Bock's *Cultural Intelligence* on cultural engagement in an increasingly post-Christian culture. In partnership with key institutions, we released *Kingdom Students* (New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) and *Jonah* (Dallas Theological Seminary). We further created a custom product for an IMB missionary largely authored by and for African believers.

Sensing a need for resources to assist professors in online education during COVID restrictions, we worked with author Kristen Ferguson to create a quick-turnaround primer entitled *Excellence in Online Education* in time for the fall 2020 semester.

Looking ahead to 2021, B&H Academic aims to uphold our commitment to professors, students, and other readers to publish theologically-faithful, high-quality, scholarly resources that bring glory to God and serve the church. We look forward to exploring new product types (audiobooks, enhanced e-textbooks), publishing strong established authors and promising up-and-coming scholars (Preben Vang, Terry Carter, Craig Blomberg, O. S. Hawkins, Kyle Beshears, and Kristen Kellen), and covering a wide variety of academic subjects with excellence (Bible survey, apologetics, theological method, Muslim studies, Old and New Testament, logic, biblical counseling, and poetry).

## **7. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through the operation of Lifeway Christian Stores.**

**Significant Accomplishments** — During fiscal year 2020, millions of individuals and tens of thousands of churches, both domestically and internationally, were served through Lifeway's online store at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com). The shift to e-commerce has allowed Lifeway to meet customer demand for online shopping experiences and to expand our reach globally.

In addition to [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com), Lifeway has developed several proprietary online platforms for delivery of church-related materials and services. For instance, Ministry Grid is an online platform paired with a mobile app that delivers customizable training for leaders and volunteers. Churches can also access digital curriculum through [MinistryGrid.com/curriculum](http://MinistryGrid.com/curriculum).

Lifeway also provides an online platform to assist churches in managing ongoing orders of curriculum, periodicals, and church supplies such as Bibles, tithe and offering envelopes, bulletins, and communion resources. This platform makes it easy for churches to browse curriculum for the current cycle and store information for automatic recurring orders.

Lifeway interacts with customers in a variety of channels—our own proprietary channels of lifeway.com and our Customer Service Center, as well as external channels that help customers interact with our resources.

Lifeway is expanding access to its materials through channels such as the Amazon Marketplace and a new network of independent Christian bookstores serving as authorized dealers of Lifeway resources. More than 400 independent Christian retailers in 45 states have become authorized Lifeway dealers. This move provides customers more touch points for Lifeway products than were previously available through Lifeway's brick-and-mortar stores alone. Lifeway also sells select resources through established chains such as Walmart, Books-a-Million, and Mardel Stores owned by Hobby Lobby. We've extended our ministry reach into more than 90 new markets—regions where Lifeway never had a brick-and-mortar storefront.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway will continue to serve and provide our resources at competitive prices through our online store at lifeway.com, the Quarterly Order Packet, and our Customer Service team, as well as provide Lifeway Stores at regional and national events. Customers will experience a number of improvements at lifeway.com throughout 2021. By providing trustworthy and transformational resources, we plan to maintain a strong ministry impact among individuals and churches as we emphasize ministry concerns of the Southern Baptist Convention.

#### **8. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through church architecture consultation and services.**

Visioneering Studios is proud to be Lifeway's strategic partner in providing comprehensive architecture, planning, and construction services for churches, nonprofits, and other organizations nationwide. Visioneering Studios serves as a trusted partner and guide for organizations looking to launch their visions and bring form to their story.

Through this dynamic resource, Lifeway connects churches, associations, state conventions, and denominational entities with an expanded array of services, including Development Advisory Services, Master Planning, Architecture, Development, Wayfinding, Environmental Graphics, Interior Design, and Construction Services. Visioneering's truly integrated project approach allows them to engage each project uniquely — serving their individual people, place, and passion.

Visioneering Studios offers churches a *Budget Savvy Guarantee™* on every design. This groundbreaking approach guarantees that Visioneers will: design to a target budget, leverage dollars for maximum impact, and price-check throughout the design process.

Visioneering Studios has full-service, multi-disciplinary studios in Santa Ana, CA; Nashville, TN; and a new studio in Dallas, TX.

**Significant Accomplishments** — Visioneering had the privilege to come alongside 116 churches and nonprofit organizations in 2020, including Seabreeze Community Church, Orangecrest Community Church, Thousand Hills Church, Clovis Hills Community Church, Center Point, North Central, West Side Community, among many others. In total, Visioneering worked in 32 states and 106 cities throughout 2020.

Visioneering Studios exists to launch inspired vision into reality by being trusted stewards of story and space. In their over two decades of partnering with churches, Visioneering has been awarded over twenty Solomon Awards for the Best Building Contractor, Best Church Architect, Best Youth and Children's Space, Best Church Design Renovation, and Most Innovative Church Design, among others. Additionally, Visioneering won the TEA Award (Themed Entertainment Award) for their work with Poverty Encounter.

One awarding winning church, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, has been serving its community in New Orleans, Louisiana since the 1940s. However, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans on August 29, 2005, leaving the church flooded under nine feet of water – watch their story of rebuilding here: [visioneeringstudios.com/portfolio/franklin-ave-baptist-church](http://visioneeringstudios.com/portfolio/franklin-ave-baptist-church).

Along the way, Visioneering's studio in Santa Ana, CA, was honored to be named by *The Orange County Register* as one of Orange County's best workplaces for the third year in a row.

Another venture Visioneering embarked upon this year was to create a strategic project readiness calculator called Buildify.app. After nearly 20 years of experience working with thousands of churches, Visioneering has developed a platform to help churches measure their project readiness. Visioneering's team of real estate experts, designers, architects, and contractors have identified 20 critical variables that lead to a successful renovation or expansion plan. When church leaders complete the 20-question Buildify quiz, they'll get a custom report with the following vital insights:

- A project readiness score
- A personalized look at current and future growth
- Any potential growth barriers
- A property usage review
- A look into the building's capacity and pain points
- An analysis of the congregation's generosity
- A financial outlook with tips on how to prepare for a loan

Visioneering Studios was quick to innovate new ways that would allow them to continue serving churches during the COVID-19 pandemic. A Virtual Basecamp was launched in late May that allowed churches to meet with our team virtually while continuing to reimagine their facility. Church leaders experienced the same level of care as an on-site Basecamp kick-off—just from the comfort and safety of their homes.

**Future Plans** — Visioneering Studios is dedicated to providing services to churches and nonprofits utilizing its diverse team of real estate professionals, developers, architects and designers, financial analysts, and construction professionals to steward all of their client partners' assets, including facilities, budgets, time, and each unique story, vision, and mission.

You can reach a team member of Visioneering Studios at (888) 539-1957. Visioneering can also be found on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and on our website at [VisioneeringStudios.com](http://VisioneeringStudios.com).

- Facebook: [facebook.com/visioneeringstudios](https://facebook.com/visioneeringstudios)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/theVioneer](https://twitter.com/theVioneer)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/visioneeringstudios](https://instagram.com/visioneeringstudios)

## 9. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in capital fund raising.

**Significant Accomplishments** — The Auxano Resourcing team provides unique, innovative consulting services to help churches navigate capital campaigns and build cultures of generosity throughout their congregations. Prior to the global pandemic year, the team was breaking year-over-year records for the Resourcing area of Auxano, Lifeway's consulting department.

During 2020, the Auxano team launched new and expanded cutting-edge capital campaign and generosity consulting tools aimed for client service excellence, and the posturing of our services as both proven and entrepreneurial. Sample highlights include:

- Shifted consulting paradigm to be hybrid – both onsite (when possible in 2020) and virtual throughout the balance of the year.
- Refined and updated the process of Congregational Assessments through confidential interviews and an anonymous survey tool.
- Collaborated as a team to refine a new Generosity Development training schema, trade book, and consulting platform to be launched in January 2021.
- Enhanced strategic partnership with Mortarstone, providing resourcing clients with analytics regarding congregational giving behavior.

Auxano Resourcing in 2020:

- Served a wide variety of clients, including church plants, small churches averaging fewer than 200 in worship, mega-churches averaging 3,000-10,000 in worship, and multi-campus churches
- Served churches in 16 states coast to coast
- Served 15 denominations
- Established strategic partnerships with Kingdom Analytics and Mortarstone to serve clients with additional value-added services.

**Future Plans** — Greg Gibbs has completed a second book, (working title) *Growing Generous Givers*. It is a sequel to the *Capital Campaign Playbook*, published in the middle of 2020 and will be available January 2021. Its focus is beyond campaigns and to the overall and holistic approach to creating an environment of generosity discipleship in the congregation.

## **10. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics.**

**Significant Accomplishments** — Lifeway Research released a variety of significant research studies in 2020. These included polling about the views of pastors and/or churchgoers on streaming worship services, eschatology, disabilities, church security, opioid abuse, understanding the Bible, sermon length, wellbeing of retired pastors and missionaries, and the theological beliefs of Americans.

Lifeway Research completed four surveys specifically to document and understand challenges that COVID-19 has had on pastors and churches. Despite difficulties, each was conducted using probability sampling.

Lifeway Research conducted research with numerous ministries including Chosen People Ministries, Shepherd's Fold Ministries, Ligonier Ministries, Moody Radio, and Outreach Magazine.

The free e-book *Together: The Power of Groups*, was released examining research revealing a Christian's discipleship journey is empowered by being together in a small group of believers that meets regularly around the Word of God.

The SBC Annual Church Profile (ACP) for 2019 showed the Southern Baptist Convention had declines in several key measures including the number of congregations, average worship attendance, membership, and baptisms.

The number of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention grew by 74 from 2018, but the number of church-type missions declined by 477. Average worship attendance decreased 0.9%. Reported membership declined 1.94%. Southern Baptists also experienced a decline in baptisms, down 4.34% to 235,748.

**Future Plans** — Lifeway Research will release research studies in 2021 on the impact of COVID-19 on ministry, racial reconciliation, relationships among local pastors, engagement in local community, purpose in life, and the challenges of pastoral ministry today.

## MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following items to Lifeway Christian Resources during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

**1. SBC Referral: To ask Lifeway to include a presentation of the Gospel in every children’s lesson (Items 46 and 79, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 61, 80)**

**Motion:** Laura Smith, Indiana

“That Lifeway Christian Resources be asked to make sure all Southern Baptist Convention curriculum for children, ages 0-6th grade, include a Gospel presentation written into each lesson as exemplified in Lifeway’s publication *The Gospel Project*.”

**Response:** At Lifeway Kids, our goal is to provide trustworthy, biblical solutions to support the church in her mission to make disciples. Our belief is that a healthy, Gospel-centered kids ministry hinges on the essentials of being heart transforming, Kingdom expanding, and culture shaping.

Curriculum is a guide to support churches and ministry leaders as they participate in children’s discipleship. Each resource in our Vacation Bible School and ongoing Bible Study curriculum lines provides natural on-ramps for teachers to regularly share the Gospel and its related biblical truths with children in a variety of ways as the Holy Spirit leads.

Because we believe the Gospel is the most important message to share with children, Gospel presentation tools are included with our curriculum resources. Therefore, with shared urgency to share the Gospel and with the desire to continue developing Gospel-centered tools that equip churches to effectively make disciples, Lifeway Kids affirms its commitment to include the following in our Vacation Bible School and ongoing Bible Study resources:

- *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* tool in each Bible Study and Worship leader guide for elementary-aged groups. This tool will be referenced in every session where the biblical teaching would naturally transition into a Gospel presentation, via an icon, margin note, and/or inline text.
- *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* tool in each Bible Study and Worship leader guide for preschool-aged groups. Individual sessions address foundational biblical concepts and foundational elements of the Gospel message, in accordance with the Levels of Biblical Learning®.
- Gospel presentation videos in curriculum resources and online.
- The Lifeway Kids App with Gospel-centered activities and biblical content for kids of all ages.

Whether equipping leaders to share Gospel truths and lay the foundation necessary for kids to begin understanding and personalizing the Gospel, or to give a full Gospel presentation and call kids to repentance and faith, Lifeway Kids curriculum resources undergird and point to the Gospel, help children build Gospel fluency, and support children’s discipleship and faith development.

\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

**2. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** Lifeway Christian Resources has policies and procedures, which include Lifeway Ethics Line, on-going training, and partnership with external experts to foster effective abuse prevention and care for employees and customers. Furthermore, Lifeway has partnered with the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and the ERLC to record as well as produce the videos, book, and website for *Becoming a Church That Cares Well for the Abused*. The video training itself is hosted on Lifeway’s Ministry Grid platform, and along with the PDF version of the book, has been made available for free to all churches. Additionally, Lifeway continues to identify ways to partner with other SBC entities and serve SBC churches as they address the issues raised by the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group. Included in this effort are activities such as producing and providing free, livestreaming of the ERLC’s Church Cares 2019 National Conference and additional book and Bible study resource development to help survivors with a biblical framework for recovery and to provide pastors with a lens through which they can more deeply understand how to minister to those who have been sexually abused. Specifically, Lifeway Women created a Bible study and equipping resource, in partnership with Mary DeMuth, with the intent of helping churches understand the issue of sexual abuse and appropriately receive and then walk alongside survivors of abuse and trauma. The Bible study released in June 2020. Lifeway is working toward 2021 release dates on other potential resources.



4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022

**DANNY DE ARMAS, Chairman**

**KEVIN EZELL, President**

We are happy to share with you about what God is doing as we partner together to help churches reach North America for Christ.

At NAMB, it's all about the Gospel. The reason we do everything we do is to help Southern Baptists make disciples in North America and beyond.

You will find many details inside this ministry report, but we want to share a few of the highlights with you now.

We don't have to tell you what a challenging year 2020 was. In many ways, those same issues have followed us into 2021. But we are happy to report that at NAMB, the mission moves forward. We have not pulled a single missionary from the field due to budget. We have not cut evangelism funds and no missionary has had his or her funding cut. We will continue to do whatever it takes to protect these essential ministries as we get through this crisis together.

We are so proud of our church planting missionaries who have been serving their communities courageously during this time. So many have been delivering food, serving healthcare workers, and providing much-needed encouragement and hope.

Our Send Relief missionaries and ministry centers have been doing the same. Hundreds of thousands of meals have been prepared and distributed, thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment have been delivered to frontline healthcare workers, and vulnerable populations are being served every day.

Throughout the challenges of this past year, we have continued to provide pastors with the tools they need to proclaim the Gospel and equip their congregations for evangelism. Our "Who's Your One Tour" with Johnny Hunt continued in both in-person and virtual formats. We are expanding our student evangelism resources and we added Paul Worcester to our evangelism team as National Director of Collegiate Evangelism to help Southern Baptists reach this critical next generation of students.

We announced a new partnership last year with IMB which means Send Relief's ministry now reaches all the way around the world. Whether through giving or hands-on service, your church can meet needs right in your hometown, on the other side of the globe, and everywhere in between.

And we are ramping up our leadership resources for pastors with Next Step Leader led by Will Mancini. Will is an established leader in the realm of Christian ministry. At this critical time when pastors need new tools in their leadership toolbox, Will has joined with us to bring free training to every pastor in our Southern Baptist family.

Of course, many of our pastors are experiencing great discouragement as they deal with the pressures of the pandemic and related challenges. Pastor care is more important now than ever as we seek to encourage and build up these men who lead our churches. This is why our Timothy+Barnabas retreats continue to serve pastors across North America. We have added additional Timothy+Barnabas retreats so we can bring healing and encouragement to many more pastors in need. NAMB also sent grants to each of our state Baptist convention partners for them to invest in pastor wellness ministry.

Thank you for how you support our nearly 6,000 missionaries and chaplains. The Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports your missionaries in North America, and before this past year, we saw record Annie offering totals for three years in a row. What a remarkable trend! Last year the pandemic hit in the spring. Just as most churches would have been receiving the Annie offering, they were closing their doors and going into lockdown. The offering total dropped to \$49.3 million, but there is still great reason to celebrate. God's faithfulness and the generosity of Southern Baptists is remarkable and we are deeply grateful.

At NAMB, pastors are our number one customer. We are here to serve you through Send Network by helping you plant churches everywhere for everyone. We help you share Christ while meeting needs through Send Relief. And we help you send hope by providing resources to proclaim the Gospel and equip your church for evangelism.

It really is *all* about the Gospel.

Thank you, Southern Baptists, for allowing us to serve and partner with you. We are grateful for what every church is doing to reach its community and join arms in the effort to reach North America and the world for Christ.

God bless you and may God bless the effort of Southern Baptists as we take the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world.

Serving Together,

Kevin Ezell

President

North American Mission Board

Danny de Armas

Chairman

NAMB Board of Trustees

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of The North American Mission Board.)*

### **I. Assist churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist Churches in the United States and Canada.**

To reach people for Christ—and disciple them to reach others for Christ—North America must have strong, evangelistic, healthy churches. In addition to encouraging existing churches to be as healthy as possible, new churches are needed. These new churches require qualified church planters, and the primary developer of these individuals is the local church.

We are encouraging SBC churches to offer residencies through which they can intentionally discover, develop, and deploy missional leaders and church planting teams. Thus far, there are 58 churches offering residency opportunities and we are seeking to identify more.

Along with encouraging residencies, we also continue to assist churches in the discovery and development of potential planters through the Send Network Multiplication Pipeline. This resource is designed for use in the local church to discover, develop, and deploy missional leaders, many of whom will move into church planting. This process is a great asset for the pastor who desires to see his church multiply in the future. This resource is greatly enhancing the efforts to raise up future generations of indigenous planters and team members in parts of North America where needs are greatest, especially as current and future plants gain a vision to become multiplying churches themselves. To date, 1,341 churches are actively exploring or implementing the Multiplication Pipeline and they have engaged 4,702 coordinators, coaches, and learners in the Pipeline training. Currently, 2,934 learners are being trained in the context



of their local churches. This training is being led by 723 coordinators and 1,045 coaches in these local churches.

Send Network continues to provide a clear pathway for SBC churches to utilize in deploying God-called believers across North America. The planting pathway provides a robust application and assessment process that allows churches to confirm the gifts, calling, and abilities of those they seek to send. During assessment retreats, the missionary candidate and his wife spend time with church and ministry leaders from the city or region where the church will be planted. Send Network's Planter Development team then takes the baton once an individual is endorsed by the Discovery team, providing the opportunity for orientation, training, coaching, and care for all SBC planters.

In 2020, 237 individuals went through a Send Network assessment retreat (held virtually due to COVID-19), with 85% of those approved to move toward planting a church.

Send Network Orientation, which is usually in-person for a period of several days, was held virtually in 2020, with more than 325 attending. During orientation, newly endorsed planters are informed of the vision and mission of the Send Network and equipped to embody the network's shared values of family, multiplication, and restoration. Planters also receive critical information about being part of the Southern Baptist Convention and the importance of giving through the Cooperative Program and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®. The entire orientation is led by church planting practitioners. The training we provide enables planters to develop a contextual and missional strategy to engage their cities with the Gospel, make disciples, and plant healthy churches. Send Network coaches then walks alongside church planters, helping them process the next steps to personal, familial, and church health.

In addition to our commitment to developing planters, we are also committed to developing church planting wives. When the spouse is flourishing, her impact on her husband and the church plant is transformational. Send Network provides care and is currently developing and implementing a strategy to train and coach our planting wives. We also have a team of field staff and local churches that provide care to our church planting families so that every planter is appreciated, connected, and encouraged.

NAMB is working to provide all Send Network Planter Pathway tools and resources to be used by Send Network partners for their own process from assessment to care. Some of the benefits partners are experiencing by using these tools and resources are:

- Planters get an excellent, seamless experience from application through their first years of planting using free, Send Network-provided resources and technology platforms at each stage of the journey.
- Convention saves money on systems and materials using Send Network's robust tools, processes, and personnel, rather than producing and maintaining their own.
- Use of up-to-date resources and platforms that are regularly upgraded to reflect the best training methods and technology.
- Promotion of local church planting efforts utilizing national Send Network brand recognition.
- Gain special access for their church planters at church planting and mission events.

## **II. Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

At NAMB, "It's all about the Gospel." Everything we do is ultimately about sharing the good news of Jesus. Johnny Hunt continues to lead our evangelism efforts, and in a year that was far from normal, we continue to see momentum.

The *Evangelism with Johnny Hunt* podcast, which debuted in 2019, continues to gain traction with more than 57,800 downloads. The podcast provides practical training by interviewing national leaders and pastors who are doing evangelism well. In Spring 2020, we launched the *Next Gen on Mission* podcast which has already seen almost 5,000 downloads and is currently in its second season.

With the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020, reports of depression and discouragement were widely reported among pastors and leaders within our SBC churches. In response, NAMB launched *Weekly Encouragement from Johnny Hunt*. A new episode is released each Monday with an encouraging message to pastors, a reflective time of worship, and the message outline so they can share it with their staff and leaders. Since its launch in Fall 2020, more than 3,400 have subscribed to receive the message delivered to their phone or inbox each week.

In February 2019, NAMB launched the *Who's Your One?* evangelism emphasis with SBC president J. D. Greear. The launch included a church evangelism kit to help pastors implement the emphasis in their churches with the goal of encouraging every church member to identify a "one" for whom they will pray and with whom they will share the Gospel. Since its launch, and throughout 2020, we distributed a total of 29,428 kits, 540,029 prayer guides, and 1.85 million bookmarks to churches. In addition, NAMB also distributed 1,593 Spanish kits, 12,349 Spanish prayer guides, and 76,875 Spanish bookmarks.

In 2020, NAMB also began offering a free resource each quarter to pastors who request it. Our Fall offering was David Platt's book, *Something Needs to Change*. To date, we have sent 1,200 copies out to pastors. For the Winter quarter, the book offered was Ray Rhodes Jr.'s book, *Susie*.

NAMB established a "Who's Your One Tour" series in Fall 2019 to engage 50,000 people to pray for and share the Gospel with their "one." As of December 2020, more than 34,000 have committed to do so. The tour continued in 2020 with the following tour sites: Gardendale, AL; Baton Rouge, LA; Clearwater, FL; Knoxville, TN; Frankfort, KY; Hampton, VA; Indian Trail, NC; Plant City, FL; Austin, TX; Dublin, GA; and Longview, TX. Several tour stops had to be postponed due to COVID-19, but most have already been rescheduled for 2021.

Overall attendance for the "Who's Your One Tours" includes more than 12,800 people who attended the Sunday night rallies and more than 4,960 who attended the Monday morning evangelism trainings.

In addition to these stops, and in response to COVID-19, NAMB held the "Who's Your One Virtual Tour" in August with more than 500 participants.

For Easter 2020, NAMB challenged pastors and their people to post a 60-second video of themselves sharing how they came to know Christ. In April and May, more than 10,000 people created and shared their #MyStory post.

In an effort to make sure pastors have the resources needed to train and equip their people to share the Gospel, NAMB committed to provide churches one kit each of our three main evangelism training resources free of charge. Since the beginning of 2020, NAMB has shipped 3,600 Best News kits, 3,517 Three Circles kits, and 5,500 Live This kits.

A year into NAMB's Next Gen focus on elevating the priority of reaching students for Christ, we are seeing great engagement from ministry leaders and students. As of November 2020, Shane Pruitt, National Next Gen Evangelism director, has spoken at 57 in-person events that included student camps, collegiate events, conferences, state convention and local association events, local churches, along with evangelism and Reaching-the-Next-Generation trainings.

Approximately 40,000+ total attended, with several thousand decisions recorded that included professions of faith for salvation, desire to follow in baptism, and surrender to the call of ministry or missions. He also spoke and provided training at 84 online events that included webinars, digital youth camps/conferences, youth leaders and collegiate leaders' conferences, state convention events, local Baptist associations, pre-recorded sermons, and trainings for local churches.

NAMB developed a 30-Day *Who's Your One Student Devotional* that has been downloaded more than 7,500 times. In 2020, we launched a podcast specifically for Next Gen leaders, called *Next Gen on Mission*, with more than 25 episodes. Our newest resource is a YouTube Channel called *GenSend Conversations* that is specifically for students. It includes messages, worship songs, and testimonies. Launched in late October 2020, there are 580+ subscribers, 2,100+ who've expressed interest via texting CONVERSATIONS to 888123, and 1,400+ total views.

In October, NAMB hosted a digital webinar for student pastors with 453 registering for the event. NAMB hosted 25 of some the top Next Gen leaders from across the nation to specifically talk about reaching, discipling, and mobilizing the Next Generation to be the church of today. During shelter-in-place, we created a prayer and devotional call for leaders and pastors called "Calm in the Chaos."

Shane Pruitt was also interviewed for many podcasts, radio shows, articles, and training videos; and he wrote multiple articles on evangelism, Generation Z, digital Gospel invitations, and other related topics.

We are currently finalizing a 2-year plan for national collegiate ministry that will include evangelism tools/resources, networking with leaders, coaching for leaders, and equipping for students, as well as online and in-person events to assist in our task of reaching Next Gen audiences.

Paul Worcester recently became NAMB's National Collegiate Evangelism director, and the team is committed to communicate and collaborate with all state Baptist Collegiate Ministries directors, churchbased collegiate leaders and ministry partners across North America. We are discerning how NAMB can best serve the collegiate body of Christ and are uncovering some exciting opportunities, including potential upcoming events for equipping and mobilizing students, collaborative events for staff, as well as virtual coaching, webinars, and free evangelism and discipleship resources to accelerate evangelistic momentum and missions sending on every campus.

Shane Pruitt and Paul Worcester have led numerous in-person and virtual trainings for collegiate ministry leaders and students equipping them to share Christ. Paul Worcester came to NAMB with extensive experience leading trainings on "Digital Evangelism," helping students maximize opportunities to share Christ despite the obstacles of COVID-19. We have plans to continue leveraging technology to deliver practical content and coaching to both collegiate ministry leaders and students. In November, we hosted a webinar for collegiate leaders with almost 500 registered.

We are seeing an encouraging movement toward evangelism among SBC collegiate ministries. Campus-based ministries, church-based ministries, and collegiate-focused church plants are adopting a relentless focus on reaching lost college students with the Gospel. We are hearing reports daily of students leading peers to Christ using a tool called "Gospel Appointments" and the "Personal Ministry Target" strategy which adopts key missionary tactics to the college campus.

According to Lifeway's numbers last school year, there were 492,389 students impacted by Baptist collegiate ministries and 70,472 students involved in Baptist campus-based and church-based ministries across North America. That is a vast army of potential laborers to be mobilized to reach the 21 million college students in North America, as well as the nations, with the Gospel. NAMB's new collegiate evangelism emphasis has a goal to produce more reproducible tools and provide coaching, webinars, and in-person events that will equip leaders and students to expand the Gospel on campus.

After developing an in-depth coaching process for collegiate ministry leaders prior to joining the NAMB team, Paul currently coaches 149 SBC collegiate ministry leaders from all over the nation. These are leaders from all streams of SBC collegiate ministry including campus-based, church-based, and collegiate church plants.

### **III. Assist churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.**

NAMB's Send Network team has a comprehensive training resource for the local church to discover and develop future church planting missionaries. The Multiplication Pipeline provides three years of content that helps a coach in a local church train individuals who want to live on mission more intentionally and/or explore church planting. To date, 1,341 churches are actively exploring or implementing the Multiplication Pipeline and they have engaged 4,702 coordinators, coaches, and learners in the Pipeline training.

NAMB's Send Network team continues to provide one of the most robust assessments of church planters. The online pre-assessment, followed by a two-day assessment retreat, provides critical feedback to Sending Churches which, in turn, allows them to have confidence in the sending or further development of their church planters. Prior to the pandemic, NAMB provided assessment retreats at centers located throughout North America which utilized local and regional assessors. As a result of the pandemic, assessment retreats transitioned to a virtual platform in 2020, and while assessors in the virtual assessments may not be local to the planter candidates, the intent is to be as contextual as possible related to where the potential planters will ultimately serve.

During Send Network Orientation (virtual for the first time this year), we inform new planters of the vision and mission of the network and equip them to embody our network's shared values. Our Send Network training helps new planters develop a contextual missional strategy for making disciples. Most recently, we have developed and deployed a strategy to train and coach our planting wives via training retreats. Throughout the planting process, NAMB utilizes a quarterly reporting tool which provides Sending Churches and other entities involved in a church plant a clear picture of the vitality of the plant.

As housing costs in large cities are a significant challenge that keep many missionaries off the mission field, throughout the Send Cities and some other key areas, NAMB has made missionary housing available to a limited number of missionaries on a short-term basis. A missionary may live in the home for up to 18 months as they are deployed or trained for deployment to their context. Increasingly, we are seeking to locate these homes near multiplying churches that are committed to regularly developing new church planters and planting churches throughout their city and region. As a planter launches his church and becomes more established, his family transitions out of NAMB's missionary housing so another missionary family can move in.

NAMB's planter and family care ministry walks alongside a church planting missionary and his family during the entire church planting process. One of the greatest dangers a missionary family faces is isolation, so we make it a priority to connect church planting missionaries with

other missionaries in their area and other nearby churches. Events, resources, prayer, gifts, and encouragement are some of the many tangible ways our planter and family care ministry walk alongside church planting missionaries and their families so they know they are never alone. During the pandemic, care events have been shelved and connections are being made through phone calls and other means.

NAMB provides similar supervision, oversight, and resourcing for missionaries serving in other capacities. A growing number of missionaries serve in Send Relief-related assignments. NAMB continually assesses its missionary categories and roles. Our goal is to have highly qualified missionaries who are keenly focused on our primary ministry areas of church planting and compassion ministry. Since most of our missionaries are involved with church planting, their tenure with NAMB ends once their church matures past the five-year mark. This results in fluctuation in NAMB's missionary count from year to year.

#### **IV. Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.**

NAMB provides mission education that brings awareness of needs and engagement to meet those needs and share Christ. NAMB's desire is that mission education will spark and grow a lifelong passion and advocacy for missions. As part of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® Week of Prayer for North American Missions, NAMB provides study lessons and videos for children, youth, and adults. *On Mission* magazine, NAMB's flagship publication, carries missions awareness, advocacy, and engagement features. Our annual prayer calendar not only equips Southern Baptists to pray for North American missionaries, it also informs them about where the missionaries serve, the types of ministries they lead, and their prayer needs.

Additionally, NAMB continues to circulate the *North American Missions Activity Book for Children* and resource Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) with missionary contacts for age-level curriculum materials produced by the auxiliary, as well as providing content review for WMU materials related to NAMB work. NAMB produces missions videos for use in Lifeway student camps and VBS, as well as assists with other entity requests for materials to enhance missions awareness and education.

In addition to print, online, and video resources, NAMB provides experienced-based mission education. Send Relief provides numerous opportunities to experience missions firsthand through our ministry centers and ministry events. As a result of the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Send Relief pivoted from offering national opportunities to instead mobilizing churches and individuals more locally, providing more than 317 service activities where more than 10,162 people were engaged, representing 285 SBC churches.

GenSend had 267 students with applications submitted when the pandemic forced the shutdown of the program. With another 93 applications still in process when GenSend's 2020 summer program was cancelled, leaders expected a big year for GenSend before COVID-19.

The pandemic also affected travel for many planned mission trips, but Send Relief still helped mobilize churches around strategically placed ministry centers. Send Relief distributed more than 300,000 meals, served more than 41,000 people, and shared the Gospel 1,260 times. Send Relief also encouraged churches to participate in a Day of Service in their local communities. There were 61 churches that registered for the event.

In support of Send Relief's efforts, NAMB provides hands-on mission opportunities through mission experiences, service projects, training events, online resources, and consultation. In addition, the Send Relief website provides ways churches and individuals can mobilize to volunteer and serve their communities by meeting tangible needs and sharing the Gospel.

COVID-19 impacted the number of participants who were mobilized for mission trips this past year, but it also drove more people to serve locally in their own communities. There were 1,304 training participants, 1,962 mission trip participants, and 6,896 local day mission participants.

## **V. Assist churches by providing leadership development**

NAMB continues to make pastors our “#1 customer.” As we continue to effectively train and encourage pastors, it will have an exponential impact in their churches and communities. NAMB has several opportunities that allow pastors to engage in leadership development.

### Timothy+Barnabas Retreats 2020

The heart and passion of Timothy+Barnabas (T+B) is to influence pastors while they impact the world. At the beginning of the year, NAMB had contracts in place and promotion prepared to host eight T+B retreats during the calendar year. Despite the arrival of the unforeseen pandemic, the Lord graciously allowed us to still complete five of the eight. Even with canceling three retreats, we still had the privilege to minister to a total of 475 pastors and 459 wives from 18 states. The churches they represented collectively have 81,591 individuals on an average Sunday morning in worship.

In the fall, we hosted two retreats for bivocational pastors at The Cove in Asheville, NC, following all social distancing procedures. Over two weekends at The Cove, we greeted 191 pastors and 176 wives who enthusiastically enjoyed a needed break. They traveled to us from eight states and represented churches with a combined total of 11,030 individuals on an average Sunday morning in worship. Here are the summary statistics from the year: Atlanta (March 2-4, 2020: 83 pastors, 77 wives; March 4-6, 2020: 94 pastors, 92 wives); Gatlinburg (March 17-19, 2020: Cancelled); Palm Springs (September 1-3, 2020: Cancelled); Branson (September 16-18, 2020: 107 pastors, 104 wives); Asheville (September 25-27, 2020: 94 bivocational pastors, 92 wives; October 9-11, 2020: 97 bivocational pastors, 94 wives); Puerto Rico (November 19-21, 2020: Cancelled).

### Timothy+Barnabas Institute 2020

After months of planning leading up to a 2020 launch, NAMB developed a new initiative called the Timothy+Barnabas Institute. The institute afforded young pastors the opportunity to be part of a two year coaching cohort with longer-tenured pastors from across the nation. Given all that 2020 held, the launch could not have been more providential.

Overall, 143 pastors were trained by 16 coaches. Participants first met at a launch event in January 2020 at NAMB headquarters, but following the pandemic, meetings were conducted virtually throughout the remainder of the year.

Pastors were able to talk through issues related to how COVID-19 affected their churches and their outreach to their communities. They also discussed methods for handling the subject of the civil and political unrest caused by ongoing racial tension and the 2020 election.

Beginning in early 2021, another 42 pastors and an additional four coaches will enter new cohorts. COVID-19 and social distancing protocols limited the number who could be added for 2021. So in 2021, the Timothy+Barnabas Institute will have a total of 185 pastors being trained by 20 coaches with more to come as the pandemic restrictions are dropped.

### Next Step Leader

In September 2020, NAMB announced the start of a new, free resource for pastors called Next Step Leader through a ministry partnership with Will Mancini, an experienced ministry coach. It is a proven process that helps pastors increase their leadership capacity, enabling them to maximize their church's evangelistic effectiveness.

Near the end of 2020, more than 1,200 pastors signed up for Next Step Leader. NAMB launched the partnership in the hope of providing pastors with another tool in their tool belt to help them sharpen theirs and their church's focus on the mission of sharing the Gospel.

When pastors sign up online for Next Step Leader, they receive a free copy of Mancini's book, *Younique*, as well as short, bi-weekly articles from Mancini that will help them clarify their unique, God-given vision. The book and the sessions are designed to help pastors develop a deeper sense of self-awareness and establish rhythms that combat burnout.

### Replant

In 2020, NAMB's Replant team organized various levels of Replant/Church Leadership conferences, in which NAMB equipped leaders in replanting. Our largest event, an annual training lab in March (held before COVID-19 cancellations) for 250 associational mission strategists and their replanting/revitalization teams, continues to build on a strong history and positive momentum in partnering with associations and conventions. The training focuses on equipping denominational leaders in consulting churches in need. This training is facilitated via a two-day interactive and intensive case study and group project format. The projects and case studies are based upon real-life consultations from redacted ACP data and church dynamics that the DOM/AMS and state leaders navigate with their peers throughout the training. The teams are organized by region and context to foster greater cooperation, in-depth discussion, and camaraderie amongst attendees. All of the work culminates in various presentations to fictional church boards of their peers in order to make the lessons learned as practical as possible. In 2020, an advanced track was offered focusing on current trends and issues related to replanting. The advanced track is open to those who have attended prior training. Topics include various issues like navigating difficult relationships, property acquisitions, current legal issues, etc.

In 2020, our "Am I A Replanter?" conference pivoted to an online offering. This annual event is for replanters and their wives and is aimed at helping them discern their calling/skills to replant. The online version of the event was originally attended by 169 people but has been viewed by more than 332 others since its original posting.

The Replant Summit is a national conference for replanters, state and associational leaders, and replanters' wives. The theme for the 2020 conference emphasized mergers, adoptions, and acquisitions and sought to open conversations between healthy sending churches and potential replant churches. In-person attendance was capped at 120 due to COVID-19 restrictions on site.

In addition to these events, regional and local trainings hosted by local associations and facilitated by NAMB's Replant team had more than 2,000 attendees. Additionally, NAMB has six online replant residencies, five regional and one national, focused on training and deploying replanters. Currently, 201 men are enrolled in our online 40-week training residency along with another 32 who are in our regional residencies in New York, South Carolina, North Carolina, Colorado, and Oregon.

In August 2020, an online Replanter Characteristic Survey was launched on NAMB.net. This survey is designed to assess potential replanters on 13 core characteristics and competencies and provide an immediate result along with an online training track for areas in which coaching would prove beneficial. When appropriate, and as requested, potential candidates can be referred to our partners in the field for follow up and introduction to church opportunities. To date, close to 250 people have taken this survey.

**VI. Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.**

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) continues to be a positive and constructive force for opening doors and avenues for sharing the Gospel and planting churches. State and local leaders continually seek to engage SBDR for long-term assistance in their communities. Send Relief also has available a guide to assist churches in Disaster Response Ministry available on [SendRelief.org](https://SendRelief.org) as a downloadable resource.

In addition to the 34 state SBDR organizations that responded to crises in their own states during 2020, 28 responded to national natural disaster responses, for which Send Relief provided coordination and/or response supplies. In serving communities during these times, SBDR volunteers contributed to the statistics seen in the table to the right:

The SBDR network provides help, healing, and hope for disaster survivors, churches, and communities. SBDR volunteers are all members of SBC churches across the nation serving in a ministry to meet needs of victims in times of disaster. Volunteers demonstrated the love of Christ in practical ways and shared the message of the Gospel. These volunteers were willing to do anything they could to share God’s love with people who had experienced great loss and trauma. SBDR volunteers provided support to pastors and church planters during times when the survivors need encouragement and were open to the Gospel.

<b>SBDR Summary Activity Reported</b> (10/1/19 - 9/30/20)	
Professions of Faith	872
Gospel Presentations	6,780
Volunteer Days - SBDR	106,000
Work Hours	655,763
Total Meals Prepared	752,194

In many communities, SBDR has been able to secure housing at no cost for long-term projects. This is a tribute to the value community leaders see in the presence of Southern Baptists providing leadership to long-term recovery efforts. These open doors to housing locations enable Southern Baptists to assist residents and engage in opportunities to give a verbal witness to the Gospel with less expenditure of Cooperative Program dollars for volunteer support. As SBDR volunteers’ investment in these communities provide a positive witness for Christ, local Southern Baptist churches are building rapport, perceived value, and significant community relationships.

Along with responding to crisis, Send Relief focuses on four other areas: strengthening communities, caring for refugees, protecting families and children, and fighting human trafficking. To help protect families and children, Send Relief mobilized 321 individuals and served 456 others. To fight human trafficking, they mobilized 1,189 people and served 2,332. To care for refugees, Send Relief mobilized 554 people and served 6,978 individuals.

Throughout the various avenues of Send Relief’s activity in 2020, through ministry centers across North America and through the activity of Journeyman missionaries, there were 342,000 meals served, 10,162 people who were mobilized to serve in some way, the Gospel was shared at least 4,423 times, and there were 82 reports of people professing faith in Christ.

Send Relief also stepped up to provide assistance in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, including providing meals and personal protective equipment for those in need. Through Send Relief ministry centers and by assisting local churches, Send Relief helped to mobilize Southern Baptists to serve those suffering amid the pandemic.



*Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?*

**I. Assist churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist Churches in the United States and Canada.**

The biggest challenge Southern Baptists face in the effort to plant more churches is the need to cultivate more church planters. It is critical that Southern Baptists add churches annually to keep up with population growth and stay ahead of church deaths. NAMB wants to help Southern Baptists add 5,000 new congregations by 2025. Our goal is to each year see 600 new church plants and 200 new replants. In addition, we anticipate that 100 new church campuses and 350 new SBC affiliations will be added each year. We work with churches and our other partners to assist in these efforts.

The COVID-19 environment made the effort to raise up new church planters an even more difficult challenge in 2020. Many who started the assessment process had to back out due to circumstances beyond their control.

While 80% of the applicants who complete NAMB's online church planter assessment score high enough to receive an invitation to one of NAMB's assessment retreats, of those who attended an assessment in 2020, 70% were approved for moving forward as a church planter.

To turn this challenge into opportunity, we must help churches develop leaders who may one day become church planters. Some churches already have a plan in place for maturing leaders. For those that do not, NAMB has developed the Multiplication Pipeline. This allows a church to intentionally raise up prepared and qualified planters from within the congregation. The Multiplication Pipeline resource and process can be implemented in the local church or church plant, which will allow the church to discover, develop, and deploy greater numbers of planters and other missionaries to meet this challenge. In addition, residencies help churches multiply through intentionally developing and deploying missional leaders and church planting teams. They help aspiring leaders identify a ministry call, mature leaders pursue God's leading in their lives, and prepare leaders and teams for new missional opportunities.

As endorsed church planter numbers increase, so will our need for more Supporting and Sending Churches. NAMB takes every opportunity to encourage every SBC church to be on mission by actively and intentionally starting and supporting new churches. We have currently identified 1,132 SBC churches as Sending Churches for plants or multiple plants. Additionally, there are currently 2,023 SBC churches identified as Supporting Churches, with some of these simply committed to pray for a list of planters in a specific area through our "Pray for Planters" initiative as a first step in engagement. We have 39 Multiplying Churches committed to discovering, developing and deploying planters from within their congregations.

**II. Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

The biggest challenge in evangelism right now is helping Southern Baptists "Keep the main thing the main thing." Pastors are battling discouragement on multiple fronts and the needs of their people are ever changing, so it's easy to take their eyes off the main thing: evangelism. NAMB needs to continue to beat the drum of evangelism by challenging pastors/leaders to create and nurture an evangelistic culture within their churches and provide the necessary resources to train their people how to share the Gospel.

In 2021, NAMB will continue the "Who's Your One Tour" around the United States. Currently the tour is scheduled to be in these areas: Phoenix, AZ; Oklahoma City, OK; Des Moines, IA;

Columbus, OH; Louisville, KY; Spartanburg, SC; Raleigh, NC; and Las Vegas, NV. We are working with other churches and plan to add more locations as the Lord permits.

An opportunity that presented itself in Fall 2020 was the opportunity to better utilize the personal speaking platform God has given Johnny Hunt. He receives countless invites to speak at churches and events around the country and NAMB has worked to utilize those engagements by hosting pastor lunches and dinners. More than a dozen of these gatherings have occurred, with most having between 50-100 area pastors/leaders in attendance. These have been well received. During these opportunities, Johnny Hunt talks about “Who’s Your One” and other resources that NAMB has available to help them train and engage their people to reach their family, friends, and neighbors with the Gospel. We plan on using these platforms more in 2021 as the opportunities arise.

We see the issue of pastoral discouragement as an ongoing issue and so in Fall 2020, NAMB launched the *Weekly Encouragement with Johnny Hunt* video series that releases every Monday. Johnny Hunt shares a brief (10-12 min.) message that gets paired with a song recorded by The Chapels worship band. The message outline is also provided so the pastors can share with their team and leaders. We are looking at additional ways to expand this platform and create additional resources to help our pastors. More episodes are being recorded and the topics are chosen based on what we are hearing from pastors. The initial response has been encouraging and exceeded our expectations.

For our Next Gen evangelism efforts, the challenges we see ahead include that among the 72 million members of Generation Z living in America, roughly only 20% say that “church is important” to them. We have a lot of ground to make up in reaching the next generation with Gospel. In addition, there are roughly 21 million college students in North America. With 90% of Christians surrendering to Jesus before the age of 25, the Church must be more intentionally evangelistic.

Believing evangelistic and healthy youth pastors will lead healthy and evangelistic youth ministries, Shane Pruitt and Clayton King are creating a coaching network for student pastors called Youth Pastors Coaching Network that will launch in 2021. Also in 2021, efforts will continue in developing new resources to help train and mobilize students to share their faith, as well as creating webinars, tools, and resources for Next Gen leaders. Attention will also be given to developing strategy for increasing youth baptisms in the local church and creating and implementing a strategy to partner with state convention student leaders to increase the percentage of churches reporting their youth baptisms through the Annual Church Profile.

According to Campus Renewal Ministries, the average college campus in North America is 5% reached with the Gospel. Many campuses in our nation are less than 2% reached, which missiologists would qualify as an unreached people group. The college campus is one of the most strategic mission fields, but often the most neglected by the church. For collegiate evangelism efforts, one of the challenges many collegiate leaders are facing is that university campuses are making it difficult for student organizations to meet. Many are not allowed to hold in-person gatherings and had to resort to virtual meetings. We have been helping leaders think of creative ways to “decentralize” their ministries. In some ways it has forced ministries to lean more on equipping students for relational evangelism, disciple-making, and leaning more on partnerships with local churches. The average Christian college student across North America is not well equipped to engage the secular campus with the Gospel. There is a need for much more sharing of ideas, resources, and collaboration nationally. NAMB is prepared to step into this void and help resource and equip collegiate ministry leaders with tools, coaching, and opportunities for collaboration.

Due to COVID-19, funding is another issue many collegiate leaders are facing. Many collegiate leaders are losing their salaries. Those who are support-raising campus missionaries are losing financial supporters but are still making sacrifices to reach students on campus.

We are excited to see a new desire for unity and collaboration among the various streams of SBC collegiate ministry. We pray that we will move past any sense of competition or silos and work together to share best practices for helping reach this strategic mission field.

### **III. Assist churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.**

As stated earlier, we need more qualified church planters in order to meet the goal of planting as many new churches each year as are needed. Beyond that, NAMB does not anticipate substantial changes or new directions. We will continue to promote tools and processes to ensure that the best and most effective missions personnel are placed appropriately and consistently cared for and held accountable.

As we continue to face the challenge of helping churches discover, develop, and deploy missionaries and planters—especially into under-reached and underserved communities—in coordination with the IMB, NAMB continues to promote the GO2 initiative. GO2 encourages college graduates to start their careers and live on mission in strategic cities where new plants can benefit from their experience, skills, and heart for evangelism. In addition to GO2, NAMB's journeyman program (similar to IMB's) places college graduates in a Send City for two years as a fully funded missionary. Our hope is that these programs, and others, will gain momentum in the coming years and will create missionary hearts in many members of the next generation and cause them to want to serve in longterm mission roles.

### **IV. Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.**

Regarding missions education efforts, there is an ongoing need to raise up church planters and church planting team members from within our churches. At the same time, we recognize that many current and future planters and missionaries do not come from a Southern Baptist background and may not have grown up with an awareness of Southern Baptist missions and involvement in traditional missions education programs and experiences. We must provide opportunities for adults to be engaged in missions in tangible and practical ways and bring awareness to them about the needs of the field and the ways they can be involved.

Related to Send Relief's experiential, missions education efforts, we see several opportunities for growth and new involvement in 2021 and the years ahead. We are continuing to develop current Send Relief ministry centers and launch new ones. We hope to have 20 operational ministry centers by the end of 2022. Currently, there are 12 centers across the country. The current and future centers will provide churches and individuals expanded opportunities for hands-on mission opportunities. Our 2021 national goal is to have approximately 190 mission trips made available through our ministry centers. Each trip will have opportunities for registration on [SendRelief.org](https://SendRelief.org).

Each ministry center also serves as ministry models for churches and associations to replicate in their own communities. The strategy of our ministry centers is to provide churches a place to come to participate and learn, model and execute, and then multiply and replicate compassion ministry. In 2021, in addition to mission trips, we are developing 250 training and modeling opportunities so that churches and associations can receive both hands-on and virtual training opportunities delivered by Send Relief missionaries and staff. Send Relief also continues to produce relevant ministry guides and podcasts to inspire, resource, and engage churches across

the nation in its five specific focus areas: strengthen communities, care for refugees, protect families and children, fight human trafficking, and respond to crisis.

In all, Send Relief's goal is to mobilize 10,000 people to serve and be trained in compassion ministry in 2021. Through these efforts, we will inspire, resource, and train churches in North America. In addition, we are setting a goal in 2021 to serve 60,000 individuals through Send Relief compassion ministries through those efforts.

We face two primary challenges in accomplishing our goal: systems and training. First, we must implement systems which provide accurate and timely metrics that hold us accountable to desired results. Much of the needed IT infrastructure was put into place in 2019 and had its first year of implementation in 2020. These upgrades allowed us to begin tracking results on a timelier basis. We continue to improve those systems and processes so we can better understand ministry center activity and need. Second, to establish new ministry centers, it is critical to on-board them with our systems, processes, operations, and culture. Our challenge is that each ministry center is unique, based on the context of the location. Send Relief's desire is for each center to be equipped and resourced to develop local ministry opportunities so that churches from all over the country can serve with and learn from them. Developing and implementing quality training is essential to achieve that goal.

### **V. Assist churches by providing leadership development**

Pastors continue to ask for opportunities to learn from fellow pastors. This desire gives NAMB a great opportunity to provide venues to share best practices (e.g., evangelism workshops, replant conferences, pastor roundtables, etc.). NAMB also has the opportunity to deliver updated content of these best practices by utilizing multiple forms of electronic media. This allows content to be fresh, digestible, and self-paced. It is also the intention that pastor-centric events include content that addresses other felt needs pastors have as they seek to strike a balance with their personal faith, family life, and serving the church.

Through the efforts of NAMB's Evangelism and Leadership group, there are more opportunities for pastors to participate not only in leadership development opportunities but also for NAMB to receive feedback about their needs and how we can help.

#### **Timothy+Barnabas (T+B)**

Though the pandemic brought new challenges to hosting T+B Retreats in 2020, we knew pastors were in a fight and hurting on the field. In normal circumstances, pastors are under enormous pressure to be top-notch communicators, high-capacity leaders, and perfect role models in all areas of life. Add on the pandemic and suddenly pastors were expected to be health experts.

There is a high percentage rate of pastors battling anxiety, depression, and suicide these days, and we have to be ready to respond. During the 2020 retreat experiences, we witnessed pastors and wives literally falling on their face at the altar, crying out to God begging Him to forgive them, restore their passion, and heal our land.

As we plan our 2021 retreats, we are better prepared for the wounded and weary on the field. We are planning to have professional counselors and prayer partners available at each retreat, ready to meet one-on-one with hurting couples or pastors who feel they have nowhere else to turn. We are in current conversations with state convention offices and regions about additional bivocational retreats and hybrid models of a T+B event, possibly doing a one-night dinner/program regionally or a one-night dinner/program followed by a training session the next morning.

2021 T+B Retreat Dates are: San Diego (February 15-17, 2021); Atlanta (March 1-3, 2021 and March 3-5, 2021); Gatlinburg (March 16-18, 2021); Asheville (For bivocational pastors, August 27-29, 2021 and September 24-26, 2021); Branson (September 15-17, 2021); and Puerto Rico (November 18-20, 2021).

### Next Step Leader

With all the new and shifting challenges pastors face, NAMB's Next Step Leader will help them expand their toolbox and increase their capacity for greater evangelistic impact. This free resource, developed by experienced ministry coach Will Mancini, gives pastors what they need to replace uncertainty with God-given clarity, busyness with productivity, and weariness with renewed energy and vision. Interest has been high, with more than 1,200 early adopters signed up to receive regular leadership tips from Mancini. In 2021, NAMB will provide every SBC pastor the opportunity to dive into a self-paced, online leadership process featuring all-new, densely-packed video content and resource-rich material crafted specifically for them. In the coming years, this program will yield exponential results as leaders find refreshed perspective in life and ministry, and in turn release the evangelistic potential of every member of their congregations.

### Replant

In 2020, the majority of the Replant-related equipping and training content shifted online. An online version of *Am I a Replanter?* weekly podcasts and video teaching, and a weekly pastor's care cohort, all saw strong weekly audience participation and viewership. While online content and training is becoming standard, so is online fatigue. Self-directed, "in time," self-paced, and on-demand resources are key and are in development for 2021. This will accommodate audience need and demand. These resources can be described as "evergreen," meaning they will retain relevance and application beyond any date or event. These can be accessed by our primary audience on a need-to-know/need-to-grow basis. To facilitate access to these and other similar resources, a robust online delivery system will be required and investments necessary to securing it are essential. Interactive and online coaching and encouragement will need to be available and easily accessed for target audiences.

Many pastors are experiencing the impact of serving a stagnant or declining church. To help them, in 2019, an online replant cohort was established as part of the church replanting focus and has served 165 pastors. We have started three new replanting residencies in various contexts throughout the country in addition to our first located in Denver, CO. This is critical as we move beyond the discovery and recruitment of replanters to empowering pastors, associational mission strategists, state directors of missions, and other state convention personnel with resources designed to develop replanters and connect them to churches seeking replanters.

### Timothy+Barnabas Institute

As noted, NAMB is intentional about nurturing young leaders in the SBC. As a result of listening sessions with young leaders, NAMB's director of Young Leader Engagement learned that young pastors crave to be nurtured and mentored by more seasoned pastors. They go to conferences and those are helpful, but the younger pastor isn't setting the agenda for those. A coaching relationship allows the younger pastor to set the agenda and talk about real-life situations he is experiencing.

To that end, NAMB established the Timothy Barnabas Institute (TBI), and the first participants started in January 2020. Going into the second year in 2021, the hope is to see this as a significant way to invest in and grow young pastors for greater Kingdom impact.

COVID-19 restrictions provide the immediate challenge to this initiative as travel and opportunities for in-person coaching sessions are limited. Yet, these challenges also yield

greater opportunity for ministry as it only generates more of a need for the coach-to-mentor relationship that the TBI provides. Based on feedback, the virtual adjustments made to continue the TBI have been excellent, but this particular form of coaching is best served through in-person gatherings and meetings.

NAMB will continue its outreach to young pastors through personal phone calls, emails, and appearances at SBC conferences to connect them with experienced, respected coaches through TBI who have been in the trenches of ministry within the SBC for several years.

Another challenge has been geographical. While most SBC pastors are in the South, NAMB aspires to serve pastors across North America. So, there have been discussions about expanding TBI and hosting events outside the South that make it easier for pastors to travel to the main TBI meetings to receive coaching.

Since its launch, the ministry of TBI has created a craving among pastors and leaders serving in other ministerial roles. So, NAMB has also explored the possibility of expanding TBI's reach into other ministerial roles aside from senior pastor, which is TBI's current focus.

## **VI. Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.**

Most of our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) kitchens rely on other, non-SBC disaster relief organizations to supply the food they prepare and serve from their mobile kitchens. Occasionally, these organizations are not able to deliver food to the kitchens in a timely fashion. Kitchens are sometimes staffed by volunteers and sitting for days waiting on food supplies to be delivered. Send Relief is exploring food resources that might be purchased to fill this need for immediate feeding, which would enable Southern Baptists to respond more quickly to the needs of survivors in the aftermath of disaster. Send Relief is working with SBDR leadership to determine the appropriate supplies needed and plans to be prepared to meet this need in 2021.

Send Relief is discussing the possibility of forming a Rapid Response Spiritual Care Team that will complement SBDR in responses by focusing on providing spiritual care to pastors and churches, as well as affected state conventions, associations, and SBDR leaders in the immediate aftermath of disasters. The team would respond in the immediate aftermath and complement the work of SBDR chaplains, eventually transitioning away from the affected area once SBDR chaplains shift to meet the long-term, spiritual care needs of survivors. This team would meet a gap in ministry as the area's pastors and other spiritual leaders who are from the affected community often don't receive the care they need themselves. They provide vital care, but are often expending their physical and spiritual energy to the point where they begin to meet their limits. They can be easily forgotten in the rush to focus on other survivors. This care has potential to support these vital caregivers and strengthen their ability to care for their community. The purpose would be to more effectively prevent burnout for pastors, burnout that is common in the aftermath of a major disaster. Many times after a major crisis, many pastors regularly choose to leave the affected field of ministry due to the resulting burnout. These teams would help mitigate that.

COVID-19 challenges in 2020 have continued to raise the awareness of a need to engage untrained volunteers who serve alongside trained SBDR team members. SBDR has engaged a greater number of untrained volunteers during this unusual season's many challenges due to COVID-19. This has awakened both SBDR and Send Relief to the fact that we must explore continued and expanded opportunities to engage untrained volunteers, particularly from local churches.

There is a significant need for a common data and communication system during national disaster events to allow SBDR and Send Relief to report and describe needs as well as

accomplishments. Many states are exploring options, and this has created awareness that there is a great need to have a shared system that would enable us to communicate needs, store data information, and capture ministry completed for reporting and to be able to share our story effectively.

Send Relief also has the opportunity in 2021 and beyond to continue expanding our compassion ministry to reach people in need outside of disaster relief. Through our 12 ministry centers across North America, we expect to expand our reach to those in need by bringing physical and emotional help, as well as the eternal hope found in the Gospel.

## MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following items to the North American Mission Board during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

### **1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11–12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** The North American Mission Board (NAMB) reports to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) that NAMB has strongly supported and continues to support the work of the SBC Sexual Abuse Advisory Group as well as the work the ERLC has been leading to create and advance the *Caring Well* curriculum and guidelines. Our longstanding policies require mandatory reporting of illegal activity to appropriate authorities, sexual abuse prevention training for staff and endorsed missionaries, as well as high standards for all personal interactions outlined in our conduct expectations. NAMB has also closely reviewed existing policies and procedures to ensure they are strong and effective in preventing abuse and caring well for abuse victims. NAMB does not believe that a onetime review of policies and procedures is adequate; rather, we remain committed to reviewing and, where appropriate, strengthening our policies on an ongoing basis. We encourage all churches and our other ministry partners to do the same.

### **2. SBC Referral: To study North American Mission Board funding for staff in small churches (Items 27 and 60), Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11–12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 59, 63)**

**Motion:** David Hobson, Alabama

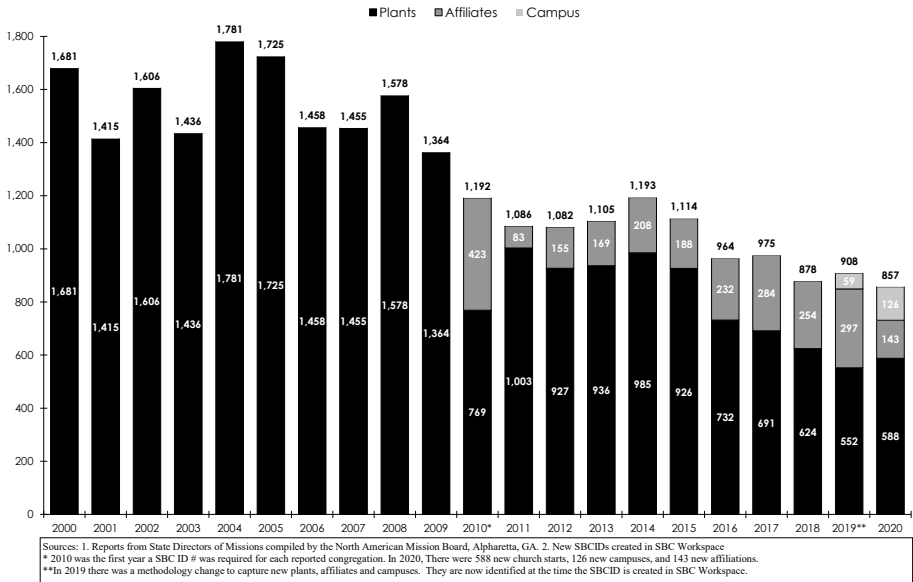
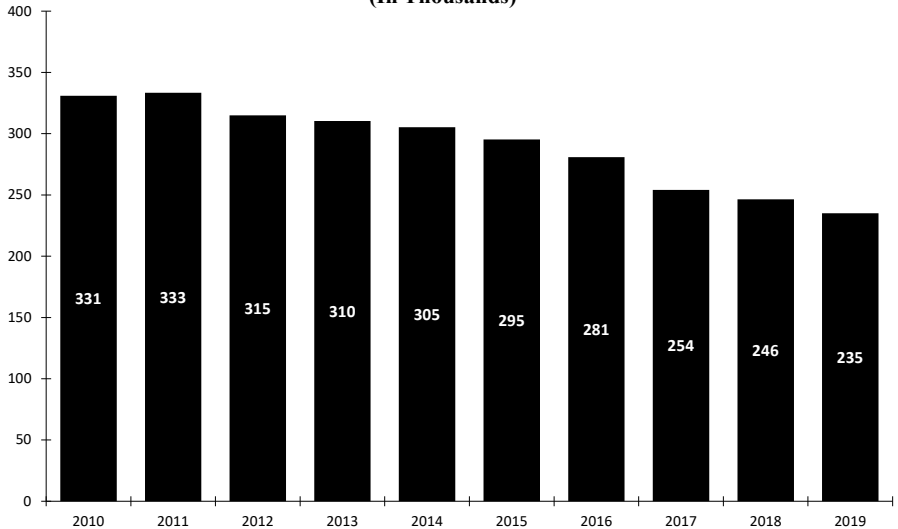
“That the Southern Baptist Convention study the feasibility of initiating a program through the North American Mission Board to partner with associations with primarily bi-vocational pastors of churches 50 or less that may only be able to afford a small salary for one partially funded staff member to place a second staff member in the church as an

*\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.*

association to aid in preaching, teaching, pastoral ministry, and church growth at no cost to the church or association until such time as the church or association can feasibly partially fund the new staff position on their own.”

**Response:** The North American Mission Board works closely with churches, Baptist Associations, and state Baptist Conventions in an effort to reach their mission fields with the Gospel. In many states, more than half of Southern Baptist pastors are bivocational. With so many pastors serving in this capacity, funding a staff member for each of them for an indefinite time period would not be possible. We do, however, encourage churches and individuals to embrace and encourage bivocational pastors in whatever ways they can. Their work is and will continue to be essential to reach North America with the Gospel.



**Figure 1—New Congregations (Church Plants New Affiliates), SBC, 2000–2020****Figure 2—Baptisms Reported by SBC Churches, 2010–2019\***  
(In Thousands)

Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN

\* The preceding baptism graph is based on data from the 2019 ACP Statistical Summary which was prepared by Lifeway Insights, Lifeway Christian Resources, May 28, 2020; and will be updated in the 2021 SBC Annual with a 2020 graph when that information is received. At time of printing, the latest graphical data was not available.

# INSTITUTIONS



## GATEWAY SEMINARY

*Biblical • Missional • Global*

3210 E. Guasti Rd., Ontario, California 91761

**C. KEITH GOEKING, Chairman**

**JEFF IORG, President**

In the midst of a global pandemic, social unrest, and political turmoil centered around the presidential election, Gateway Seminary continues to fulfill its mission of shaping leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world. The resiliency and determination of our faculty, staff, and students testifies to their spiritual maturity and single-minded devotion to our mission. While we thank them for their contribution and sacrifice, we also acknowledge God as our Source and Sustainer. He is seeing us through!

### **Pandemic Response**

In March 2020, the state of California initiated significant closures for most schools and businesses in response to COVID-19. Gateway cooperated with those mandates and shifted all instruction to video conference and online formats. The faculty accomplished this within a few days of the decision. Our prior commitment to excellence in the use of educational technology served Gateway well during the pandemic. We had the hardware and software tools available, with a well-trained faculty ready to make the necessary adjustments to maintain our academic program.

Because of ongoing concerns related to the pandemic, the Board of Trustees met in Fall 2020 by video conference. The collegiality and cohesion of our Board make doing business in this format not only workable, but effective. We appreciate the flexibility and patience demonstrated by the Board to model how to respond to pandemic-generated circumstances.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the state of California and other local governmental entities have shifted their requirements and recommendations numerous times. We have also had to consider the policies and procedures by other state and local governments where we operate regional campuses. All in all, we have been juggling a significant amount of information – often conflicting – and trying to make a good faith effort at being Christian citizens while preserving our legal rights and accomplishing our mission.

Beginning with the Fall 2020 semester, we successfully returned to hosting students for in-person instruction at all five campuses. We were prepared to shift to video conference delivery on short notice if required by governmental decree or by our own needs based on the extent of the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

In order to have students in classrooms and to protect faculty and staff as well, we instituted several safety measures on our campuses. These included face shields or face masks, Plexiglas shields, desk and table coverings, hand washing, social distancing, and more frequent cleaning. The Gateway community has been considerate, deferential, patient, and cooperative in making all this work.

### **Summer and Fall 2020 Enrollment**

One of the most surprising results during the pandemic was our Summer 2020 enrollment. Our Summer 2020 total enrollment had a 65% increase in student headcount and a 58% increase in enrolled hours over the previous year. Since we do not award scholarships for summer school,

all of these students paid full tuition to attend. It was a remarkable indication our students are still focused on attending seminary, no matter what else may be happening around them.

Another pleasant surprise was the Fall 2020 enrollment. Our total headcount for Fall 2020 increased by 4.4% over the previous year, with a 6.9% increase in enrolled hours. Because of concerns about the pandemic, we anticipated declining enrollment but it increased instead. Finally, our Spring 2021 headcount and enrolled hours also increased over comparable, pre-pandemic numbers in Spring 2020. Our Spring 2021 headcount increased by 10% and enrolled hours by 6%. We thank God for the resilience of our students who have stayed focused on their training during the pandemic.

### **Academic Additions**

We have launched a new 36-hour degree program called the Masters of Theological Essentials. It offers a subset of courses from the Master of Divinity degree that focus on biblical and theological training. The MTE is primarily for students who already have extensive practical ministry experience or who are involved in intensive internship experiences with a local church or training network.

Gateway has started offering the Chinese-English Bilingual program by video conference in Hong Kong. We have also significantly increased D.Min. enrollment and have expanded our video conference delivery of this program (Asia, Europe, etc.). We have re-assigned Dr. Allan Karr to the D.Min. program to help facilitate its international expansion.

### **2019-2020 Financial Summary**

The 2019-20 fiscal year was a roller-coaster ride that came to a better ending than expected. When the pandemic rocked the economy, we felt the results in reduced Cooperative Program receipts, loss of endowment value, and the implementation of significant spending restrictions. We took steps to mitigate the impact of these uncertainties on seminary operations.

Overall, our strategy was successful. We ended the 2019-20 fiscal year with a positive general fund surplus of about \$134,421. Reaching this conclusion was possible because revenue exceeded expectations and we made aggressive spending reductions in the final quarter of the fiscal year. Cooperative Program giving rebounded so strongly in June and July, we were only \$13,750 under our annual CP revenue budget for the year of \$3,836,589. We also had strong Summer 2020 tuition revenue and received unanticipated income from extension payments of \$37,853 on the Brea sale contract. On the expense side, we reduced monthly expenditures by about \$125,000 each month from May through July.

All in all, Gateway has remained financially stable during the pandemic.

### **Payroll Protection Plan (PPP)**

In April 2020, the Board authorized participation in the Payroll Protection Program (a federal program to encourage employers to avoid layoffs and compensate employees through the pandemic). We were approved for participation in the program and received \$1,589,000. We used the money as prescribed by the requirements of the loan program, but were able to offset using those funds through other cost savings.

This full loan amount was forgiven and was converted to grant income on our balance sheet. We have used part of the PPP grant to create a Capital Reserve Fund to pay for the following major projects in the future: student housing parking lot (\$160,000), Ontario caulking (\$195,000), Ontario roof (\$200,000), Ontario kitchen (\$125,000), future capital projects, and future technology upgrades. The balance of the funds will be used for general seminary purposes.

**2020-21 Budget Revision**

When the pandemic began in Spring 2020, our Board adopted a cautious budget for 2020-21 which anticipated a 10% reduction in Cooperative Program receipts, a 5% decrease in tuition revenue, and a corresponding revenue loss due to student housing vacancies. These expectations proved unfounded as revenue from all these sources met or exceeded original budget projections.

At their Fall 2020 meeting, the Board of Trustees adopted a revised budget increase from \$11,500,000 to \$12,000,000 which allowed us to fund several spending priorities not included in the more frugal budget previously adopted. This included granting personnel the compensation increases we had originally planned for 2020-21 before the budget was revised due to the pandemic. Other items included raising the faculty pay scale, granting step increases to faculty who earned them, giving appropriate increases to staff, and funding 2020-21 executive transitions.

Gateway did not lay off any employees or reduce salaries or benefits because of the pandemic.

**Brea Sale**

The sale of the former campus in Brea, California finally closed on February 1, 2021. The net sale proceeds of approximately \$3.75 million have been added to the seminary's endowment as part of our permanent asset base.

**Executive Transitions**

In 2017, the Board started considering the inevitability of transition in our executive team and approved a general plan for how they intend it to happen. The basic premise underlying that plan is the Board's desire for a smooth transition, with overlapping service between the exiting and arriving executives. We have been working with that goal in mind as we have developed executive transition plans.

On August 10, 2020, both Michael Martin (Vice President for Academic Services) and Tom Hixson (Vice President for Business Services) announced their intention to retire, thus starting their respective transition processes. We have launched national searches for replacements for both vice presidents and are on track to replace them, while allowing for an overlap of responsibilities with and training by the departing executives.

**Employee Transitions**

Dr. Glenn Prescott, Director of Theological Field Education, will retire in August 2021. Dr. Bob Phillips, Director of Library Services, retired in May 2021. Both of these men have made an excellent contribution to Gateway in their respective fields of service.

**ATS Accreditation Process**

Gateway is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the national accrediting body for seminaries and other theological schools. We are currently involved in our major ten-year accreditation review. The faculty and staff have been working on this report for the past two years. It was submitted in January 2021 and the ATS site visit was conducted in March 2021. We anticipate a positive response from the ATS Commission on Accreditation when they meet later in 2021.

**Gateway Imperative Report**

In October 2017, the Board of Trustees directed the creation of a new strategic plan to guide Gateway Seminary toward 2030. President Iorg appointed a Strategic Planning Task Force which worked for 18 months – vetting its progress with faculty, staff, and trustees along the way. The final plan, *The Gateway Imperative*, was adopted by the Board in October 2019. Implementation began in January 2020 with the 2020-21 budget planning cycle.

*The Gateway Imperative* identified six values (biblical convictions, missional priority, global mindset, academic excellence, student focus, and cultural diversity). Those values are guiding decision-making at the seminary. The Gateway Imperative also included seven strategic goals to guide planning through 2025. These are being implemented and regular updates are provided to the Board of Trustees.

### Enrollment Report

Gateway Seminary operates five fully accredited campuses in Ontario, California; Fremont, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; and Vancouver, Washington – as well as an extensive distance learning program (online and video access).

In addition, Gateway Seminary supports 37 ADVANCE contextualized leadership development centers in partnership with Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions. The centers offer courses in English, Spanish, Burmese, Cantonese, Chin, Korean, Thai, Lao, Karen, Main, Nepalese, French, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Mongolian.

The most recent revision of the SBC Seminary Funding Formula has significantly changed how Gateway reports its enrollment. For that reason, this report reflects changes initiated since 2018. The incongruity with past reporting patterns makes comparisons to past years difficult without understanding the intricacies of the formula. For that reason, we are reporting our enrollment in a new format and will create a new comparison chart over the next few years.

### ENROLLMENT

<b>Campus</b>	<b>2018-19 Total Enrollment</b>	<b>2018-19 Total FTE</b>	<b>2019-20 Total Enrollment</b>	<b>2019-20 Total FTE</b>
Ontario	653	267	725	271
Arizona	95	32	84	28
Bay Area	71	21	70	18
Pacific Northwest	41	13	31	8
Rocky Mountain	62	14	53	10
Advance Ministry Training	605	97	528	86
Online Program	279	111	364	131
Video Access Program	20	23	66	46
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>1,921</b>	<b>598</b>

### Enrollment Report by Degree Program

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<u>Prebaccalaureate</u>		
Diplomas	260	201
Diplomas – Advance	427	482
Special Status	131	121
<u>Basic Degrees</u>		
Master of Divinity	354	384
Master of Arts	306	346
Special Status	124	124
<u>Advance Degrees</u>		
Master of Theology	8	6
Doctor of Ministry	198	234
Doctor of Philosophy	18	23
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,826</b>	<b>1,921</b>

<b>Enrollment Report Summary</b>	<b><u>2018-19</u></b>	<b><u>2019-20</u></b>
Total Enrollment	1,826	1,921
Total FTE Generated	578	598
SBC Fundable FTE	338	342
SBC Formula FTE	400	400
New Students	421	518
Total Graduates	309	312

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**Response:** Preventing sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and abuse are important issues at Gateway Seminary – both in our organization and as we train future leaders of other ministry entities.

Gateway has fully-formed and well-established policies and practices on these matters related to internal operations. We continue to monitor and enforce those policies to maintain our institutional integrity. We also train employees on these issues through a required program which both meets our needs and satisfies our legal responsibilities under California law and the other Western states where we have campuses/employees.

We also address these issues in multiple classes in our curriculum and with co-curricular activities like conferences, training seminars, chapel speakers, and at partnership events with state conventions and associations. Gateway also does background checks on new students, offers counseling services to students who have experienced abuse or harassment in other settings, and provides extensive training on these issues through a partnership with MinistrySafe.

Since 2018, Gateway has initiated an annual conference to train church leaders in various legal, ethical, and moral dimensions of contemporary ministry leadership. This conference is co-sponsored by law firms and insurance companies that support our mission. Through this partnership, we have been able to bring national leaders to the Ontario Campus to address these issues.

\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

We also devoted our annual Intersect Conference in 2019 to the theme: Better Together. This conference addressed the specific issue of how men and women can work together appropriately and effectively in ministry organizations. It addressed preventing abuse and harassment, as well as proactive steps ministry leaders must take to insure a wholesome work environment for everyone.

Gateway has continued to offer legally-mandated and seminary-required training to employees on harassment, abuse, and related issues. We have been doing this for years and will continue to do so in the future. We have also received an independent assessment of our policies and procedures on these issues from our insurance provider. We are implementing suggested improvements.

Gateway is fully supportive of the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group. We have embraced their report to the SBC and are applying it as needed within our organization. We have also advised faculty members who teach about these issues to use the report as a resource to shape both the content and perspective of their instruction. Gateway also sponsored and promoted the national ERLC conference on Caring Well in Dallas, Texas in 2019 and has accepted the Caring Well Challenge.



**5001 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri 64118**

**JOHN MATHENA, Chairman**

**JASON K. ALLEN, President**

If you have been at all familiar with Midwestern Seminary for the past eight years, you would know that we exist *For the Church*. That is, we see it as our highest mission and calling to equip and train ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of local churches everywhere. It is our unwavering belief that the seminary's determination to exist for the local church is biblically mandated and denominationally needed. We are confident that as we strengthen Christ's church, He will strengthen us.

As we contemplate the trying circumstances of the past year, it is clear that the Lord has, nonetheless, blessed us beyond anticipation. Despite a global pandemic and many uncertainties of the day, institutional momentum on every front continues to progress forward. Although time does not permit me to explain all of His blessings on Midwestern Seminary, I would like to highlight a few noteworthy achievements within each department.

In academics, we have continued to see increased enrollment in courses both on campus and online. This fall, we released Residential Plus, which allowed our residential students greater flexibility in attending classes due to concerns over COVID-19.

Our undergraduate programs at Spurgeon College continue to grow. This past year, we added new majors including Communications, Business, and History to our offered curriculum. In addition, we recently added the positions of Director of Accelerate and an Athletic Director to aid in recruiting and retention in our sports programs.

In our Master's programs we have witnessed continual growth specifically within the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling degree programs. Additionally, we launched the Center for Biblical Counseling, which exists to supply churches resources dedicated to biblical counseling that are rooted in the Word of God and the local church and to train ministers for the same.

Because of the strength and agility of our online program, at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to move all classes online with ease as well as offer a more flexible learning process to our students in the midst of ever-changing CDC guidelines.

In light of our doctoral program's continued strength, Dr. Thor Madsen has been named the Dean of Doctoral Studies and Academic Initiatives to provide greater administrative effectiveness, overall balance, and continued organizational health.

Finally, we are pleased that the Lord has brought us more outstanding faculty members to train our students *For the Church*. Dr. Patrick Schreiner came to us from Western Seminary as associate professor of New Testament and biblical theology. In addition, Dr. Geoff Chang was hired to serve as the curator of the Spurgeon Library and assistant professor of historical theology.

Next, our Institutional Administration division faced significant challenges this year as we planned for the aftereffects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of these challenges, God continued to be exceedingly kind to us. As part of budget planning amidst the uncertainty created by the pandemic, we developed an Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP) for long-tenured,



senior faculty and staff. The ERIP was entirely voluntary and offered eligible employees the opportunity to retire from full-time service early under generous terms. Of the 14 eligible employees, nine accepted. Five of the nine who accepted were faculty, and all of the faculty elected to continue teaching at Midwestern in some capacity in retirement.

Furthermore, we were able to complete the library renovation project before the 2020-21 academic year began. In addition to much-needed aesthetic upgrades, the renovated library includes substantial functional upgrades to better serve our students, faculty, and staff. Amongst these are increased space for individual study and group collaboration, a tailor-made space for Library staff, a new office suite for faculty members who direct study centers, as well as three new general faculty offices, sufficient doctoral carrels to accommodate all Ph.D. students in The Residency, a new formal conference room, and a ready-to-build space for institutional archives. Services in the library have also increased with the addition of coffee service from the Tomlinson Café and new laptop computers available for checkout.

Finally, within our third division, Institutional Relations, the Lord has truly blessed the efforts of our admissions and marketing teams with increased enrollment and retention. At the beginning of the pandemic, our administration prepared for a 15% drop in enrollment for Fall 2020. By God's grace, through gains in both incoming enrollment and returning student retention, the Fall 2020 semester increased by almost 15% in credit hours compared to Fall 2019. In addition, the financial aid division has set a new record for financial aid awarded to students at Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College.

The communications department has continued to promote Midwestern Seminary through many creative avenues. This summer, we launched the For the Church Institute, an online resource for churches and individuals. FTCI is a response to a growing trend that emphasizes church-based theological education. We are currently offering six online video courses taught by Midwestern faculty and plan to add more in the future.

In order to follow CDC guidelines, the Student Life department is working vigilantly to be cautious and still host many events on campus to engage our students, faculty, and staff. Even though we could not physically gather, the For the Church National Conference was still held this year online. Plenary speakers included Ray Ortlund, H.B. Charles, Jason Allen, Jared Wilson, Robert Smith, Jr., Jimmy Scroggins, and Owen Strachan.

As this has been a year of thanksgiving, we gratefully acknowledge that God has blessed Midwestern Seminary beyond measure. Central to that blessing has been the generous, ongoing support by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program. Southern Baptists, you have blessed us beyond measure, and it is our joy to serve you by training pastors, ministers, and missionaries for the church – for your churches.

As an institution, we will continue to strive for excellence and to appropriately steward our gains. We will strive to project forward and outward in our mission and ministry, and we will continually assess how our commitment to exist *For the Church* will direct us into the future. May we never cease to be thankful to God for the victories He has given us these past eight years, and may we never cease to serve Him in such a way that He is pleased to give us such victories going forward.

Sincerely,

Jason K. Allen

President, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)*

### **I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Spurgeon College exists to educate Christians on how to lead others and impact the world *For the Kingdom*. Spurgeon College will maintain its focus on biblically-based degrees as well as provide students with disciplines that can train them to work in the marketplace. Through its residential and online degree programs, Spurgeon College offers students a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare them for their ministry calling.

Through the dedicated service of our Spurgeon College team, the Accelerate program (which is designed to enable students to earn a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and a Master of Divinity degree within five years) has continued to increase in enrollment and retain students under our new Director of Accelerate, Taylor DiRoberto.

Additionally, to complement its BA degrees in Christian Ministry, Biblical Studies, Business Leadership, Intercultural Studies, and Student Ministry, Spurgeon College has added new degree options including Communications, Business, and History.

By revamping our Financial Aid department, undergraduate students have the opportunity to receive financial support in forms of grants and work-study programs to aid their studies. These grants and programs better position them to responsibly finish their degrees and move into to a ministry position.

Finally, The Fusion program, which intensively trains students annually continues to see more enrollment. Although the COVID-19 pandemic kept the Fusion teams stateside for the summer, the group quickly transitioned to prepare for the next incoming class and deployment.

### **II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

At Midwestern Seminary, the Master of Divinity degree is emphasized as the standard and most fitting degree to prepare for ministry. With more class and degree options added annually to our on-campus and online programs, our graduate students receive specialized training to prepare for ministry in a variety of contexts.

Midwestern Seminary continues to work closely with local churches to prepare seminarians for vocational ministry. Through our Timothy Track program, residential students can earn their degrees and obtain invaluable ministry experience at the same time. Through practicum-based coursework, students work with ministry leaders in the field for hands-on ministry training. Students intern at local churches in their first years of seminary, providing both a cost-efficient and hands-on education that helps students make the most of their time.

With the addition of our Center for Biblical Counseling, we are set to train biblical counselors *For the Church*. The center is designed to facilitate relationships and internships between Midwestern students and local churches, function as a central information hub for counseling supervision and assistance for students, and serve as a launching point for publications and academic work by the faculty and Ph.D. students of the program.

### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has offered doctoral level training since 1971. From an initial cohort of 10 D.Min. students, Midwestern's doctoral team now oversees five advanced degree programs, covering 36 areas of specialization and serving over 1,200 students.

Our doctoral program has continued to grow in health and numbers. Offering a modular format where students can maintain their current ministry work, students come to our Kansas City campus for a one-week seminar and then complete other pre- and post-course research and writing through an online format. This presents flexibility in education, allowing the majority of students to stay in their ministry roles while pursuing a doctoral degree.

In addition, last year, the Association of Theological Schools approved to deliver the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. programs 100% via Distance Education as an exception to the degree standard. The option to provide the program 100% online and the removal of the residential (on-campus) requirement will enhance the program's reach, while removing the visa requirements for international students. We continue to offer professional doctorates (D.Min. and D.Ed.Min.) in many international programs, including Romanian, Hispanic, Mandarin, and Korean. With the hybrid model of many courses, students can minister overseas, completing course work online or briefly visiting Kansas City for seminars a couple times a year.

### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

The primary focus of the Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies degree is to prepare students to serve local churches as teachers, pastors, and leaders on the highest academic, professional, and spiritual level. The modular Ph.D. seminars involve five-day intensives held on Midwestern Seminary's campus and require significant pre-seminar and post-seminar research and writing. Similarly to our professional doctoral seminars, due to the modular set-up of our Ph.D. program, students can remain in their places of full-time ministry service while pursuing research doctoral education.

This is the second semester we have offered doctoral courses for the Ph.D. in biblical counseling, and the enrollment continues to rise. With additions like the Center for Biblical Counseling and new teaching staff, we are confident that Midwestern Seminary will continue to make headway in training men and women in biblical counseling for the church.

Our residential Ph.D. program known as The Residency, directed by Dr. Owen Strachan, continues to grow. This program merges independent, advanced, theological research with mentorship and oversight. Regular, intensive engagement with faculty and other theological leaders within the rhythm of the unique on-campus ministry culture of Midwestern allows The Residency to provide students with a unique avenue for following their calling to serve churches through the academy.

*Based on each of MBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how MBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?*

### **I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

In 2020, Spurgeon College added athletics as a new cohort alongside the Accelerate and FUSION programs. Specifically, we have added a men's basketball and women's volleyball team and look to add men's and women's soccer in fall 2021. These three programs are of vital importance to Spurgeon College.

The Accelerate program, a combined bachelors and masters program, enables students to enter their ministry context more quickly and affordably. This “fast track” allows qualified students to receive the best education they possibly can, in the shortest amount of time. Accelerate added three tracks this year: missions, biblical counseling, and Christian education.

The FUSION program provides first-hand missions training and experience like no other opportunities. The FUSION: North America tract allows students to develop a deep understanding of the crucial needs and skills for planting churches in North America. Additionally, new partnerships are constantly being explored for Spurgeon College, such as a partnership with Radical Gap Year.

The athletics program aids the college experience and student life. Campus life at Spurgeon College has become more vibrant due to the addition of athletics. More importantly, the *For the Kingdom* vision runs strong throughout the athletics program. It is a unique opportunity for community and discipleship.

Spurgeon College implemented a fresh Contextualized Leadership Development Program, known as the FTC Institute, to better serve local churches and individuals who desire further theological training in those settings. The FTC Institute is a front door to Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College. Through conferences, church/organization partnerships, and forthcoming online features, the FTC Institute allows churches or individual Christians to drink from the vast pool of resources for the church, that are available through Spurgeon College and Midwestern Seminary.

Spurgeon College has also added a history degree to the catalogue and seeks to expand the degree offerings in the coming years.

Additionally, Spurgeon College continues to invest in pathways to student success. This involves expanded academic advising, a new orientation course, and the participation in a multi-year Student Success Academy hosted by the Higher Learning Commission. In all of these ways, we seek to meet our students where they are to ensure every students’ success in college and beyond.

Overall, these programs present opportunities for Spurgeon College graduates and students to serve the church, both locally and across the globe, in ways that glorify God and interact positively with an ever-declining spiritual culture.

## **II. Assist churches by programs of master’s level theological education for ministers.**

In 2021, Midwestern will continue to emphasize the Master of Divinity degree, particularly the residential format. The Master of Divinity degree is the best program for preparing those seeking to serve local churches and training students face-to-face allows faculty to shape students’ relational skills. Through the Timothy Track, first-year residential students will be afforded the opportunity to obtain valuable, hands-on ministry experience while at the same time earning their degrees.

Midwestern continues to focus on women’s ministry concentrations. Students studying at Midwestern for a Master of Divinity degree can earn a concentration in women’s ministry, and those working toward degrees through the Midwestern Training Network can obtain a Master of Theological Studies with an emphasis in women’s ministry. Within the context of the seminary’s mission of developing and maintaining strong local churches, that means we must properly educate and train members for service in each distinctive ministry within the church. These concentrations will afford them the opportunity to develop their God-given spiritual gifts and abilities to an even fuller extent.

Finally, Midwestern will continue to innovate our academic programs to deliver quality education using the most recent video technology. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Midwestern launched Residential Plus, allowing students access to residential learning in a safe, distanced format. The Online Plus initiative, launched in Spring 2021, provides distance-based students the opportunity to interact with faculty in synchronous courses via video technology.

### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable professional doctoral education. The professional doctorate is a key program that equips pastors and other ministry leaders to be on the front line of controversial issues concerning the church. A significant part of this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2021, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars in its professional degrees – D.Min., D.Ed.Min., and Ed.D. – as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring professional doctoral education. Additionally, Midwestern will offer its professional doctoral education in a fully online format to further assist ministers in their education.

### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

As stated in the above section, regardless of the many challenges facing higher education, cultural shift, or economics at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable research doctoral education. We will continue to offer a Ph.D. program that is affordable and comprehensive. Advanced education, such as our professional doctorate and Ph.D. programs, is crucial in preparing ministers to boldly, yet winsomely, confront a lost and dying world.

In 2021, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring research doctoral education. In 2021, Midwestern will move forward with offering fully online courses within the research doctorate as an experiment approved by our accreditors. Additionally, we plan to continue to promote and invest in training through "The Residency," which will offer unique opportunities on campus for those able to relocate to our Kansas City campus.

## **ENROLLMENT**

	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
<b>Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment</b>					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	39	56	46	60	55
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	129	160	222	419	367
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	398	483	562	573	728
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	1,000	1,256	1,526	1,733	1,884
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	971	1,056	1,169	1,215	1,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>3,011</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>4,374</b>
<b>Credit Hours</b>					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	84	95	74	139	196
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	525	710	773	687	1,227
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	6,940	8,159	9,357	10,624	13,461

	<u>2015-16</u>	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	12,022	14,670	17,531	19,109	21,373
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	4,925	5,948	6,833	7,449	7,949
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,496</b>	<b>29,582</b>	<b>34,568</b>	<b>38,008</b>	<b>44,205</b>
<b>SBC Annual Formula FTE</b>					
Annual Total	931	1,025	1,264	1,395	1,615
Three-year rolling average	743	899	1,073	1,228	1,425
<b>New Student Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment</b>					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	19	34	21	39	26
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	93	113	126	352	212
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	170	189	228	244	299
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	441	594	573	682	646
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	307	323	380	346	417
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,253</b>	<b>1,328</b>	<b>1,663</b>	<b>1,600</b>
<b>Graduates</b>					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	0	3	1	0	3
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate [CLD graduates])	56	54	97	56	118
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	128	133	171	240	250
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	38	46	71	89	101
<b>Total</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>472</b>

## MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

### 1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Spurgeon College are charged with the sacred trust of preparing God-called men and women for Gospel ministry in and through the local church. The scourge of sexual abuse has long been a critical issue in the local church and we have taken aims to equip ministers to recognize sexual abuse, to accurately report

\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

such abuse when it occurs, and to train pastors, teachers, and leaders to prevent sexual abuse through best-practices policies and processes.

To this end, Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College contracted with MinistrySafe in 2018 and built their training into the onboarding of all students, faculty, and staff. Our mandated reporters receive training at various points of the year, and our Title IX Coordinators receive specialized training relating to sexual abuse under the direction of the Dean of Students annually.

Through the Dean of Students office, our institution coordinates with local churches and counseling ministries to provide care and healing for those experiencing the results of trauma caused by sexual abuse. Additionally, as part of our requirements related to federal guidelines published in the Clery Act and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, we regularly report to our constituencies our ongoing progress, training, and even incidents should they arise. Our policies can easily be found in our annual academic catalogs in the Student Handbook section, as well as in our reports, located on our website at: [mbts.edu/about/consumer-information](http://mbts.edu/about/consumer-information).



**NEW ORLEANS**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



**LEAVELL**  
COLLEGE

**3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126**

**GARY SHOWS, Chairman**

**JAMIE DEW, President**

On behalf of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) and Leavell College family, greetings! I offer my deep thanks and gratitude for the men, women, and churches of the Southern Baptist Convention that you represent. NOBTS and Leavell College depend on the partnership of Southern Baptists, through the Cooperative Program, to fulfill our work.

As NOBTS and Leavell College have navigated the last year through the global pandemic, seven near misses from hurricanes, and a direct hit from Hurricane Zeta, we are grateful for the good gifts God has provided. In addition, we have seen several staff changes at the senior management level. The most significant is the retirement of Ms. Pattie Shoener and the reassignment of Dr. Larry Lyon as our Vice President for Business Administration. We are sad to see our friend and colleague, Pattie, make this transition, but we are grateful for her willingness to continue to serve alongside us.

Through the past year, we have continued to stay focused on training men and women to be servants who walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

In response to the global pandemic, along with every other institution of higher education, we transitioned to alternative delivery formats for our classes in March 2020. I could not be more proud of our students, faculty, and staff as they navigated a difficult and challenging season with grace and commitment.

In the midst of the spring semester, we determined that our students would need help staying the course through the summer and into the fall semesters. We launched the Bridge Campaign to provide students with summer financial aid with a goal of \$300,000. Our family responded in amazing ways, contributing \$470,000. The response was so positive that we launched for the fall semester Bridge 2.0 with a goal of \$150,000; raising \$270,000.

With a direct hit from Hurricane Zeta, we experienced a stronger than anticipated storm. Once the hurricane passed and all was safe, the NOBTS and Leavell College family was up with the sun surveying the campus. All debris from the storm had been collected by the campus family, piled up, and was ready for disposal by the end of the day. We were able to begin classes within two days and continue moving forward with the semester.

While significant, these hurdles have not deterred NOBTS and Leavell College from continuing training ministers for the work of the church.

In the past year, we have added several new faculty members in key areas: Dr. Alan Bandy, Professor of New Testament and Greek; Dr. Emily Dean, Assistant Professor of Ministry to Women; Dr. Mark Johnson, Assistant Professor of Evangelism and Pastoral Ministry; Dr. Mike Wetzel, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry; Dr. Tyler Wittman, and Assistant Professor of Theology. These individuals have quickly joined the family, rolling up their sleeves, and applying themselves to the work at hand.



In Leavell College we developed the B.A. + M.Div. program allowing undergraduate students to get a head start on their M.Div. during their senior year. The Leavell College faculty also developed three new degrees, the B.A. in Pastoral Ministry, the B.A. in Worldview and Apologetics, and the B.A. in Worship Ministry. While the focus remains on further strengthening the undergraduate program, we also want to encourage our students to walk with Christ during their seminary career. To aid in that pursuit, we launched the Leavell College House System. Students are assigned to houses in order to foster community, discipline, and spiritual development among their peers. Faculty and student leadership take an active role in leading each house.

An exciting addition to the campus for all students, and by extension Southern Baptists, is the partnership between NOBTS and the North American Mission Board to launch a Center for Church Planting. The City of New Orleans is just the right place for a church planting center to aid the denomination focused on the Great Commission. The people of New Orleans are a spiritually hungry people. This center will aid in reaching the lost with the Gospel through local church communities.

In spite of the pandemic, the NOBTS and Leavell College families are daily engaged in ministry in this beautiful city. Our students are still serving in their churches, still meeting the people of New Orleans, and still enjoying so much of what the city offers her residents.

We are amazed at all that God has done. We continue to be grateful for the work of Southern Baptists focused on the Great Commission as you support us in the endeavors of training servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission. Come see us! Let us take you to a good restaurant to share a great meal and talk about all that God is doing through Great Commission Baptists at NOBTS and Leavell College.

Your servant,

Jamie Dew

President, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.)*

***Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary receives.***

### **I. Assist churches by programs of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Leavell College trains God-called men and women without an undergraduate degree for ministry. Last year, Leavell College of NOBTS trained 1,506 undergraduate students through courses for credit on the main campus, at extension centers, and by internet — a slight decrease from the previous year. This total does not count a number of certificate students enrolled in not-for-credit courses offered in church and associational settings.

Many of our students are older, second-career people called into ministry later in life who can fill the many bi-vocational and small church ministry positions in the SBC. Our highest concentration of ethnic or minority students who can serve in ethnic church settings, particularly African-American, French-speaking Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean students is also in Leavell

College. In recent years, Leavell College has seen an increase in traditional students who know that God wants to use them in some manner but are not sure of what that might entail. Last year, Leavell College trained 660 for-credit certificate students. Many of these certificates were for pastors who will not otherwise receive any theological education. In addition, our certificates include laypersons from large and small churches. Our certificate programs are our most ethnically diverse programs and address the initiatives in this area by the SBC.

In 2020, NOBTS developed the B.A. + M.Div. program that allows undergraduate students at Leavell College to get a head start on their M.Div. degree by taking masters classes in their senior year that count for their bachelor's degree. Many students then will be able to earn their bachelor's degree and Master of Divinity degree within five years. NOBTS is excited about the possibilities of this new opportunity for students.

## **II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

NOBTS had 1,564 master's-level students last year, 791 of those were M.Div. degree students, which we consider the standard ministry preparation degree. Many students at NOBTS and other seminaries are pursuing shorter M.A. degrees offered online, at extension centers, and on campus. The remaining 773 master's-level students were in various degree programs that provide focused training for discipleship ministry, music ministry, specific areas in theological and biblical studies, or counseling ministry.

One of our primary assignments from the Convention is to train master's-degree students, and we focus a great deal of effort on this task. The seminary master's programs do not require an undergraduate degree in Religion or Christian Studies. Therefore, the training is typically broad. Students receive a solid biblical and theological foundation along with practical training in areas like discipleship, pastoral ministry, and counseling. We measure our health by the churches and ministries our graduates lead and we strive to prepare them to serve effectively in ministry.

Students who study at NOBTS receive a world-class education from faculty who have built their lives upon the Word of God. The faculty at NOBTS not only teach and publish in their areas, but they are involved in local church ministry and missions. Thus, students have the opportunity to learn from those who are doing ministry.

## **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

The D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. at NOBTS continue to be among the strongest such programs in the nation, with 308 students enrolled last year. The D.Min. program continues to be one of the largest and best such programs, with 260 students enrolled. Of that number, 54 are Korean D.Min. students.

The NOBTS D.Ed.Min. is one of just a handful of such programs in the United States. The D.Ed.Min. has 48 students enrolled. In many churches, the D.Min. has become the required degree for consideration of prospective pastors. This program provides students with that credentialing and does so with excellence. Since the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. programs require substantial experience for entry, these degrees probably do more than any academic degree to help ministers make mid-career adjustments in their own ministry that positively impact the churches and ministries in which they serve.

Professional doctoral education provides an opportunity to impact churches immediately since students pursuing the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. degrees are able to continue to minister in their churches. NOBTS provides training in a workshop format designed to allow students to

continue in their place of service. Students unable to travel to New Orleans are also able to participate in each seminar through web conferencing software or at a nearby extension center site. Thus, NOBTS is providing opportunities for this training in a variety of ways.

#### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

NOBTS has worked hard to make the research doctoral degrees accessible for students wherever they might live. Each Ph.D. major is available through web conferencing technology or in person. Many students pursue a Ph.D. who would otherwise not be able to attain the degree because they are called to a church at some distance from New Orleans. Students make limited trips to New Orleans while the majority of their seminars are available through live-stream offerings.

In part because of the availability of the degree, NOBTS has seen continued growth in the research doctoral programs in recent years. Last year, 206 students enrolled in the Th.M., Ed.D., D.M.A., and Ph.D. programs — which was an all-time high in enrollment. NOBTS is consistently evaluating the research doctoral degrees to be sure we are offering the appropriate curriculum. Each degree program was created to meet a need in Southern Baptist life. NOBTS is training the next generation of seminary and college teachers and providing highly trained practitioners in every area of ministry.

*Based on each of NOBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions in how NOBTS is accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?*

#### **I. Assist churches by programs of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

The greatest challenge confronting most undergraduate students is the problem of affordability and student debt. The COVID pandemic has exacerbated this issue greatly. Many of our older students have children and it is very difficult for them to juggle several jobs (ministry and secular) in order to get by while earning their theological education. In New Orleans, the tourist industry is a major part of the economy. Many of our students were working at a restaurant or hotel before the pandemic and have not regained employment. NOBTS continues to work to make education affordable. We did not increase tuition this year and we have continued the implementation of the tuition cap. Qualified students who take between twelve and eighteen hours pay the same tuition. Thus, students are able to save \$1,650 each semester if they can focus on being a full-time student. Partially because of the financial challenges, many students take fewer hours than they should each semester which extends their time to completion. The end result is that students may not complete their degree at all. NOBTS continues to encourage students to take the appropriate number of courses to facilitate successful completion of their training.

The new B.A. + M.Div. program at NOBTS represents a great opportunity for Leavell College students. This program will save money and time for those students able to make the sacrifice and be a full-time student. Students will save significant time and money while earning their M.Div. degree. Leavell College students could earn their bachelor's degree and the M.Div. degree in as little as five years while saving thousands of dollars. The rising costs associated with education remains a significant threat to Southern Baptist ministry training.

**II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

NOBTS remains committed to providing quality education for the current and future leaders of the SBC. We will continue to emphasize the M.Div. degree that provides the broadest type of training. In addition, we have developed multiple M.A. degrees to meet the specialized needs of students.

While encouraging every student to come to New Orleans and invest in the city as our faculty invests in them, we will also continue to develop and improve our offerings to those students who are unable to move to New Orleans. The mentoring program of NOBTS allows students to gain practical experience while gaining their theological education. We are convinced that partnering with churches to equip students for ministry is a great opportunity for students. In addition, NOBTS offers online training that allows students to participate in live classes through NOLA2UFlex classes. These classes let students participate in the class while it is meeting from their own home or office or watch the recording in the next week and follow up through various online activities.

During the COVID pandemic, we saw more students take advantage of the NOLA2UFlex courses and online courses rather than take classes face to face. We are grateful for the technology that allows us to continue the mission, but we will certainly be pushing for everyone to take classes in the traditional format if they can.

**III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Our professional doctorate programs are among the best in the country. We are continually striving for excellence. In addition to constant attention to be sure we are offering the specialization offerings and courses that students need, NOBTS works hard to find ministers who need further training and are willing to invest the time and energy needed to that end. Maintaining excellence with the responsibility of a large student body that requires a great deal of individualized attention remains a consistent challenge. NOBTS continues to utilize every means available to make professional doctoral training available to those who are interested as well as to equip students to succeed. In recent years, we have experimented with students participating in classes with webcasting technology. Until this year, we have always limited the use of virtual classes. As a result of the pandemic experience, we have realized that the educational goals can still be accomplished in a virtual format. Thus, students who are unable to come to New Orleans for classes are able to use webcasting technology to participate in all of the professional doctoral classes enabling them to focus their energy and time in the local church setting.

This past summer, the Association of Theological Schools revised their accreditation standards. As a result, we have adjusted our program during this academic year and are excited to be able to open the door to potential students who have obtained a M.A. degree in a theological area. Previously, students were required to have obtained an M.Div. or its equivalent, but the new standards allow for more pathways to the degree. We are excited about greater opportunity for training.

**IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

The research doctoral program at NOBTS continues to grow, partially because of the quality of the program and its accessibility. Every degree major is available to students who do not live in New Orleans through web conferencing technology; we expect to continue to see growth. Students have appreciated the ability to participate in the class as if they were there in person

while remaining on the field of ministry. We continue to train graduates who can serve at the denominational level, teach in Baptist colleges and seminaries, and work effectively in the local church. We will continue to seek to expand our offerings while maintaining the most efficient program possible.

### ENROLLMENT

#### Enrollment

<b>Basic Degrees</b>	<b><u>2015-16</u></b>	<b><u>2016-17</u></b>	<b><u>2017-18</u></b>	<b><u>2018-19</u></b>	<b><u>2019-20</u></b>
Graduate Certificate	125	102	100	81	70
M.Div.	1,059	1,000	878	833	735
M.A.C.E.	171	142	130	134	125
M.M.C.M.	26	23	23	18	6
D.Min.	321	313	278	275	261
D.Ed.Min.	55	53	48	46	48
Th.M.	75	64	52	59	72
Ph.D.	64	82	100	95	107
D.M.A.	17	13	15	19	21
E.D.D.	7	8	9	9	12
M.A.M.F.C.	33	38	45	78	80
M.A.	121	198	304	379	342
MTS	75	60	52	64	63
Diploma	0	0	0	0	0
Certificate	687	624	713	699	668
Associate	146	105	97	93	82
Baccalaureate	812	879	826	870	703
Internet	*540	*595	*669	*711	*668
Nondegree	94	74	64	51	56
Formula allowances for off campus programs	157	151	144	249	174
<b>Total FTE Enrollment</b>	<b>3,888</b>	<b>3,778</b>	<b>3,734</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>3,451</b>

*\*This amount is included in the degree programs.*

#### **Annual Accumulative Enrollment (nonduplicating head count) 2019-2020: 3,451**

<b>Graduates</b>	<b><u>2015-16</u></b>	<b><u>2016-17</u></b>	<b><u>2017-18</u></b>	<b><u>2018-19</u></b>	<b><u>2019-20</u></b>
Prebaccalaureate	137	170	205	149	55
Baccalaureate	86	117	95	154	78
Graduate	217	230	210	259	240
Doctoral	76	53	59	62	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>570</b>	<b>569</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>433</b>

## MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

### **1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the prevention of abuse within the institution and in the churches and other ministries where our graduates serve. We have historically trained students in preventing sexual abuse and in ways to care well for victims, and we have added or increased several significant parts of this effort since the 2018 SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas. The seminary president gives institutional leadership and takes a personal role in this effort. NOBTS provides the following to increase awareness, prevent abuse, and care for victims:

- Ministry Safe prevention training for all students, staff, and faculty within their first year in the seminary. This material is included in required first-year courses for all students. (added since 2018)
- Annual, in-person sexual abuse and sexual harassment prevention training for full-time faculty and staff. (added since 2018)
- Criminal background checks on all faculty, staff, and degree-seeking students. (increased scope since 2018)
- A specific address by the president to smaller groups of students at New Student Orientation emphasizing the institutional priority of protecting the vulnerable, maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment, and responding well to sexual abuse and harassment. (added since 2018)
- Meetings in residence halls conducted by hall staff, Student Affairs staff, and senior administrators to ensure student understanding of NOBTS policies, procedures, ways to access help, and our commitment to protecting and caring for students. (added since 2018)
- Student Affairs staff train regularly in this area, and the Associate VP for Student Affairs serves as our liaison to the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.
- A female Student Affairs staff member is employed specifically for women students to process experiences and seek counsel or advocacy in situations where abuse or harassment may be at issue.
- Security cameras and specific training for The REC center staff help ensure safety and abuse prevention in the recreation center.

*\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.*

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- Undergraduate core course that includes sexual abuse prevention using the Darkness to Light material and graduate-level core courses that include training on abuse, caring for victims, and prevention of abuse in the church.
  - Graduate-level counseling program coursework including a course on trauma counseling in which students learn the most effective, empirically-supported interventions for trauma care for children and adults in a Christ-centered counseling environment; a course on trauma-informed care for adoptive and other children from abusive backgrounds; counseling model courses including specific interventions for the counseling and care of victims.
  - Individual and group counseling on campus at no cost for students recovering from past trauma or abuse.
  - Counseling through a local Christian counseling agency available at no cost for faculty.
  - A director-level police liaison to local law enforcement agencies and on-site legal counsel work with administration to facilitate timely and appropriate reporting to law enforcement, as well as protection of victims and the campus community in cases of suspected sexual abuse or assault.
  - Regular group counseling opportunities for students struggling with issues of sexual integrity.
  - Weekend conferences related to issues of sexual purity and sexual integrity.



**Southeastern**  
Baptist Theological Seminary

**P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588-1889**

**TIMOTHY C. DALE, Chairman**  
**DANIEL L. AKIN, President**

Southeastern Seminary is well known in terms of its purpose statement: we seek to equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission. In fact, it is my heart, my mission, and my prayer that every student, every professor, and every classroom will be passionate for the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

In 2019-2020, we saw another record enrollment with over 5,000 students coming to study with us. We saw our numbers grow in the midst of the COVID pandemic. This will be our eleventh year of record enrollment and growth. We continue to be a faithful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And we have been able to weather the storm of the past year without any institutional-wide layoffs of either our staff or our faculty. Southeastern knows and operates in light of the knowledge that the Seminary exists to serve the churches. In fact, we see it as our calling to be servants of the churches. Our discipleship models, curriculum, and partnerships are designed so that the bride of the Lord Jesus Christ can be made ready right now for His future return.

Let me address our graduate programs. At the Seminary, the Master of Divinity is our graduate-level flagship degree program. Through this program, we are able to equip students to serve the church with a wide range of concentrations. We also have an M.Div./MBA program in partnership with Cedarville University, which offers organizational leadership skills to those who may lead their organization, equipping them with the appropriate business skills to complement a first-class theological education. This degree program provides a strong biblical and theological education applicable to their particular ministry context.

Our Master of Arts in vocation and research have generated strong interest among Southern Baptists. Our Ministry to Women and Biblical Counseling degrees have garnered a tremendous amount of attention because we recognize that more than half of our churches are filled with women. We are committed to equipping women to serve the church well with their many gifts and abilities.

We are excited to announce transitions in leadership at the advanced degree level. Dr. Keith Whitfield has now assumed and been approved by our Board of Trustees as the Provost. He will continue to provide incredible leadership and guidance, the kind of leadership that he is already well known for.

Also, we have seen tremendous work in our Doctor of Ministry program with Dr. Tate Cockrell as the new director of this program. In addition, we have been blessed with Christie Thornton, who has become the director of the Master of Theology program. In the area of these important programs, we have launched new formats that allow pastors and ministers to complete their program without having to leave their current ministry assignments. This is just the beginning of many important things to come in the area of our advanced degree programs.

Southeastern has also launched various graduate certificates that provide actual graduate-level training at a fraction of the normal cost. This program will make training accessible for anyone as these graduate certificates help lower the barriers of cost, location, and time. They provide training in several areas, ranging from student ministry, Christian ethics, and church revitalization.



Southeastern is not only a training ground at the graduate level, but also at the undergraduate level. Last year we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the College at Southeastern and the installment of a new dean for the College, Dr. Scott Pace. We are committed to developing and refining the calling that God has placed in the lives of these young men and women, whatever it is and whatever God is calling them to do. Regardless of their major and next steps, every single student at the College will receive a solid foundation in biblical and theological studies. They will be trained to recognize various worldviews and defend well a Christian worldview way of thinking. These students will be prepared to wisely and winsomely engage the world for the glory of God through their particular calling and vocation. This is all undergirded with a strong liberal arts education that prepares them to answer the call to go anywhere in the world.

Let me now address our confessions of faith. We are the only evangelical accredited four-year college in North Carolina that affirms four doctrinal statements: the Baptist Faith and Message 2000; the Abstract of Principles; the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy; and the Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood. We are proud of what we believe and we are convictional in where we stand. Growing out of these convictions is a curriculum with a vast spectrum of majors and minors, with the History of Ideas program as the centerpiece. This allows us to train students to think well and to think in biblical and Christian categories.

What about college life and community? Our College has what is known as the house system, and it is thriving. The house system helps us cultivate student communities that foster Great Commission living, academic excellence, and community identity for forging friendships that will accompany them for the rest of their lives. The College at Southeastern is a very special place and it takes only a few moments on campus to realize this. We thank God and we praise Him for creating such a place for our College students.

Let me say a word about our North Carolina Field Minister program in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and Joe Gibbs Game Plan for Life. We are providing theological training to long-term inmates in our prison system who will live on mission in their specific location and with a very particular assignment. These students have sentences of more than 12 years and yet we are equipping them to transform the prison community from the inside out through service and discipleship right there in our prison system. We offer a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry through the College at Southeastern. Today we have approximately 80 students in that program and we are looking forward to our first graduation in May 2021.

Southeastern is also very excited that this past fall marked the first semester of the Prison Program for women at a North Carolina correctional institution. This particular program is in downtown Raleigh. It is funded in partnership with the Sunshine Lady Foundation. They have provided full funding for this program, and it is allowing us to provide women an opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Business with an emphasis in Entrepreneurship through the College at Southeastern. Our first class has just begun, and we have 12 women enrolled in this unique statewide program.

Finally, when I talk about Southeastern, I must talk about the Great Commission and what we are doing in terms of theological training overseas. Southeastern maintains a global focus that reaches from North America literally to the ends of the earth. We don't just take theological training seriously in North Carolina. We believe that theological training needs to extend beyond the walls of Wake Forest into other parts of the world through our GTI (Global Theological Initiatives) program. The goal of our partnerships is to provide first-rate theological training. Today we are doing this in places like Brazil, Mexico, Uganda, the Dominican Republic, the Ukraine, South Korea, and Hong Kong. We are laying the foundation to start with the government's approval, a seminary in Vietnam. Through our Persian leadership development

program, we are now aiming to provide church leaders with theological education in their own language of Farsi. There is no other program like this in the world. By God's grace, there are more than 1,000 Farsi speakers involved in this particular program.

At Southeastern, we are focused on the fulfillment of the Great Commission. At Southeastern, we are confessional and we are certain of our doctrinal convictions. At Southeastern, we are committed to ministry preparation. At Southeastern, our training is characterized by vibrancy and a goal of Christlikeness. Thank you, Southern Baptists, for your prayers and support. Our focus remains on all of our students, faculty, and staff to be GOING and making disciples. You make that possible. It is our calling to equip every student to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission. By His grace and for His glory, we hope to be a faithful Great Commission Seminary until King Jesus returns. Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and support.

Danny Akin

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

### ENROLLMENT

#### Enrollment Figures by Degree Programs and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students as Per the SBC Funding Formula

	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
<b>Special Students</b>					
Credit Only	320	288	458	888	740
Certificate/Diploma	255	353	467	552	1,008
<b>Special Student Total</b>	575	641	925	1,440	1,748
<b>Prebaccalaureate &amp; Baccalaureate</b>					
Associate of Divinity	23	23	23	17	22
Associate of Arts	12	5	3	11	25
Bachelor of Arts/Science	418	396	475	514	568
<b>Prebaccalaureate &amp; Baccalaureate Totals</b>	453	424	501	542	615
<b>Basic Programs</b>					
Master of Arts	608	611	703	739	842
Master of Church Music	2	2	1	-	-
Master of Theological Studies	169	125	266	204	50
Master of Divinity	1,206	1,209	1,225	1,231	1,353
<b>Basic Programs Total</b>	1,985	1,947	2,195	2,174	2,245
<b>Advanced</b>					
Master of Theology	74	70	67	74	71
Doctor of Ministry	218	254	271	262	250
Doctor of Education	77	83	86	90	90
Doctor of Philosophy	197	205	205	193	196
<b>Advanced Total</b>	566	612	629	619	607
<b>Total Unduplicated Headcount</b>	3,579	3,624	4,250	4,775	5,215
<b>Cooperative Program Funded FTEs</b>					
Full-Time Equivalent Students	2,155	2,161	2,337	2,551	2,914

	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020
<i>Unfunded FTEs</i>					
Over 70 Hours BA Deduction	(76)	(69)	(65)	(68)	(66)
Online SBC FTE Students	(430)	(495)	(555)	(655)	(792)
Adv Degree Students Past Time Allowance	(226)	(247)	(255)	(295)	(312)
Non-SBC FTE Students	(145)	(136)	(246)	(348)	(476)
<i>Total Unfunded FTEs</i>	(877)	(947)	(1,121)	(1,366)	(1,646)
<b>Total Cooperative Program Funded FTEs</b>	<u>1,278</u>	<u>1,214</u>	<u>1,216</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>1,268</u>
<b>Graduates</b>					
Prebaccalaureate & Special	20	39	46	42	30
Baccalaureate	57	52	69	46	71
Basic Programs	291	312	283	336	351
Advanced	79	68	70	84	80
<b>Total Graduates</b>	<u>447</u>	<u>471</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>532</u>

### MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

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“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is fully supportive of the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group. SEBTS has worked to ensure that our campus has the resources and training necessary to help prevent sexual abuse and provide an environment where those who have suffered from abuse at any time in their life can receive the care and support they need to flourish.

**1. What is the entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care?**

SEBTS employs the use of background checks for all employees, and background checks are also included as a part of the application process for all prospective students. If someone has been convicted of a sex abuse crime in the past, this effort will allow us to take the steps necessary to help ensure that no one on campus is put at risk.

Our Student and Employee Handbook makes the SEBTS policy clear that we do not tolerate abuse, neglect, and exploitation. We also encourage the reporting of even suspected incidents.

\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

SEBTS has a Counseling Center that is available to all on campus for those seeking help on a variety of issues. This center is equipped to deal with domestic and sexual abuse issues and is prepared to assist with intake, initial counsel, and then make referrals to other professionals when necessary. In addition, our Student Life Staff has been trained to notify Campus Security authorities in all reported or suspected cases. Similarly, our Residence Life Staff has been trained on recognizing signs of abuse and harassment and on proper reporting protocols. We have worked with the senior leadership of this institution as well as with our security department to develop an “emergency response team” and “emergency response team protocol” on how to identify and report potential threat.

In order to raise awareness among our student body, we have instituted a policy in which all of our incoming students are required to watch a training video that helps inform students on how to recognize and report harassment and abuse as part of New Student Orientation training. This video training features the insight and advice of a local lawyer who specializes in domestic and sexual abuse litigation.

Regarding curriculum for ministry preparation, our Biblical Counseling professors address abuse and trauma in several classes. M.Div. students receive instruction on how to handle abuse and response to accusations of abuse in the BCO5500: Introduction to Biblical Counseling, and faculty is currently taking steps to add significant portions of the *Church Cares* curriculum to BCO5500. This addition includes a number of the videos from the curriculum and making the book that accompanies the curriculum required reading. The reporting requirements are also taught in BCO7501: Practicum 1, and covered in B06570: Counseling Parents and Children during lectures that address counseling children and parents in the midst of/after instances of abuse. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and counseling abused and traumatized adults are dealt with in BCO6551: Counseling Problematic Emotions. In a Doctor of Ministry seminar, DMN 8161: The Minister as Person and Professional, the *Church Cares* curriculum will be required reading.

2. What additional steps has the entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas?

Since the annual meeting in Dallas, SEBTS has taken the opportunity to review all policies and procedures to make sure they are current and comprehensive. In addition, though unrelated to the actions in Dallas, but related to the topic of abuse awareness, prevention, and care, SEBTS’ Director of Campus Security has been established as our Title IX Coordinator. Title IX encompasses the federal regulations that educational institutions are required to follow to cover issues of protection in the cases of sexual abuse and misconduct.

SEBTS has also implemented a Threat Assessment Tool. This program is a web-based application provided through a company called CLPS Consultants in partnership with Utica, SEBTS’ liability provider. This tool provides a standardized method of investigating and recording various kinds of threats to the SEBTS campus and community. The tool also analyzes the results of any investigation and makes recommendations on the further handling of and monitoring of involved persons. Campus Security and many personnel from Student Life have been trained on the use of this program for investigative purposes.

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3. How is the entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?

Those in leadership at SEBTS have all read the Caring Well report produced by the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, and have made our students aware of the resource. We fully support the work of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and desire to continue to see this effort provide relief and care for the victims as well as help to train to protect victims in the future.

SEBTS will have in place, by the next Annual Meeting, a requirement for all students to complete the Caring Well certificate as well as additional certificate work focused on sexual abuse prevention and care for victims.



**THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST  
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280**

**CLINT PRESSLEY, Chairman  
R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR., President**

It is my privilege and stewardship once again to present this report on behalf of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. We give thanks to God for the unparalleled generosity and commitment of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

The heart of the Southern Baptist Convention is its churches, faithful and committed to the Gospel. The substance of the Southern Baptist Convention is its entities, serving those faithful and generous churches. The six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention bear the hopes of our churches and prepare the future of our ministry. May God find us faithful in this task. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed without reservation to that task.

We are living through a period of radical transformation in our society—one that will make our tasks more difficult with every passing year. Furthermore, the past year required each of us to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. It is beyond the scope of this brief report to address all the current and future trends and challenges we face. Rather, given the context of our common dedication to serving our churches in the midst of a pandemic, let me just register a few comments:

First, Southern Baptist have shown themselves to be remarkably and generously committed to give, support, train, and send workers into the fields. No pandemic could stop them. No hardship could deter them.

Second, I am incredibly thankful that Southern Seminary and Boyce College—by thorough planning and commitment—have been in full operation throughout the pandemic. Both the seminary and the college had full, on-campus instruction in the fall semester of 2020 and in the spring semester of 2021. This demanded tremendous discipline and constant vigilance. It has also significantly increased our costs of education. But students and faculty have served together, learned together, and honored Christ together both on this historic campus and through our global campus.

Third, Southern Seminary responded to the pandemic crisis by simultaneously reducing budget, increasing investments in online programming, and lowering tuition. The lowering of tuition was one of our main goals and we are thankful to have met that goal. The Lord has greatly blessed this strategy and we experienced full enrollment. Cutting the budget enabled us to maintain strength even as we reduced tuition and eliminated many fees. We are committed to do anything we can to enable students to advance in enrollment and studies. The strategy we adopted has facilitated that goal.

Fourth, we are committed to position Southern Seminary and Boyce College for even greater enrollment and greater fulfillment of mission into the future.

My final word is always a message of gratitude—gratitude to Southern Baptists for their support through the Cooperative Program. Now, more than ever, we see the God-blessed strength that comes by our cooperative giving and stewardship.

Sincerely,  
R. Albert Mohler, Jr.  
President, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.)*

***Based on each of SBTS' Convention approved Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.***

### **I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Boyce College, the undergraduate school of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, continues to serve a growing student population of Southern Baptist college students. These students are receiving a Christian education of the highest quality and relevance. The aim of Boyce College is to raise up a new generation of leaders for faithful service in our churches and the mission field. Boyce attracts students who are already serious about their faith and challenges them to grow in their commitment to Christ and His church while they pursue undergraduate education. This depth of conviction has resulted in healthy growth as more and more students are drawn to Boyce's theological clarity and academic rigor. The non-duplicating headcount at Boyce College was 1,091 students in 2019-2020.

The professors at Boyce College are not only recognized experts in their scholarly fields, but they also possess a clear commitment to shepherd and mentor their students. This is why Boyce students receive excellent instruction in the classroom, as well as a vibrant, all-around student experience. Resident advisors work to cultivate biblical community within the residence halls. Students are exposed to a number of Southern Baptist pastors and leaders through weekly dorm meetings and chapel services. Student groups, such as the student council and an undergraduate academic journal, provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills and experience that will serve them and our churches in the future. The honors program continues to grow and gives students in the program an opportunity for a deeper and more challenging academic experience. This program has proven effective in attracting some of the sharpest young minds in the SBC. In March, we were confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic, sending students home to learn via Zoom for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic year. Our faculty and staff made this alternative learning environment conducive to the highest levels of theological education, providing our students with a safe education to finish out the year.

The programs offered by Boyce College are the extension of the founding vision of Southern Seminary. The continued strengthening of the programs is evident in developments such as the Augustine Honors Collegium and the Worldview Intensive Year program. The college continually reviews all academic programs to ensure that each serves the church in a distinctive way, preparing the coming generation for faithful Christian service and leadership.

### **II. Assist churches by programs of masters' level theological education for ministers.**

The central mission assignment for the seminaries is the education of pastors. That reaches back to our founding in 1859. The M.Div. program forms the core of Southern's efforts to provide master's level theological education. This is then supplemented through various master's level offerings, such as our M.A. in Biblical Counseling, Missiology, Theological Studies, and more. The Global Campus continues to expand as a vehicle for delivering theological education to master's students around the world. Students from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and over sixty countries are enrolled in degree programs from undergraduate to doctoral. Within the Global Campus, the Online Hispanic Program has grown exponentially, which helps prepare

and train ministers of the Gospel in the Spanish-speaking world. This Hispanic program provides theological education of the highest quality to Spanish-speaking students, both in the United States and around the world. More than 700 students have already been enrolled in the program and several have graduated, from nations including Mexico, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Chile, and the Dominican Republic.

The significance of the M.Div. centers the entire institution on the preparation of pastors. The M.Div. program continued as the largest program at the seminary with a total enrollment of 2,334 students for 2019-2020, which is a 5.7% increase from the previous year. In an era when the M.Div. is experiencing widespread decline, we are particularly proud of the work the Lord has done in raising up so many current and future pastors and entrusting us with their education. Southern Seminary also maintains an unparalleled faculty whose focus remains on instructing master's level students. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, our faculty also continues to set the pace for serving in local SBC churches, speaking at conferences, and contributing to evangelical scholarship through writing books and delivering academic presentations. In 2019-2020 alone, Southern Seminary professors published over 30 books and contributed many articles to various academic journals. When you enter a classroom at Southern Seminary, you will find one of many Christian scholars whose commitment to the Gospel, to the church, and to the Lord Jesus Christ is translated into a love for students and the task of teaching. This love for students and teaching showed itself as faculty pivoted quickly to providing excellent theological education online via Zoom for the second half of the spring 2020 semester and the entirety of the summer.

### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Southern Seminary offers professional doctoral education through the D.Min. and the D.Ed. Min. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the total annual headcount for all professional doctoral studies degree programs was 410 students. Specific attention was paid to prospective student recruitment efforts. Completing a degree while in full-time ministry can be challenging, so at Southern, professional doctoral students begin their program with a plan. Trained mentors guide students toward completion at a healthy pace, ensuring a greater number of students not only complete the program, but achieve the level of growth they desire. Southern Seminary continues to add value to the student experience through chapel services, focused panel discussions, and writing mentors throughout the program. The Broadus Society Fellowship exposes students to experienced preachers and provides a venue for mutual encouragement. The COVID-19 pandemic posed difficulties to our seminars as we had to offer them online in Summer 2020, but our faculty and staff provided an excellent theological education for our students amidst unique circumstances. Our graduates continue to hold key leadership positions in our SBC local associations, state conventions, and national entities. They are also pastoring hundreds of established SBC churches and are planting churches all over the world.

### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

Southern Seminary offers research doctoral education through the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Missiology, and Master of Theology. These academic programs are among the most highly respected in the nation and continue to produce well-trained pastor-scholars who serve in local church leadership, academics, and entity leadership. Research doctoral studies announced the development of expanded modular Ph.D. programs, set to begin Fall 2020. These additional programs allow students to receive the highest level of education in a number of doctoral concentrations through intensive, on-campus courses taken with a cohort. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the total annual headcount for all research



doctoral studies degree programs was 420 students. The program, however, is not merely large, but of the highest quality. Dozens of our current students and alumni presented papers at the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and continue to shape the entire evangelical academic landscape. Several other students presented at other national academic conferences. The weekly 1892 Club continued to attract many students each week for fellowship and interaction with a visiting scholar. Modular students are provided a chapel experience and lunch during their time on campus to facilitate further learning and fellowship between other students and scholars. Although on-campus seminars moved online halfway through the spring semester and modular seminars moved completely online in the summer, students were provided a high-level educational environment in which their seminars remained engaging and research-oriented despite the change in medium.

Southern is equipping many of the most gifted academic and church leaders within Southern Baptist life. In an academic job market considered severe by almost any standard, Southern doctoral graduates are continually sought after to serve in both traditional academic and church-based posts. Amongst member schools of the Association of Theological Schools, Southern Seminary has continued to produce a high number of students now teaching at member schools. In addition to this, many of our graduates hold administrative positions of leadership in institutions of higher learning all over the country. As with our other programs, graduates are giving leadership throughout the SBC at the local, state, and national levels. This is a great testimony to the strength of our program and the quality of our students.

***What opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SBTS is accomplishing each of its Ministry Assignments?***

**I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Boyce College has experienced growth in terms of enrollment, educational excellence, and opportunities for students outside the classroom. The opportunity for 2021 primarily consists of building on the momentum already present to expand the reach of Boyce College among prospective students in order to maintain healthy growth. We believe that our current students are our best drivers for future growth. So Boyce aims to deliver excellent educational offerings, as well as extracurricular activities, with the goal of forming godly and well-equipped future Southern Baptist leaders. The addition of the B.A. in Business Administration/M.Div. and B.A. in Communication/M.Div. 5-year seminary track programs will prepare students to be effective communicators and members of the business community in a diverse and complex world, extending the mission of the school further into the marketplace. As we maintain the SBC's commitment to abstain from government funding, we will need to carefully structure Southern Seminary and Boyce College in terms of personnel and facilities to make sure we are able to offer a program that is the highest in academic quality and competitively priced. In order to achieve this, we have reduced tuition by 15% across the board. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into 2021, we will continue to provide students with a safe and nurturing environment to receive the best theological education available.

**II. Assist churches by programs of masters' level theological education for ministers.**

Southern Seminary is committed to providing the best possible theological education for current and future pastors and ministry leaders of the SBC. This means not only maintaining an excellent faculty, but providing an education that aims at the formation of ministry leaders who are intellectually capable, morally faithful, and walking closely with the Lord. An opportunity that comes out of this commitment is to continually improve not only our on-campus efforts,

but opportunities for our online and modular students to be mentored, trained, and served both inside and outside of the classroom. As increasing numbers of our students are attending through our Global Campus program, Southern Seminary leadership, faculty, and staff must respond to the calling to bring excellent education through this growing opportunity. The high quality of our online program is rooted in the high quality of our on-campus program. Professors are continuing to improve their pedagogy through provided training, not only in the classroom, but also for their online teaching. The unique, pedagogical challenges inherent in online learning require that our professors receive additional training and instruction in order to provide the best possible experience for our online students. With the rising number of online courses being taken, Southern Seminary maintains deliberate efforts to get online students connected to the campus. In addition, the unique challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed us to be more agile than ever in our online and modular course offerings. We will continue to serve our students through the best mediums possible as the pandemic continues to affect our communities.

### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

The professional doctoral studies team continuously strives for excellence and innovation in serving those seeking to develop their ministry competencies and skills. One of the challenges that most professional doctoral programs face is maintaining a high rate of degree completion. Southern Seminary continues to see rising graduation rates and will seek to improve even more. Students are being assigned writing mentors and are helped with a project strategy immediately as part of their first week of classes. This helps students to focus on their project throughout their entire program. This focus allows the student to begin the writing process earlier and has been effective in helping them complete the degree program. We will continue to increase the quality of program orientation and introduction to doctoral writing as part of our efforts to ensure successful graduates. In addition, three new online concentrations leading to the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. degrees will further our reach and allow us to serve more churches through the training of ministers. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the way we offer seminars in our programs for now and we will continue to maintain the highest level of quality in theological education while providing a safe learning environment for our students.

### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

While Southern's research doctoral program remains one of the strongest in Christian higher education, the aim is always to increase the quality and reach of the program. One area of opportunity will be to expand the non-residential offerings in our traditional programs (Church History, Systematic Theology, Old Testament, and New Testament), as we have already begun to do through our expanded modular Ph.D. programs. These programs will continue to strengthen the pastor-theologians within the SBC in foundational disciplines. Southern Seminary continues to develop partnerships related to international student teaching opportunities with the intention of student deployment. There is a growing need and opportunity for international theological education. Thousands of pastors around the world have no means to be trained. A continued focus on developing the pedagogical skills of our students will be paired with a continued commitment to encourage research doctoral students to exercise their academic gifting in the service of local churches. The extensive pedagogical training that Southern Seminary students receive allows them to become even more competitive in the current academic job market. Although the COVID-19 pandemic affects our learning environment, our faculty and staff will continue to provide creative solutions to support our research doctoral students.

**ENROLLMENT****by Degree Program Converted to Full-Time Equivalent as per SBC Seminary Formula**

	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019	2019–2020
<b>Prebaccalaureate Programs:</b>				
Diploma Theology	26	36	31	31
Diploma Missions	26	47	49	64
Boyce: Associate of Arts	23	25	31	24
Special (including Prebacc. and SWI)	189	194	119	183
<b>Baccalaureate Programs:</b>				
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	299	268	242	222
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	632	656	653	670
<b>Basic Degree Programs:</b>				
M.Div.	1,500	1,399	1,400	1,516
M.A.	287	279	251	198
M.A.T.S.	78	121	127	179
M.C.M.	8	9	12	15
Special (Postbacc.)	51	29	22	28
<b>Advanced Degree Programs:</b>				
Th.M.	66	66	78	99
D.Min.	246	226	221	217
D.Miss.	15	16	14	14
D.Ed.Min.	109	161	190	193
Ed.D.	46	46	40	37
Ph.D.	301	302	268	270
Special	1	3	2	0
<b>Total FTE Enrollment</b>	3,903	3,883	3,750	3,960
<b>Official FTE</b>	2,328	2,339	2,311	2,762
(Nondup. HC)	5,489	5,459	5,485	5,568

**Degree Program Graduates**

<b>Degree Programs:</b>				
<b>Prebaccalaureate Programs:</b>				
	2016–2017	2017–2018	2018–2019	2019–2020
Diploma Theology	0	0	0	0
Diploma Missions	0	0	0	0
Worldview Studies Certificate	9	0	2	5
Seminary Wives Institute	14	20	13	16
ESL Cert.	0	0	0	2
Boyce: Associate of Arts	9	3	9	8
<b>Baccalaureate Programs:</b>				
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	22	19	20	37
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	51	66	57	74
<b>Basic Degree Programs:</b>				
M.Div.	217	212	205	274
M.A.	71	66	69	60
M.A.T.S.	18	35	54	78
M.C.M.	1	0	1	5
Cert. Great Comm. Studies	0	0	0	2

<b>Advanced Degree Programs:</b>	<b>2016–2017</b>	<b>2017–2018</b>	<b>2018–2019</b>	<b>2019–2020</b>
Th.M.	36	38	46	38
D.Min.	41	36	29	35
D.Ed.Min.	4	23	22	19
D.Miss.	0	2	1	2
Ed.D.	11	7	6	11
Ph.D.	36	41	34	23
<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>689</b>

### MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

**1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** The Board of Trustees of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary adopted the following response on October 14, 2019:

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the highest standards of care for every member of the seminary community and to preparing ministers of the Gospel and servants of Christ to fulfill this responsibility wherever they are called and however they serve. The challenge of sexual abuse is a particularly urgent challenge, especially to Christians and our churches. Southern Seminary has made abuse awareness, prevention, and care a top institutional priority. We require all students, faculty, and staff to complete MinistrySafe, a third-party training and assessment tool. Furthermore, Southern Seminary has clear policies on all matters appropriate for such an institution, including mandatory reporting of the abuse of minors and other reporting responsibilities and instructions for care published in our student and employee handbooks. The Seminary’s policies and procedures have recently undergone a thorough legal review in order to make certain that all policies are appropriate, complete, and up-to-date. In this light, policies now even more thoroughly define reporting responsibilities and the procedure for reporting any abuse or suspected abuse. This policy is regularly re-communicated to the campus community through all available means.

Since the 2018 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southern Seminary has continued to make our commitment clear. Mrs. Garnetta Smith has been appointed as the seminary’s Women’s Support Coordinator, a cabinet-level position that functions as liaison and support for all women on campus, and with particular responsibility to women who experience or are aware of any harassment or abusive behavior.

\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

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Southern Seminary is committed to work fully with the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group and has gratefully received their report and findings and has also received the “Caring Well” curriculum and will be using this material as a useful resource in the preparation for curriculum and training for students, faculty, and staff.



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**PHILIP LEVANT, Chairman**  
**ADAM W. GREENWAY, President**

It is my joy once again to share with Southern Baptists the annual report of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

To say the least, the past academic year has been one filled with challenges, disruption, and adversity unlike anything we have faced in the 113-year history of our institution. But my word to Southern Baptists, first of all, is that God is still doing a marvelous, miraculous, and glorious work of bringing God-called men and women from across our land and around the world to study and to be prepared to be used by God to help advance the Gospel, to help strengthen local churches, and to help fulfill the Great Commission in our time. We could not do what we do apart from your sacrificial generosity and the ongoing support we receive through the Cooperative Program. Because of the approximately \$7 million given to our seminary over this last academic year, you were able to directly invest in 638 graduates during the calendar year 2020 who received their certificates and diplomas for degree programs ranging from undergraduate to research doctoral at Southwestern Seminary and Scarborough College.

To put that annual number of graduates into perspective, the average accredited seminary in North America has only 270 students in total enrollment. It is because of your generosity and your investment that you are helping to make possible a size and scope of ministry that literally is the envy of the theological education world. It is not just because of the numerical size of our student body and our graduates, but it is because of the convictional stance that we have taken from the very beginning that sets apart Southern Baptist theological education. Our seminary has stood in faith and fidelity right where our Convention of churches stands when it comes to the essential doctrines of the faith and Baptist distinctives.

You can know, Southern Baptists, that you have a seminary in Texas that is standing firm for the faith once and for all delivered unto the saints. Even in a culture of increasing challenge and compromise in which the issues that we confront are things that would have been unthinkable even a generation ago, Southwestern Seminary is committed to doing everything we can to helping God-called ministers to go deep in the Scriptures, to be richly immersed in the truth of God's Word, in the historic Christian faith, in Baptist orthodoxy, and to have a focus upon helping to teach and transmit these truths to reach an increasingly secular culture moving further and further away from God.

We faced challenges in the year of our Lord 2020 unlike anything we have ever known. We had to cease having in-person classes for the first time in our history. Our faculty had to innovate and to develop new pedagogies and methodologies to continue to bring world-class theological education without interruption or interference in a time in which COVID-19 has changed everything about what we do. But adversity has a marvelous way of bringing forth opportunity to help people experience God's calling upon their lives. Sometimes the excuses that people have in terms of not following or finding God's will for their lives can be taken away when adversity comes, forcing them to confront who they really are and motivating them to do what God has called them to do.

At Southwestern Seminary, we have had to rethink fundamental assumptions about who we are and what we do in order to be effective in a time of global pandemic and crisis. While our theological convictions and our doctrinal commitments will never change, our methodological approaches and the way that we deliver world-class theological education must constantly evolve. It is because of the generous support provided through the Cooperative Program that we have been able to navigate these crises in a way that other institutions simply could not.

I am pleased to report in the 2020-2021 academic year, we have seen increases in enrollment with new student enrollment registering increases of 29 percent in the fall and 28 percent in the spring. We are also experiencing increases in financial support, with a 61 percent increase in total giving for the 2019-2020 academic year. Additionally, we are continuing to enhance our stellar faculty by adding even more scholar-ministers who are both recognized in their academic fields and experienced in church ministry.

In the fall semester, we resumed in-person classroom instruction, while simultaneously also providing remote access. We believe something special happens when our faculty are together with our students in our classrooms. Even with social distancing and all of the protocols we have needed to follow, we still believe something special happens when we do theological education in the context of a living, learning, worshipping, serving, and Christ-honoring community.

During the spring semester, we have resumed in-person chapel services, an integral part of forming ministers of the Gospel for more faithful service. Since worship is central to the Christian life, it must also be a key part of our students' educational experience as they prepare to lead others both in and to worship. Chapel is an integral part of forming ministers of the Gospel for more faithful service. It is always good and right when we are able to gather together here on the sacred 200-acre campus we call Seminary Hill.

I am looking forward to Southern Baptists gathering together in Nashville in June for the SBC annual meeting. It is good anytime and every time we have the chance to be together and to talk to each other and with each other because we are truly better together. In a time where there are voices wanting to sow seeds of discord and disunity and dissension and division all across our landscape, I want you to know that your seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, desires to be an instrument of healing and reconciliation, of Gospel-advance, working to bring people together under a "big-tent" vision of commitment to a high view of Scripture, confessional fidelity, the Great Commission, and cooperation. This vision was the heartbeat of our founder, B.H. Carroll, and we remain steadfastly committed to seeing that vision fulfilled in our day.

We know we are not in this task alone. You have six Southern Baptist seminaries where thankfully today a student can go and get a solid theological education. I am proud to be together in this task with my seminary presidential colleagues. But I am especially proud to serve at what I believe is Southern Baptists' "crown jewel" seminary, The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Thank you for what you do to make our work possible by investing in the next generation. What you give today through the Cooperative Program makes a difference right here and right now, and it matters for eternity. We can never say thank you enough for what you do to bless our students, our faculty, and our staff.

Blessings,

Adam W. Greenway  
President

## MINISTRY INQUIRIES

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)*

***Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary receives.***

### **I. Assist churches by programs of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

L.R. Scarborough College, the undergraduate school of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, seeks to provide the highest quality undergraduate education to prepare students for service in the church, marketplace, mission field, and beyond. For the 2019-2020 academic year, 548 students were enrolled in bachelor's degree programs. Scarborough's degrees emphasize Christian orthodoxy and the classical studies in order to cultivate students with a biblical worldview and a globally focused vision for all ministries and vocations.

The faculty of Scarborough College comprises scholar-ministers who have published widely in their respective academic disciplines and who also serve in the local church in various capacities, with many coming to their faculty roles from church ministry positions. Students at Scarborough College, therefore, benefit not only from faculty members with impressive academic achievements, but also with extensive practical ministry experience. Unlike some undergraduate schools, 100 percent of Scarborough College full-time faculty have earned terminal doctoral degrees in their respective fields of study.

In addition to rigorous academics, students at Scarborough College participate in a vibrant community with student life activities fashioned to shape their Christian faith. With opportunities ranging from dorm meetings to twice-weekly chapel services, Scarborough College students are regularly encouraged to participate in the broader spiritual life of the campus community and their local church during their studies. Additionally, students are strongly encouraged to participate in at least one international mission trip while pursuing their degree. Through spiritual life and missions involvement, students are able to live their callings while they pursue their education, rather than waiting until the completion of their studies.

### **II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

The primary purpose of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is to provide theological education for men and women preparing for Christian ministry. At the heart of that calling is the training of pastors for the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. The seminary will never do anything more urgent and critical than providing more faithful ministers for the local church. The core academic degree for the training of pastors is the Master of Divinity degree, offered in each of the graduate schools of the seminary. The graduate schools also offer other master's degrees in various disciplines of service to the local church, including theology, Christian education, biblical counseling, missiology, apologetics and philosophy, church music and worship, and various other specialized academic programs. For the 2019-2020 academic year, 2,510 students were enrolled in master's degree programs offered both residually as well as through distributed learning.

### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

The purpose of the professional doctoral programs (Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry) at The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is to provide advanced processional training beyond the master's degree level for individuals engaging in Christian



ministry. As doctoral degree programs, students enrolled are expected to pursue a high standard of expertise in ministry reflection and practice. Students are challenged to think biblically and critically in practices of ministry and to articulate and demonstrate a robust biblical and theological vision for ministry practice. D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. concentrations include church revitalization, text-driven preaching, pastoral theology, executive leadership, evangelism and missions, biblical counseling, worship leadership, great commission apologetics, family ministry, and Christian formation and discipleship. During the 2019-2020 academic year, 375 students were enrolled in professional doctoral programs at Southwestern Seminary.

#### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary offers the Doctor of Philosophy degree in all four of its graduate schools. The School of Church Music and Worship offers the Doctor of Musical Arts degree. For the 382 students enrolled in research doctoral programs during the 2019-2020 academic year, these programs prepared persons of exceptional ability to serve as teachers in specialized areas of study and as pastors, chaplains, denominational leaders, and authors. The Ph.D. program emphasizes the attainment of expertise in a theological discipline, resting upon competence in both biblical and modern languages and demonstrated through quality research and critical evaluative skills, resulting in a significant contribution to the student's chosen field of study. Ph.D. study requires a high degree of originality, independent, analytical research, judgment, and skill in articulating research findings.

*Based on each of SWBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how SWBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?*

#### **I. Assist churches by programs of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Founded in 2005, Scarborough College is still establishing itself as a well-known option for distinctly Christian undergraduate education. The faculty and recruiting team are constantly working to engage high school students and parents in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex and beyond to introduce them to the degree programs and student life experience at Scarborough College. Scarborough College stands poised to complete the 2020-2021 academic year stronger for several reasons. Due to COVID-19 restrictions during the spring and summer, the institution took advantage of the absence of students on campus to renovate the student center and residence halls, creating an updated look and opportunities for students including a game room. Adding to the student experience, starting in Fall 2020, the institution contracted Provider Food Services as the campus food service provider, which has drastically increased the food service and dining experience. Additionally, the administration and faculty are proactively creating and pursuing new degree major and minors and updating current degree offerings. The administration also welcomed a new dean to Scarborough College in the spring semester, Dr. Benjamin Skaug, who will bring a renewed energy to the campus, building upon the work of the former dean who will remain on faculty.

#### **II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

Southwestern Seminary is committed to offering the highest quality of theological education that is both affordable and accessible. The technical advances of the modern world have allowed a wider variety of delivery methods for theological education than at any point in the history of theological education. This reality allows Southwestern Seminary students to pursue theological education while serving in their local church or mission field, but has also

equipped the institution to provide the highest level of theological education in the midst of a global pandemic.

While embracing this fact, we remain institutionally committed to the primacy of a residential model of theological education. It is undeniable that something unique and distinct happens when students are in a classroom together with a professor engaged in “life-on-life” education and discipleship. For this reason, the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is the core program of our master’s offerings. The graduate schools of Southwestern Seminary continue to develop their current degree programs and implement new programs to strengthen the student experience, including our new M.Div. + MBA joint degree program. In response to COVID-19, during the Fall 2020 semester, Southwestern Seminary offered the vast majority of its master’s-level curriculum in both residential and online formats in order to support students in whatever format they needed to complete their courses. Southwestern Seminary will continue to grow our distributed learning pathways while advancing on-campus theological education on Seminary Hill.

### **III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Southwestern Seminary’s professional doctoral programs offer unique, educational opportunities for students who have already earned a master’s degree and gained a level of practical ministry experience. As those currently serving in ministry know, the culture is rapidly changing, and we must be willing to assess and adapt our methods in order to be as effective as possible in reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This year, we launched new concentrations in Great Commission Apologetics, Worship Leadership, Christian Formation and Discipleship, Executive Leadership, and Pastoral Theology for our Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry programs. We continue to seek new opportunities to offer advanced professional degree programs to serve those actively engaged in Christian ministry.

### **IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

Southwestern Seminary’s research doctoral programs prepare individuals of exceptional academic ability for ministries teaching and writing for the church. The Doctor of Philosophy program coursework is now delivered in both residential and flexible access formats, affording students the opportunity to pursue fully accredited research doctoral education from anywhere in the world. In Fall 2020, the Doctor of Education program was launched, to develop scholar-practitioners for the church. Over the past year the research doctoral studies team has worked diligently to instill a culture that focuses on the highest level of Christian scholarship in service to church. In Fall 2020, the Teaching Excellence Program and the Thinkerspace initiatives were created to promote excellence in pedagogy and writing in the program.

### **Cooperative Program**

*SBC entities, especially those which receive Cooperative Program funding, share an equal responsibility in promoting and advancing the Cooperative Program in compliance with the Business and Financial Plan, Section VI, Part C. Providing examples, please describe Southwestern Seminary’s commitment to promote the Cooperative Program and educate students.*

Southwestern Seminary is deeply grateful for the faithful support we receive through the Cooperative Program from the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, which gifts are made possible by the sacrificial tithes and offerings of faithful Southern Baptists in our congregations. The central importance of the Cooperative Program is repeatedly proclaimed by President Adam W. Greenway, as cooperation – including the Cooperative Program – is

one of four “pegs” of his “big tent” vision for Southwestern Seminary, articulated in his first Chapel address to the seminary community as president in Spring 2019 and affirmed many times subsequently. Appreciation for the vital support of the Cooperative Program is regularly proclaimed by seminary administrators and faculty in their speaking engagements across the nation in churches, associations, and state conventions, specifically noting the importance of Cooperative Program funding in subsidizing the tuition of our students. In the seminary’s promotional materials for prospective students, the value of the Cooperative Program scholarship resulting in a 50 percent discount in tuition is noted among other scholarship opportunities. Additionally, during each Commencement, a statement is published in the commencement program thanking Southern Baptist churches for their Cooperative Program support, including the exact amount of money from the Cooperative Program that supported that particular semester’s graduates. Students also regularly hear affirmations of the Cooperative Program in the classroom, chapel services, and special events on Seminary Hill as a continual reminder of the importance of the Cooperative Program. Further, specific classes about the history, function, and funding of the Southern Baptist Convention include the history and current work of the Cooperative Program.

***How effective is Southwestern Seminary in creating an awareness and appreciation for the Southern Baptist Convention and its model for cooperative missions and cooperative funding among the student body? What level of confidence does Southwestern Seminary have that its graduates will continue to engage in SBC missions and ministries and support funding these ministries through the Cooperative Program?***

Every student of Southwestern Seminary regularly hears of the importance of the Cooperative Program during his or her course of studies. This administration is hopeful that the encouragement of Cooperative Program faithfulness that is repeatedly extolled on and from Seminary Hill will result in ministers who will lead their congregations to support with great generosity this God-given and God-honored mechanism for funding Southern Baptist missions and ministry.

***Please articulate for Southern Baptists how Southwestern Seminary perceives the role of the Cooperative Program in funding theological education. What value does Southwestern Seminary place upon its partnership with Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program?***

Southern Baptist theological education is unique among the broader world of seminaries and divinity schools in many ways – biblically, theologically, ethically, etc. – and the generous funding provided through the Cooperative Program is one of the key differences. Consistently, Southern Baptist seminary tuitions and fees are among the lowest in theological education across the world because of the funding of Southern Baptists given faithfully through the Cooperative Program. Without the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptist theological education would be vastly more expensive for future ministers and missionaries, which would likely diminish significantly the number of available theologically educated ministers and missionaries. Southwestern Seminary is unalterably committed to our partnership with the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention since it is only because of those churches that we exist. Indeed, Southwestern Seminary joyfully affirms that it is the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention we are first called to serve in the training of their pastors, ministers, missionaries, and more. Southern Baptist congregations’ faithful support of the Cooperative Program is a vital ongoing and undergirding link to Southwestern Seminary and our mission.

*Please give examples of how Southwestern Seminary operates within the guidelines of the SBC Business and Financial Plan as described in Section VI, Part D.*

The administration of Southwestern Seminary is committed always to operating within the guidelines of the SBC Business and Financial Plan, with all fundraising appeals falling with the guidelines of that plan. The seminary does not make direct appeals to churches for inclusion in their budgets or take other actions in violation of the SBC Business and Financial Plan.

### **COVID-19**

*Please provide a summary of the entity's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (how you've connected and resourced churches and Southern Baptists) as well as a summary of the financial and ministry impacts the pandemic has had on the organization. How was the pandemic informed or modified your ministry plans for the future?*

In March 2019, Southwestern Seminary suspended all in-person instruction and moved all classes to an online format. This change, while disruptive, was successfully managed by faculty, staff, and students. In addition to this impact on course delivery method, all campus activities were cancelled, and only essential staff reported to work on campus. At the onset of the pandemic, based on conservative economic projections, Southwestern Seminary implemented budget cuts in order to be in a position to endure any negative fiscal impact. Thankfully, the worst case scenario did not materialize and the seminary was able to strengthen its fiscal position during the COVID-19 pandemic. While it is still difficult to fully assess the long-term impact the pandemic will have on the seminary's ministry plans for the future, we are confident that the circumstances of this year have only served to expedite the rise in online learning and the necessity of providing high-quality theological education to non-residential students. Before the pandemic, we had already increased our investment in the production and delivery of such content and that will only continue in the months and years to come.

### **Sexual Abuse Awareness, Prevention, Reporting and Care Response**

*How is Southwestern Seminary making an effort to protect against sexual abuse? How will Southwestern Seminary integrate aspects of sexual abuse awareness, prevention, reporting, and care in its own organizational policies and practices, in training students for ministry, and engaging across its broad constituency?*

Consistent with the objectives of the Caring Well initiative, Southwestern Seminary is committed to strengthening our policies in order to better protect students and the entire seminary community by creating a safer environment for all. To that end, we have taken the following steps in recent months:

- Updated admissions policies to prohibit anyone who is listed on a sex offender registry from being admitted as a student;
- Implemented new policy requiring sexual abuse prevention training for all faculty, staff, and students;
- Continued process of reviewing and updating administrative, student, and personnel policies to ensure compliance with expectations for mandatory reporting;
- Completed transition from a seminary campus security team to a campus police force consisting entirely of professional, sworn officers. After hiring a new chief of police with more than 30 years police experience, the seminary now has 14 sworn police officers with an average experience of nearly 30 years in major metropolitan departments. Previously, there were only 4 sworn officers with average experience of 4-5 years, none in major metro departments, and 14 security officers.

Southwestern Seminary supports all efforts in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention to better educate our churches – both ministers and members – about the biblical, moral, and legal obligations to oppose sexual abuse in our midst and to minister effectively to those harmed by such sinful activity.

### **Metrics**

***What has proven to be Southwestern Seminary's most reliable metric for indicating future accomplishments or challenges across all of Southwestern Seminary's ministry assignments? Why is that metric the most important to watch relative to specific ministry assignments?***

The most important metric for the success of Southwestern Seminary is the enrollment of residential students pursuing the Master of Divinity degree as a percentage of the overall enrollment. Southwestern Seminary offers a comprehensive range of theological education, offering baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral academic degrees to train men and women called to ministry to serve the many and diverse needs of the local church and the Southern Baptist Convention. Nevertheless, the core degree program of Southwestern Seminary is the Master of Divinity, offered primarily for the training of pastors for the local church, which has been the core mission of our school since its founding in 1908 by Baptist pastor and educator B.H. Carroll. Therefore, among all the good, necessary, and noteworthy ministry assignments undertaken by Southwestern Seminary, the best measure of our success is the degree to which training pastors for the local church remains central to our mission and work, and thereby the number of students who will graduate and serve as pastors of our Southern Baptist churches. The importance of this metric has only been confirmed during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to be a focus of Southwestern Seminary coming out of the pandemic.

## **ENROLLMENT**

### **Enrollment by Degree Program in SBC funded Full-Time Equivalents**

	<b>2012– 2013</b>	<b>2013– 2014</b>	<b>2014– 2015</b>	<b>2015– 2016</b>	<b>2016– 2017</b>	<b>2017– 2018</b>	<b>2018– 2019</b>	<b>2019– 2020</b>
<b>Undergraduate and Certificate Programs</b>								
B.A.	154	127	98	81	148	179	163	152
B.S.	120	158	165	146	79	35	13	4
B.M.	N/A	N/A	N/A	23	34	33	32	27
Certificate	20	20	20	15	15	11	14	25
Diploma	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Special	28	33	14	25	31	20	13	11
<b>Basic Degree Programs</b>								
M.A.A.B.S.	8	8	9	9	10	9	5	4
M.A.B.C.	29	46	62	63	59	53	39	39
M.A.C.C.	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.C.E.	147	107	81	84	76	66	49	53
M.A.C.M.	20	9	10	11	9	8	10	8
M.A.C.S.E.	14	14	10	9	10	6	4	1
M.A.I.S.	13	13	6	8	5	8	6	4
M.A.L.M.	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.M.	24	15	19	17	16	16	9	5
M.A.M.F.C.	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.P.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3
M.A.Th.	24	22	13	11	14	14	11	11

	2012– 2013	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017	2017– 2018	2018– 2019	2019– 2020
M.A.W.	2	3	4	3	6	6	4	2
M.Div.	567	473	473	424	398	353	260	281
M.M.	49	51	44	39	31	29	31	20
M.A.C.A.	N/A	N/A	3	7	6	7	5	5
M.T.S.	N/A	16	26	33	36	39	30	74
<b>Advanced Degree Programs</b>								
D.Ed.Min.	4	12	13	13	14	12	22	32
D.Min.	61	102	57	39	47	73	79	89
Ph.D./D.M.A.	176	170	182	170	155	156	193	223
Th.M.	26	23	20	18	23	31	35	53
<b>Total SBC FTE</b>								
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>1,424</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>1,164</b>	<b>1,029</b>	<b>1,126</b>
<b>Headcount</b>								
<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>3,259</b>	<b>3,582</b>	<b>3,942</b>	<b>4,276</b>	<b>4,076</b>	<b>4,007</b>	<b>3,848</b>	<b>3,907</b>

**GRADUATES**

**Undergraduate and Certificate Programs**

B.A.	40	34	24	20	16	21	21	35
B.S.	N/A	8	53	51	62	58	52	35
B.M.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0	1	3	7
Certificate	9	21	12	20	2	20	13	30
Diploma	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0

**Basic Degree Programs**

M.A.A.B.S.	2	1	2	5	1	2	10	1
M.A.C.C.	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.C.E.	82	65	55	34	41	49	42	38
M.A.C.M.	0	3	0	2	2	1	0	0
M.A.C.S.E.	2	6	3	3	3	2	3	5
M.A.I.S.	6	7	6	2	3	4	2	4
M.A.L.M.	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.M.	16	10	10	9	9	6	5	7
M.A.M.F.C.	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.Th.	10	12	14	9	10	11	10	11
M.A.W.	0	0	1	0	6	2	4	6
M.Div.	159	143	137	143	112	137	123	117
M.M.	26	11	13	25	20	12	10	10
M.A.B.C.	1	8	9	17	13	25	24	18
M.T.S.	N/A	19	39	103	165	191	208	203
M.A.C.A.	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	0	4	3	3
M.A.Ph.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	2	1

**Advanced Degree Programs**

D.Ed.Min.	10	4	6	2	4	7	3	1
D.Min.	13	10	9	10	26	17	17	24
Ph.D./D.M.A.	34	29	24	18	26	33	22	44
Th.M.	10	9	10	6	17	22	17	20

<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>620</b>
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## MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following items to The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.\*

**1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, SBC Annual, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** The following response was submitted for the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting: Given the motion’s specific language requesting a report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, no report can be given due to the cancellation of the Annual Meeting. Southwestern Seminary has provided an institutional update on addressing abuse, however, via the Ministry Inquiries included as part of the 2020 SBC Cooperative Program Ministry Report. That update is reproduced in its entirety here:

*Consistent with the objectives of the Caring Well initiative, Southwestern Seminary is committed to strengthening our policies in order to better protect students and the entire seminary community by creating a safer environment for all. To that end, we have taken the following steps in recent months:*

- *created a new administrative leadership position, Dean of Women, with responsibilities to include serving as the first point of contact for any women with concerns or complaints;*
- *updated admissions policies to prohibit anyone who is listed on a sex offender registry from being admitted as a student;*
- *reviewed and updated administrative, student, and personnel policies to ensure compliance with expectations for mandatory reporting;*
- *finalizing plans to implement sexual abuse awareness training for all faculty, staff, and students; and*
- *transitioning from a seminary campus security team to a campus police force consisting entirely of professional, sworn officers. After hiring a new chief of police with more than 30 years police experience, the seminary now has 12 sworn police officers with an average experience of nearly 30 years in major metropolitan departments and only 3 security officers, with plans to be 100 percent sworn officers during 2020. Previously, there were only 4 sworn officers with average experience of 4-5 years, none in major metro departments, and 14 security officers.*

*Southwestern Seminary supports all efforts in the life of the Southern Baptist Convention to better educate our churches – both ministers and members – about the biblical, moral, and legal obligations to oppose sexual abuse in our midst and to minister effectively to those harmed by such sinful activity.*

\* Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

**2. SBC Referral: To request Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary to pursue the recovery of certain seminary property (Items 40 and 79, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 60, 80)**

**Motion:** Benjamin Cole, Oklahoma

“That this Convention request the trustees of SWBTS to authorize the seminary president and legal counsel to pursue through all means necessary the lawful recovery of seminary property, both tangible and intangible, including furniture, household furnishings, artifacts, antiquities, memorabilia, audiovisual and computer equipment, and any official records that may have been removed from the presidential home or other campus facilities without authorization between the dates of May 30, 2018, and February 27, 2019.”

**Response:\*\*** The Board of Trustees of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has authorized the Administration to pursue through all means necessary the lawful recovery of seminary property that was removed from the campus without authorization between the dates of May 30, 2018, and February 27, 2019.

After the termination of then-president Paige Patterson in May 2018, Southwestern Seminary learned that the Pattersons had improperly removed boxes of documents that belonged to the Seminary from the President’s Home (then called Pecan Manor) on campus. The documents included confidential donor information, student records, institutional correspondence, financial records, historical files, and meeting and Convention records. Through legal counsel, over the course of several months, the Seminary repeatedly requested that the Pattersons return these documents. In doing so, the Seminary specifically identified the records that needed to be returned. Rather than return the records, the Pattersons advised the Seminary that the documents had been “purged.” At the same time, the Seminary has expended significant energies in reviewing and cataloging the archives of former President Patterson in order to return to their rightful owner items that do not belong to the Seminary. To date, the records that the Seminary has requested the Pattersons return have not been returned. Instead (and contrary to the Pattersons representations that Seminary records had been purged), the Pattersons have continued to use institutional records for their own personal benefit and to the detriment of the Seminary.

**A. Misappropriation of Confidential Donor Information**

An integral part of the Seminary’s ongoing operations consists of procuring donations (or gifts) to the Seminary from individuals and foundations. As is the case with many (if not all) institutions of higher learning, the donations serve a large number of purposes, such as providing scholarships to students, subsidizing faculty pay and undertaking various capital projects, as well as many other important matters. In connection with its charitable giving efforts, the Seminary developed a confidential donor list that identified every individual and entity that has made a gift or donation to the Seminary. As detailed herein, the Pattersons have continued to use the Seminary’s confidential donor list in order to contact Seminary donors to divert donations and gifts away from the Seminary. The Pattersons’s actions have caused substantial financial harm to the Seminary.

Within days of President Patterson’s termination, Candi Finch<sup>1</sup> emailed the Seminary’s confidential donor list to a private email address associated with an assistant to the Pattersons. The donor list identified all individuals and entities who have made donations to Southwestern

<sup>1</sup> Dr. Finch formerly served on the Seminary’s faculty and served as professor of Women’s Studies under the guidance of Dr. Dorothy K. Patterson. Dr. Finch has a close relationship with the Pattersons and currently has a role at the Pattersons’ nonprofit organization, the Sandy Creek Foundation.

\*\* Response has been updated from 2020 SBC Annual.



Seminary. The donor list is an incredibly advantageous, useful, and important tool in the Seminary's efforts to raise needed funds for operation. In fact, the Seminary has taken steps to maintain the confidentiality of its donor lists and to prevent disclosure to third-parties.

Using the Seminary's confidential donor lists, the Pattersons undertook a scheme to contact Seminary donors in attempts to convince the donors to withhold gifts from the Seminary and instead make donations to the Sandy Creek Foundation, the Pattersons' personal nonprofit organization. For example:

- Shortly before President Patterson was terminated, the Seminary received a \$5 million gift that would fund a new endowment to support the seminary's program that aims to strengthen theological education around the world by forming strategic partnerships with seminaries and Baptist conventions overseas. Once terminated, however, the Pattersons persuaded the donors to revoke their substantial gift and to instead donate those funds to Sandy Creek Foundation. Although the Seminary was under no legal obligation to return the irrevocable gift, it did so to honor the donors' wishes.
- In December 2018, the Pattersons used the donor list to send out a mass mailer on behalf of the Sandy Creek Foundation to all of the individuals and entities identified on the donor list. This mailer was unsolicited and asked for donations to be made to Sandy Creek.
- Using the confidential donor list, the Pattersons have also reached out to potential donors to spread misinformation regarding the Seminary, particularly with respect to its board and new administration. In at least one instance, the Pattersons told a donor that the Seminary had wrongfully terminated the Pattersons and that they had been "kicked out into the cold" by the Seminary, which resulted in the Pattersons being forced to live with their children in Plano, Texas. Omitted from such communication were the facts that (i) the Seminary allowed them to live in "Pecan Manor" until September 2018 (four months after they were terminated); (ii) the Seminary continued to pay full salary and benefits for several months after their termination; and (iii) the Pattersons were now living in a home in Parker, Texas, purchased by the Sandy Creek Foundation for roughly \$1 million on August 20, 2018. This purchase appears to have been made possible by the procurement of the above-referenced \$5 million gift.
- Separate and apart from her gift promised for the construction and operation of a new campus facility now known as Carroll House, home of the Seminary's B.H. Carroll Center for Baptist Heritage and Mission, donor Elizabeth Griffin had a will prepared that gifted a substantial amount of money to the Seminary. In July 2020, the Pattersons reached out to Ms. Griffin (who passed away in December of 2020) to schedule a meeting to discuss her estate planning. After reaching an agreed-upon date, the Pattersons travelled to Memphis, Tennessee, via private jet to meet with Ms. Griffin in an attempt to convince her to change her will's beneficiary away from the Seminary.

These examples are just several selections of how the Pattersons have used the Seminary's confidential donor list for their own benefit and to the detriment of the Seminary. The Seminary believes that the Pattersons continue to use the donor list to solicit funds for Sandy Creek. The Pattersons's actions have caused (and will continue to cause) significant harm to the Seminary, as it has lost out on a substantial amount of donations that it would have likely received, absent the Pattersons's adversarial actions.

**B. Artwork and Other Items Taken from Bolin Collection**

In 2009, a collection including artwork, taxidermy, firearms, and other items was graciously donated to the Seminary by Mr. Perry Bolin. Many of these items were displayed publicly in the Naylor Student Center until 2018. After the termination of Dr. Patterson, the decision was made by the interim president to redesign the Student Center and remove much of the taxidermy from public display. In 2019, the Seminary worked with the Bolin family to transfer ownership of much of the collection to a third-party since the Seminary did not have plans to publicly display again the taxidermy on campus.

As an inventory of this collection was taken beginning in 2019 and lasting into 2020, it was discovered that several items could not be located. These missing items included artwork, taxidermy, and antique firearms. Through pictures posted to social media, the Seminary learned that at least one of the missing paintings is hanging in the Pattersons' new home in Parker, Texas. On multiple occasions, legal counsel for the Seminary has contacted the Pattersons' legal counsel to request the items be returned. As of the time of this response, the missing items have yet to be returned to the Seminary.

**C. Conclusion**

Even as the Seminary's Board of Trustees has authorized the Administration to pursue the rightful recovery of Seminary property, it is our fervent prayer that this matter be promptly resolved so that the full energies of the Board of Trustees and the Administration can be focused on the present and future work of the Seminary. At the same time, the Seminary has a stewardship responsibility to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention that requires both the disclosure of this unfortunate reality as well as every effort being made to recover Seminary property that has been removed from the campus without authorization and misappropriated in a way harmful to the Seminary.

# SEMINARY COMPARATIVE DATA

## 1. Enrollment:

a. Total SBC Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) both funded and unfunded - (Total credit hours divided by 24).

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>3 Yr Rolling Average</u>
GS	420	443	498	454
MBTS	1,615	1,395	1,264	1,425
NOBTS	1,508	1,531	1,598	1,546
SEBTS	2,438	2,215	2,128	2,260
SBTS	2,762	2,311	2,339	2,471
SWBTS	1,126	1,029	1,164	1,106
Total	9,869	8,924	8,991	9,261

b. Actual FTEs approved by the Council of Seminary Presidents for Cooperative Program (CP) Seminary Funding Formula:

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>3 Yr Rolling Average</u>
GS	342	338	422	367
MBTS	1,615	1,395	1,264	1,425
NOBTS	1,145	1,110	1,028	1,094
SEBTS	1,268	1,185	1,216	1,223
SBTS	2,762	2,311	2,339	2,471
SWBTS	1,126	1,029	1,164	1,106
Total	8,258	7,368	7,433	7,686

c. CP Allocation per SBC student.

	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>
	<u>Total SBC Students</u>	<u>CP Allocation Budget</u>	<u>CP Allocation Per Student</u>
GS	420	\$ 3,836,589	\$ 9,135
MBTS	1,615	\$ 6,924,461	\$ 4,288
NOBTS	1,508	\$ 7,032,583	\$ 4,664
SEBTS	2,438	\$ 7,492,794	\$ 3,073
SBTS	2,762	\$ 10,283,214	\$ 3,723
SWBTS	1,126	\$ 7,377,175	\$ 6,552
Total	9,869	\$ 42,946,816	\$ 4,352

d. Nonduplicating head count (number of students registered and taking one credit hour or more).

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Non-SBC Students</u>	<u>SBC Students</u>	
GS	314	1,607	1,921
MBTS	1,265	3,109	4,374
NOBTS	471	3,983	4,454
SEBTS	1,692	3,523	5,215
SBTS	1,097	4,562	5,659
SWBTS	795	3,112	3,907
Total	5,634	19,896	25,530

e. Basic Degrees awarded for the 2019-2020 academic year

	<b>M.Div. (3 year)</b>	<b>Th.M.</b>	<b>M.A. &amp; other 2-year</b>
GS	38	1	66
MBTS	89	33	161
NOBTS	88	22	154
SEBTS	170	17	181
SBTS	265	37	140
SWBTS	117	20	307
Total	767	130	1,009

f. Total Tuition Revenue

	<b>2020-2021</b>	<b>2019-2020</b>	<b>2018-2019</b>
GS	\$ 4,057,565	\$ 4,155,363	\$ 3,647,064
MBTS	\$ 16,358,000	\$ 17,202,731	\$ 13,316,002
NOBTS	\$ 8,121,750	\$ 9,789,099	\$ 9,553,944
SEBTS	\$ 13,744,620	\$ 17,351,408	\$ 16,031,323
SBTS	\$ 19,252,270	\$ 26,947,691	\$ 25,802,607
SWBTS	\$ 13,644,309	\$ 14,959,734	\$ 13,051,740
Total	\$ 75,178,514	\$ 90,406,026	\$ 81,402,680

g. Credit Hour Costs: 2020-2021

	<b>Non SBC Students</b>	<b>SBC Student</b>
GS	\$495	\$275
MBTS	\$485	\$285
NOBTS	\$440	\$275
SEBTS	\$580	\$290
SBTS	\$475	\$275
SWBTS	\$590	\$295

h. Annual Cost per Student (For a married student on campus, tuition, fees, book, & housing)

	<b>2020-2021 Non SBC</b>	<b>2020-2021 SBC</b>
GS	\$ 33,330	\$ 28,490
MBTS	\$ 22,616	\$ 19,106
NOBTS	\$ 17,300	\$ 14,330
SEBTS	\$ 17,797	\$ 12,577
SBTS	\$ 22,902	\$ 18,102
SWBTS	\$ 17,740	\$ 12,430

i. Percent of total budget that relates to personnel expenses based on each seminary's E&G budget (salaries and benefits):

	<b>2020-2021 Low</b>	<b>2020-2021 Median</b>	<b>2020-2021 High</b>
GS	72%	72.6%	72.3%
MBTS			68%
NOBTS		67.5%	
SEBTS			76%
SBTS			57.8%
SWBTS	72.06%	72.22%	67.4%

j. Statement of Income for 2019-2020:

	GS	MBTS	NOBTS	SEBTS	SBTS	SWBTS	TOTAL
Tuition & Fees	\$ 3,383,588	\$ 17,202,731	\$ 9,789,099	\$ 17,351,408	\$ 26,947,691	\$ 14,959,734	\$ 89,634,251
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$ 597,006	\$ 2,025,542	\$ 3,920,980	\$ 5,187,235	\$ 5,687,180	\$ 5,257,042	\$ 22,674,985
Cooperative Program	\$ 3,842,288	\$ 6,766,348	\$ 6,698,326	\$ 7,492,794	\$ 10,283,214	\$ 7,377,175	\$ 42,460,145
Private Gifts	\$ 126,550	\$ 2,093,610	\$ 7,334,314	\$ 1,103,048	\$ 3,404,579	\$ 9,827,249	\$ 23,899,350
Endowment Income	\$ 1,235,579	\$ 494,788	\$ 1,766,306	\$ 257,758	\$ 5,767,642	\$ 4,300,396	\$ 13,822,469
Investments	\$ 156,233	\$ 947	\$ 423,168	-	Endowment Income	\$ 580,348	\$ 580,348
Return on Beneficial Interest Trusts	\$ 2,448,911	\$ 0	\$ 0	-	Included in Endowment Income	\$ (454,157)	\$ 1,994,754
Other Income	\$ 139,086	\$ 240,594	\$ 3,311,199	\$ 378,636	\$ 514,844	\$ 1,665,499	\$ 6,249,858
Total Income	\$ 11,929,241	\$ 29,508,879	\$ 33,541,392	\$ 31,770,879	\$ 52,605,150	\$ 42,932,938	\$ 202,288,479
% of CP to Total Income	32.2%	22.9%	19.9%	23.58%	19.54%	17.19%	20.99%



## SEMINARY EXTENSION

**A ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention:  
Incorporated under the Council of Seminary Presidents  
901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville 37203**

**R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR., President of the Council of Seminary Presidents  
RANDAL A. WILLIAMS, Executive Director of Seminary Extension**

### INTRODUCTION

Seminary Extension is a ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Through this ministry, the SBC provides an opportunity for theological education and ministry training to individuals who cannot or will not attend a traditional institution of learning. Students may take one course or enroll in certificate and diploma programs. Many take individual courses for personal and spiritual development. Others enroll in programs where they take a prescribed group of biblical, theological, and ministry training courses that are affordable and immediately applicable.

By action of the Southern Baptist Convention, Seminary Extension began its work June 15, 1951, with Lee Gallman as its director. In 2007, Randal A. Williams became Seminary Extension's seventh director. Under these seven leaders, Seminary Extension has served and continues to serve Southern Baptists by educating its members where they live and serve.

Seminary Extension is not a formally accredited institution. Nevertheless, many college and seminary undergraduate programs recognize the value of its courses and accept credit for them. This acceptance is generally based on the following criteria. First, Seminary Extension courses are of excellent academic quality. Courses are written by individuals approved by the Council of Seminary Deans (the academic deans of our SBC seminaries). Most course writers are professors in our SBC seminaries. Second, Seminary Extension testing methods ensure the integrity of the work done by students. Third, student records are permanent, accessible, and accurate. Although we maintain these standards, Seminary Extension cannot guarantee that other institutions will receive transfer credit for its courses. Therefore, it is important to check with other institutions before investing in courses with Seminary Extension for the purpose of transferring credit.

Seminary Extension is licensed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Seminary Extension students may take advantage of two methods of study. Many students have the opportunity to study with friends and neighbors in small groups. These groups are generally formed to take one or more courses to strengthen a local ministry. For instance, we have groups that meet in local Baptist association offices or churches where a Seminary Extension-certified instructor guides them through courses. The other method is independent study which is accomplished through correspondence. These students simply work directly with Seminary Extension to complete courses at their own pace.

### PROGRAM REPORT

The statistical data below shows the number of course enrollments and the total number of students enrolled during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Course Enrollments	820
Total Number of Students	488



## SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

901 Commerce Street, Suite 400, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

TAFFEY HALL, Director

Governed by the Council of Seminary Presidents

August 2019 – July 2020

### Yearly Highlights

- Acquired two records center boxes of the J.C. Bradley Associational Missions Collection, 1933-2006; four records center boxes and two document boxes of the Art Toalston Baptist Journalism Collection, 1985-1998; the yearly activities notebook of the Baptist Communicators Association, 2019; 21 records center boxes of SBC Executive Committee materials, 1950-2019; and one document box of Great Commission Resurgence blog articles, 2009-2011
- Acquired two document boxes of Baptist Sunday School Board art materials, 1900-1970
- Acquired one document box each of the Baptist Marriage Encounter Collection, 1973-1980; materials of the former Ross Avenue Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, 1984-2005; Elizabeth Dowell Jesse Hendley Revival Campaign Scrapbook, 1946; William Hambrick Collection, 1920s-1950s; American Bible Society materials, 1835-1988; and Scandinavian Baptists Collection
- Acquired two records center boxes of additions to the East Tennessee Baptist Hospital Collection
- Acquired four small archive collections (1-2 document boxes each) and two periodicals of Baptist social ministries in New York and Pennsylvania: the Brooklyn (NY) Baptist Orphanage Collection, 1910-1940; Baptist Home of Brooklyn, NY Collection, 1882-1932; Baptist City Mission (NY) Collection, 1875-1886; Baptist Home of Philadelphia Collection, 1870-1940; *Pennsylvania Baptist Education Society* minutes, 1950-1907; and *New York Baptist Union for Ministerial Education*, 1850-1926
- Catalogued 99 ethnic Baptist history books (some in foreign languages) into OCLC and the Library's online catalog
- Microfilmed records of two Baptist churches, the 2017-2018 Baptist state newspapers, and Florida Baptist Convention annuals, 2008-2014
- Completed processing 18 archive collections: the J. J. Burt New Zealand All-Age Sunday School Collection; sermon collections of Samuel Granade, Ronald Clyde Sumners, and Stephen Shoemaker; Uniform Church Letter Microfiche Collection; Juliette Mather Collection; Joseph and Edna Harrington Collection; K. Medford Hutson Collection; David T. Bunch Mission Service Corps/Volunteers in Mission Collection; Southern Baptist Social Service Association Records; Southern Baptist Computer Users Association Collection; Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists Collection; Conservative Baptists of Oregon Collection; Brooklyn (New York) Baptist Orphanage Manuals; SBC Historical Commission Records; John D. Freeman Papers; Garland Robertson Collection; and William Yoder Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists Press Releases Collection

- Completed new historical displays on Gateway Seminary's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Cooperative Program, and John Lewis – the American Baptist Theological Seminary Years
- Completed digitization and online accessibility of SBC Convention sermons (1846-2018); Woman's Missionary Union publications *Our Mission Fields* and *Royal Service* (1906-1978); the Southern Baptist Periodical Index (1965-1984); and the *Southern Baptist Handbook*—produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board—(1921-1993). A digital resources section of early African American Baptist annuals that were microfilmed by the former SBC Historical Commission was also completed
- Completed a long, overdue painting and re-carpeting of Library and Archives' facilities and redesigned research space for better use
- Added 2,996 annuals, 27 archive collections, 150 audio-visuals/kits, 521 books, one church history file, 13 electronic resources, 311 informational files, 206 Lifeway Bible study curriculum resources, 22 microfilm reels, 373 pamphlets, 2,493 periodicals, and 292 photographs

### Research Use

The collection continues to attract scholars and students from a wide range of colleges and universities. Researchers from 22 different institutions conducted research in the collection during the past year. The collection was visited by 72 registered researchers and staff provided 1,428 patron contacts.

### Acquisitions

The J.C. Bradley Associational Missions Collection (1933-2006) and the Art Toalston Baptist Journalism Collection (1985-1998) were acquired. Bradley served over two decades as director of Associational Missions at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Collection includes reports, study papers, publications, associational guides, manuals, and subject files related to Bradley's work in the area of missions to local Baptist associations. The Toalston Collection includes printed copies of news stories Toalston wrote for the SBC Foreign Mission Board and Baptist Press, and the research files used for his articles. One notebook documenting the 2019 activities of the Baptist Communicators Association was added, as well as 21 boxes of Executive Committee materials and one box of Great Commission Resurgence blog articles.

Additions were made to the Baptist Sunday School Board / Lifeway Christian Resources records series. These included a collection of Art Department Periodical Covers (1900-1970), and the Glass Plate Images and Artwork Collection (1910-1930).

The Baptist Marriage Encounter Collection which contains correspondence, seminar materials, and organizational documents (1973-1980); Elizabeth Dowell Jesse Hendly Revival Campaign notebook (1946); American Bible Society materials (1835-1988); and the William Hambrick Collection were acquired. Hambrick served as a traveling evangelist in Florida and Georgia in the 1920s-1950s. Four small archive collections (one to two document boxes each) and two periodicals of Baptist social ministries in New York and Pennsylvania were also acquired. These include the Brooklyn (NY) Baptist Orphanage Collection (1910-1940); Baptist Home of Brooklyn, NY Collection (1882-1932); Baptist City Mission (NY) Collection (1875-1886); Baptist Home of Philadelphia Collection (1870-1940); *Pennsylvania Baptist Education Society* minutes (1907-1950); and *New York Baptist Union for Ministerial Education* (1850-1926).

Additions were made to the SBLHA's international, national, state, and association minutes collections including additions to the African American, Native American, Australian, New Zealand, Danish, Swedish, Free Will, Six Principle, and Seventh-Day Baptist holdings.



Ninety-nine ethnic Baptist history books (some in foreign languages) were cataloged into OCLC and the Library's online catalog. These included African American, Brazilian (Portuguese), Chinese, German, Kazakhstan, Laotian, Norwegian, Romanian, Russian, Swedish, and Ukrainian Baptist titles.

### **Preservation Program**

Preserving material in a sustainable format is an ongoing task for the staff of the SBHLA. The staff works to provide archival quality containers (folders and boxes) and a suitable environment for the valuable collection in the library and archives. Encapsulation work was completed on especially fragile letters in the Samuel G. Day Collection. Day served as a Southern Baptist missionary to Liberia from 1849-1852. Staff incorporated 158 preservation copies of Lifeway Bible study curriculum resources into the Library and Archives' holdings. A catalog record in the Library's local Voyager catalog was generated for these items. Microfilming was completed on two church records, Florida Baptist Convention annuals (2008-2014), and the 2017-2018 Baptist state newspapers resulting in the addition of 18 reels of microfilm to the collection.

### **Access to the Collection**

The processing of 18 significant archive collections was completed, including cataloging and posting the finding aids to the website on these collections. Processing of the J.J. Burt All-Age Sunday School Collection was completed. This collection includes correspondence (primarily between Burt and W.L. Howse of the Sunday School Board of the SBC), publications, and reports related to forming an all-age Sunday school program for the Baptist Union of New Zealand.

Three sermon collections of Baptist ministers Samuel Granade, Stephen Shoemaker, and Ronald Clyde Sumners were processed. The Granade Collection includes mostly handwritten sermons and shorter versions on note paper. All sermons include a Scripture reference and are usually dated on the back side of the sermon text. Some sermons span almost 40 years. For 25 years, Granade served as pastor of the Evergreen Baptist Church in Evergreen, Alabama. He then served as Director of the Department of Church-Minister Relations for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions until his retirement in 1983. He also served four years on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. After retirement, he served as interim pastor to 15 Baptist churches in Alabama. Sumners pastored churches in North Carolina, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Alabama. He also served as assistant director for Baptist Campus Ministries at Auburn University. In the early 1990s, he was called as pastor of the Meadow Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, where he served for 19 years. Shoemaker is a Baptist minister who served as pastor to churches in Kentucky, Texas, and North Carolina. The Shoemaker collection includes printed copies of his sermon text while pastor at the Broadway Baptist Church in Ft. Worth, Texas. The collection includes one sermon from Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky. Also included with most of the sermons is a copy of the church bulletin/order of worship when that sermon was preached.

Processing of the Uniform Church Letter Microfiche Collection was completed. Collection consists of microfiche Uniform Church Letter data (1962-1993). The Uniform Church Letter, renamed the Annual Church Profile, was used by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to collect statistical data from Southern Baptist related churches. It was initiated in 1922 by the Research and Statistics Department of the Sunday School Board. Microfiche includes Uniform Church Letter reports sorted by county, association, state, and membership size.

Processing of the Juliette Mather Collection was completed. Collection includes typescript and handwritten form letters containing news and updates on Mather's mission service work that

Mather wrote to her family and friends between 1957-1967 when she served as a missionary in Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan after her retirement from Woman's Missionary Union.

Processing was completed on the Joseph and Edna Harrington Collection. This collection contains letters Mrs. Harrington wrote to her parents about life on the mission field. The majority of the correspondence cover the years 1932-1968. The Harringtons served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Minas Gerais, Brazil from the 1930s-1980s. In Brazil, Mrs. Harrington worked primarily with children and young people through Bible teaching, dramas, the Baptist Student Union, and preparing children's literature for the Baptist Sunday School Board of Brazil. She also shared the Gospel through her singing. Joseph Harrington served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Juiz de Fora, Brazil, and as head of the Baptist College of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte. He served on two different occasions as president of the South Brazil Mission of the Foreign Mission Board, and as vice president of the Brazilian Bible Press.

Processing of the papers of Southern Baptist home missionary and pastor K. Medford Hutson were completed. This collection covers years 1949-2002 and contains articles and newspaper clippings about Hutson and his wife Dorothy, correspondence, newsletters the Hutsons produced, photographs, scrapbooks, information files about missions in Utah, and Hutson's writings. Medford and Dorothy Hutson served the Home Mission Board in the area of pioneer missions in Utah beginning in the 1960s. From 1948-1950, Hutson served as a member of the United States Air Force, and with the Air Force National Guard until 1951. He was a common laborer and truck driver before being ordained to the ministry. From 1952-1963, he pastored several churches in Texas.

The papers of Garland Robertson were processed. This collection contains materials documenting events surrounding Southern Baptist military chaplain with the U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Garland L. Robertson's challenging of the use of military force in the Persian Gulf in 1991. The collection spans years 1982-1996, with most material covering years 1991-1994. The collection includes two document boxes of photocopies of correspondence, newspaper clippings, and statements from religious organizations concerning the Persian Gulf Crisis. A manuscript Robertson wrote about his military experience is also included. Robertson served as a combat pilot in Vietnam. He earned an M.Div. and Ph.D. in ethics from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The David T. Bunch Mission Service Corps/Volunteers in Mission Collection was processed. This collection spans years 1966-1989 and includes subject files, correspondence, newspaper clippings, newsletters, photographs, and statistical data related to the MSC/VIM, a joint venture with the Home Mission Board, Foreign Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union, and Brotherhood Commission to promote volunteerism in missions. Bunch, who served as assistant vice president for strategy development, extension section, with the HMB, served as a pastor in Missouri and as a Greek teacher at St. Louis Baptist College prior to joining the Board.

Processing was completed on the Southern Baptist Social Service Association (SBSSA) Records and the Southern Baptist Computer Users Association (SBCUA). Each collection documents the annual meeting of the associations and contains files such as annual meeting agendas, minutes, financial reports, and membership rosters. The SBSAA was active from 1959-1991. Beginnings of the SBCUA can be traced to 1967 when the coordinating committee of the Inter-Agency Council (IAC) commissioned a study entitled, "A Feasibility Study on the Use of Computers in SBC Programming." Out of that report came the establishment of a continuing organization of data processing executives within the SBC for the purpose of more closely coordinating the data processing activities of the various agencies, boards, and institutions. The SBCUA held its first annual meeting in 1973.

Processing of the Fellowship of Tennessee Baptist Evangelists Collection was completed. Collection contains correspondence, membership directories, photographs, programs, financial reports, and files on One Day Revivals of the FTBE, as well as material on vocational evangelists. The FTBE included full-time and bi-vocational evangelists and music evangelists from across Tennessee. Organized in 1975, the FTBE held its annual meeting just prior to the Tennessee Baptist Evangelism Conference.

The Conservative Baptist Association of Oregon Collection was processed. Collection contains correspondence, reports, directories, and statistical data on the CBA of Oregon. The majority of materials cover the years 1963-1978 and the majority of correspondence include letters to/from Richard V. Clearwaters. The CBA of Oregon was organized in 1948, one year after the Conservative Baptist Association of America (CBAmerica) organized in Atlantic City, New Jersey. CBAmerica formed during the Fundamentalist-Modernist Controversy of the Northern Baptist Convention (NBC).

Processing was completed on the Brooklyn Baptist Orphanage Manuals. Collection contains manuals describing the work of the Orphanage from 1910-1940. The Orphanage, located in Long Island, New York, in Brooklyn, opened in 1910 with the purpose of taking charge of children who were orphaned. The manuals contain a list of the officers of Board of Directors, committee members, a copy of the act of incorporation, by-laws, reports, financial information, information on children received, donations, and sustaining members.

The William Yoder Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists Press Releases Collection was processed. Collection contains press releases of the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (RUECB) (2007-2015). All but one of the press releases are in English. Some of the press releases include translations in German. Dr. William Yoder was born in the United States and grew up in a Mennonite church in Florida. In 2006, he began serving the Russian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the department of external church relations as media spokesperson.

Processing was completed on the SBC Historical Commission Records and John D. Freeman Papers. The Historical Commission Records include correspondence, minutes, reports, research files, and committee files and reports (1953-1997). John Freeman served as editor of the *Western Recorder* and *Baptist and Reflector* state Baptist newspapers, and as executive secretary-treasurer of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. This collection contains correspondence, sermons, sermon outlines, addresses, and subject files related to Freeman's service as a Southern Baptist denominational executive and journalist. The collection also documents Freeman's service in the area of rural church work for the SBC Home Mission Board and his service as a pastor at churches in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The SBHLA awarded 12 individuals with Lynn E. May Study Gants for the year 2019-2020, in the amount of \$500 per person.

Five new projects were added to the Digital Resources page of the SBHLA website. These any-word-searchable PDF files include SBC Convention sermons (1846-2018); *Our Mission Fields* and *Royal Service* Woman's Missionary Union publications (1906-1978); the Southern Baptist Periodical Index, (1965-1984); the *Southern Baptist Handbook*—produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board—(1921-1993); and African American Baptist annuals, (1842-1933).

The SBHLA is tasked with collecting, preserving, and making available materials that document Southern Baptist history. This work allows members of our staff to discover aspects of our Baptist heritage that inspire and enrich us each day. Our task is big but we welcome the work with grateful hearts.

# COMMISSION



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS  
LIBERTY COMMISSION  
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

**901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, Tennessee 37203**

**DAVID PRINCE, Chairman**  
**RUSSELL MOORE, President\***

It is clear that these are strange and tumultuous times. A time of revelation, in the truest sense of the word, about our culture and our churches. The events of 2020 have shown us much about this moment that we inhabit: a lack of trust in institutions throughout the public square; a divided and polarized political landscape, with hostility more common than seeking the common good; and the very real frailty of this life in the midst of a pandemic that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans. If anything has been revealed to those watching, and has been reaffirmed for the church, it is just how desperately the Gospel is needed for a world in chaos and groaning for redemption. In the midst of this challenge, the ERLC has sought to provide a consistent voice applying the moral demands of the Gospel to the issues confronting the church.

The pandemic, predicted by no one when we were planning for the upcoming year, has brought forth a number of difficult challenges. From a death toll that continues to rise to the economic instability caused by the loss of jobs, people have understandably lost a sense of security and safety. Even the measures meant to safeguard the most vulnerable—social distancing, shutdowns, cancellation of weddings and funerals—have caused their own forms of sadness, frustration, and isolation.

However, even in these trying times, there are moments of grace. Churches and Christians have adapted to this moment and done the seemingly impossible. Thousands, almost overnight, transitioned to digital platforms and asked “How can we serve our neighbors in this moment?” Your ERLC has sought to equip the church by creating a platform on our website that hosts COVID-19 resources and articles. It features videos from pastors and ministry leaders across the country discussing how they have led their congregations in innovative and inspiring ways.

As vaccines to end this terrible plague have been developed, your ERLC hosted Dr. Francis Collins, the head of the National Institutes of Health, and a faithful Christian, to discuss the truth about vaccines and equip pastors with the information they need for their congregations.

We have spent the past year working with Congress to protect the eligibility of local churches to secure loans through the CARES Act and the SBA Paycheck Protection Program, all while ensuring proper protections for religious freedom were put in place. Further, we have worked with governors, members of Congress, and local leaders to ensure that religious liberty is protected alongside public health.

Our work in other realms has not ended, even as it has taken on new forms in the midst of the pandemic. We have continued the work to advance religious freedom in a number of avenues, most notably an amicus brief cited in the Supreme Court majority opinion ruling that churches have the right to hire staff consistent with their convictions. Further, we have joined in cases against an abortion industry that has attempted to use the pandemic as a pretext for their horrific agenda. Moreover, to advance the cause of life, this past fall we were able to announce an incredible victory for our Psalm 139 Project through a generous donation that allows us to

place 10 ultrasound machines in pregnancy resource centers across the country—a record for our initiative.

Our advocacy for religious liberty extended to the international front as we advocated on behalf of persecuted Christians and Muslim Uyghurs in China, a minority religious group oppressed by the Chinese government for their beliefs.

Finally, a fractured public square confronted us at the conclusion of 2020, something no one can dispute. Our team, in an effort to resource pastors and local churches, created the Courage and Civility Church Toolkit to provide sermon outlines and guided discussions centered on the topics causing division in churches and around the dinner table. However, while we believe this resource was useful, more must be done. As part of that, our team continued our work speaking in churches on these issues as the year came to a close, and we will continue in the days ahead to advocate for convictional kindness to be displayed in the public square.

The past year has been a year of chaos and a year of revelation. The ERLC has endeavored to represent Southern Baptists in the public square with the truth of the Gospel courageously, and the kindness that is our weapon of war against the forces of hatred and division. But this year also served as a reminder of God’s abundant kindness and the great work that churches are doing daily. As we look ahead to the next year, I am encouraged by the thought of thousands of Southern Baptist congregations continuing to carry the message of the gospel to a world sorely in need of its hope, its stability, and its grace.

For the Gospel,  
Russell Moore\*

*\* This report was submitted prior to the May 18, 2021, announcement of Russell Moore’s departure from ERLC. As of June 1, 2021, Daniel L. Patterson is serving as acting president.*

## MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*(SBC entities present ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February relating to their ministry assignments [SBC Bylaw 18E]. At their request, the following content is provided from the 2021 Ministry Report of The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.)*

### **I. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.**

Throughout 2020, as various conflicts emerged and as people dealt with aspects of the isolation we all endured, the ERLC worked in this moment to help churches apply the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life in this moment. Each week during the pandemic, we have sought to project a consistent voice on the genuine issues facing our churches. Whether it was collisions between church and state, leading communities in the fight against COVID-19, combatting the scourge of sexual abuse, calling attention to international violations of human dignity, or building consensus on behalf of the most vulnerable in our society, the ERLC created numerous resources, articles, briefs, and videos to equip churches.

The ERLC also hosted several convenings throughout the year to keep Southern Baptists informed about relevant issues in the public square. Here are examples of a few:

- The COVID Vaccines: In our largest event of the year, Dr. Moore interviewed Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, about the safety and the efficacy of the vaccines developed to end the pandemic. During the event, Moore asked about the confidence individuals should have in the vaccines, the timeline of their development, and when our churches will be able to return to normal.

- China's Rising Threat to Human Rights: To help call more public attention to an unfolding atrocity in China, the ERLC brought together Dr. Moore, U.S. Ambassador Sam Brownback, and other leading experts to discuss China's treatment of religious minorities, including efforts to target Christian churches and the appalling actions taken against Uyghur Muslims.
- Christian Women at Work series: These online events occurred throughout 2020 to engage, equip, and encourage Christian women. This series was initially designed for an audience in the nation's capital but was able to be expanded to a national audience. The topics covered include: the challenges of working from home, an encouragement to rest, and working to achieve racial unity.

Beyond events, the ERLC provided helpful resources for churches in the midst of the pandemic. Our [ERLC.com/COVID19](https://www.ERLC.com/COVID19) page became a one-stop resource for pastors and church leaders looking for encouragement and innovative ways to continue ministry during the year. Pastors and leaders throughout the SBC submitted videos that complemented the articles, statements, and explainers created by the ERLC staff. The ERLC also continued our partnership with the National Religious Broadcasters to provide ERLC content to be delivered on NRBTv and aired on DirectTV to millions of viewers around the country.

2020 stirred passions in the public square and Dr. Moore helped shape the moral witness of Christians with his timely new book *The Courage to Stand: Facing Your Fear Without Losing Your Soul*, released by B&H. The book calls readers to a Christ-empowered courage by pointing the way to real freedom from fear—the way of the cross. “That way means integrity through brokenness, community through loneliness, power through weakness, and a future through irrelevance.” Similarly, the ERLC released the Courage and Civility Church Toolkit to help equip pastors and church leaders with ways to work through current issues in the public square in a God-honoring way as a congregation. Other relevant resources designed for churches include the *Caring Well Hiring Guide* and the e-book: *A Parent's Guide to Teaching Your Children About Gender*. Additionally, the ERLC's award-winning *Light Magazine* released two issues in 2020 to help Southern Baptists understand the pressing issues related to COVID-19 (Summer 2020) and sexual abuse (Winter 2020).

Along with the impressive array of events and resources, the ERLC moved forward with audio assets. Our suite of podcasts offer multiple ways to equip the church. Dr. Moore's podcast, *Signposts*, provides an opportunity for listeners to hear directly from leading experts about the issues of the day. *Capitol Conversations* seeks to equip Christians on top policy matters in the public square. *Weekly Tech* is a new series that helps listeners understand the latest issues in the fast-paced world and ethical challenges presented by technology. The retooled *ERLC Podcast* takes a weekly look at significant cultural developments around the globe. The hosts routinely interview Southern Baptist leaders and faithful Christian experts about the intersection of the church and culture.

## **II. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.**

As the SBC entity charged not only to serve as a moral and ethical voice to Southern Baptist churches, but also to be a Gospel witness in the public square, the ERLC engaged every branch of government, at all levels, on multiple fronts, from meeting with lawmakers and advocacy partners to issuing public comments to the administration to filing amicus briefs in the Supreme Court.

The ERLC led in the public square on a range of issues, from religious liberty to the sanctity of human life to marriage to human dignity and many areas in between, seeking to apply the Gospel to public policy for the sake of religious liberty and human flourishing. Among the many specific policies we advanced, the ERLC worked to both secure vital religious liberty protections and be a voice of reason and persuasiveness on issues of concern to Southern Baptists. A summary of the ERLC's key policy victories this year are highlighted here:

- **Defending Religious Freedom During the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has raised a number of religious freedom issues around our country. These public health orders have created thousands of potential areas of conflict, as local officials in communities individually respond to local conditions. The ERLC has consistently and repeatedly advocated that the state treat churches the same as similar activities, businesses, and spaces consistent with First Amendment protections, while recognizing that God has given the state the authority to manage activities, businesses, and spaces during a national health crisis. The ERLC has produced a number of resources to equip churches as they work to understand the public health orders issued in their community and as they engage with local officials to advocate for their religious liberty rights.
- **Religious Liberty in COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance:** As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal government created a number of new programs, some of which were made available to churches and faith-based organizations. However, the way these programs were initially created raised a number of religious freedom concerns, particularly with respect to the applicability of problematic nondiscrimination statutes. The ERLC led a coalition of organizations to ensure that faith-based organizations could access initiatives created by the SBA Paycheck Protection Program and other programs created by the CARES Act without risking infringement of their religious freedom.
- **Supporting HHS Faith-Based Adoption Regulations:** Before leaving office in January 2017, President Obama implemented a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation among federal grantees. As a result of the rule, religious-based child welfare providers, such as adoption agencies, were required to abandon their deeply held religious beliefs in order to continue receiving federal funding for their services. A collective effort from public servants, law firms, and advocacy groups—including the ERLC—advocated for the need to bring these regulations back in line with all other federal nondiscrimination law.
- **Sanctions Against Chinese Leaders for Human Rights Abuses:** The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has taken an increasingly aggressive stance against religious minorities. The ERLC has urged both the administration and Congress to hold China accountable for these grave violations of religious liberty and human rights. In July, the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury announced the United States government would apply Global Magnitsky Sanctions to top-ranking Chinese officials and a Chinese government entity for the human rights abuses and religious freedom violations committed by the CCP against the Uyghur Muslim people in the Xinjiang province of China. The ERLC has been advocating for these sanctions for the last 18 months, including spearheading a high-level meeting with Vice President Pence and Chinese activists at the White House.

- **ERLC's Brief Cited in the Supreme Court's Guadalupe Ruling:** When the Supreme Court decided *Our Lady Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*, they did so by citing the ERLC's amicus curiae brief in the majority opinion. This 7-2 ruling protects the right of religious organizations to hire individuals who share their religious beliefs by expanding the scope of the *Hosanna-Tabor* secured ministerial exception to religious schools. The ERLC's friend-of-the-court brief, jointly filed with other religious organizations, argued that the ministerial exception is vital to ensure religious organizations are properly shielded from unconstitutional government interference and that the religious duties performed by school teachers were sufficient to be included in the exception. Justice Alito's citation of our brief was made to show why courts must respect that religious groups define a "minister" in a wide range of ways. Here is the quote, "religious traditions may differ in the degree of formal religious training thought to be needed in order to teach. See, e.g., Brief for Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention et al. as Amici Curiae 12 ('many Protestant groups have historically rejected any requirement of formal theological training').".

While these victories were important, the ERLC continued to advance policies within the executive and legislative branches to speak forcefully about the issues important to Southern Baptists.

- **Hyde Amendment Protection:** Since 2016, pro-life advocates have been on notice that the abortion lobby would try to eliminate the Hyde Amendment and secure more federal funding for abortions. The ERLC has been working with House and Senate leadership as well as the administration to ensure that the Hyde Amendment remains in all final spending bills passed each year. The ERLC has also made an effort to highlight the extremism of the positions taken by the abortion lobby, most recently in our coverage of the Supreme Court case *June Medical Services v. Russo*, in order to maintain and build support for the Hyde Amendment moving forward.
- **Support for the Born-alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act:** In 2002, President Bush signed into law the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002, which codified an infant born alive as a person like any other living human being. While this bill did not include any criminal consequences for a doctor failing to act, the Born-alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act sought to criminalize a doctor's failure to care for a human being born, despite a failed abortion. While *Roe v. Wade* divorced a fetus from personhood, the majority opinion still affirmed a person is entitled to full protection under the law. The Born-alive Survivors Protection Act seeks to continue the High Court's logic by mandating a healthcare practitioner exercise the same degree of care as reasonably provided to any other child born alive at the same gestational age, and ensure the child is immediately admitted to a hospital. This bill passed the House of Representatives in 2018 but failed to receive enough votes in the Senate. However, Senator Ben Sasse reintroduced the bill in the Senate in February 2020. Despite bipartisan support, the bill did not receive the 60-vote necessary threshold to be debated, thus being stalled on the floor. The ERLC will continue to fight for the lives of children, born and unborn, to be viewed as equal under the eyes of the law.
- **No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act:** Three years after *Roe v. Wade*, Congressman Henry Hyde introduced the Hyde Amendment to prevent federal funds from being allocated to funding abortive procedures. The Hyde Amendment is a temporary rider that must be passed each year by Congress. As previously mentioned, the Hyde



Amendment is under threat of not being passed in the future. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would codify Hyde Amendment into law and ensure that its no longer at-risk for yearly repeal.

- **Defunding Planned Parenthood:** Planned Parenthood, the nations's largest abortion provider, performed 345,672 abortions in fiscal year 2019. This is a single year record for the organization. However, in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized a rule pertaining to Title X funding, that "prohibits the use of Title X funds to perform, promote, refer for, or support abortion as a method of family planning." This rule cost Planned Parenthood at least 50 million a year. While this is a positive step forward, the ERLC will continue to work tirelessly to defund Planned Parenthood. We will do this to protect American taxpayer dollars from the largest abortion provider in the country. As Christians know, the Imago Dei is not solely confined to abortion-related issues. Being made in the image of God has implications from the smallest of cells to the biggest of human beings. The ERLC has fought previously and continues to fight for both of those and everything in between.
- **Continued Opposition of Fetal Tissue Research:** Fetal tissue research is the study of cells which have been provided through the death of a preborn child. In early 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) offered new regulatory statutes for fetal tissue research. This new regulation prohibited the use of fetal tissue research acquired from elective abortions, thus prohibiting the exploitation of human life for scientific benefit. In addition to prohibition of aborted fetal tissue, HHS instituted a new ethics committee to further review NIH grant proposals for research. This is a significant advancement towards the reinstitution of ethics into scientific research. The ERLC advocated for Southern Baptist ethicist Dr. C. Ben Mitchell to be a member of the HHS Human Fetal Tissue Ethics Advisory Board, and Dr. Mitchell was invited to join the board this year. The ERLC continues to advocate for ethical regulations of scientific research for the protection of human life.
- **Support HHS Conscience Protection Rules & Conscience and Religious Freedom Division:** The ERLC has supported new rules from HHS aimed at protecting life and conscience rights, titled, "Protecting Statutory Conscience Rights in Health Care." These proposed rules, in addition to the founding of a new HHS Conscience and Religious Freedom Division, are important to provide the HHS Office of Civil Rights with tools to enforce long-standing statutory conscience riders. These administrative actions are needed because it is unconscionable when pro-life healthcare workers are forced to participate in abortions and other medical procedures which conflict with their religiously informed conscience. While we work to end the practice of abortion-on-demand, we will make sure our current conscience rights are properly enforced. These rules have been enjoined in the courts and the ERLC will continue to advocate that they be upheld by the courts and finalized.
- **Opposition to the Equality Act and Fairness for All Act:** The ERLC opposes the Equality Act, along with a compromise bill called the Fairness For All Act. Both bills would add sexual orientation and gender identity to all titles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, with dramatic implications for churches, faith-based organizations, businesses owned by Christians, parents, and all Americans. The Equality Act fails to uphold human dignity in its attempt to codify the demands of the Sexual Revolution. While the proposed intention of the Equality Act is to protect individuals who identify as LGBT, the bill would instead steamroll the consciences of millions of people. As Dr. Moore,

often notes, “A government that can pave over the consciences of some, can steamroll over dissent everywhere.” The Equality Act undermines foundational constitutional freedoms in its pursuit of what may be momentary cultural affirmations.

- **Adoptee Citizenship Act:** In a world full of children in need, inter-country adoption is an essential measure of the Christian faith. When an adoption is finalized, the adoptee is treated by the law as if he or she had been born to the adoptive parents, and the adoptee should receive the same rights and privileges as natural born children. The administrative steps required of families adopting internationally were unnecessarily burdensome, and the Child Citizenship Act of 2000 granted automatic citizenship to all foreign-born children brought to the United States, who had at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen. Unfortunately, that Act only applied to adoptees under the age of 18 when the bill was enacted, leaving an entire population of adopted children without full U.S. citizenship. The Adoptee Citizenship Act closes the loophole to provide immediate citizenship to these individuals already adopted by U.S. citizens, yet left out of the previous bill. The ERLC has been leading a coalition of other like-minded partners in an effort to ensure this bill passes Congress. In April 2020, the ERLC led a coalition letter to Congressional leadership, urging them to swiftly pass this important bipartisan bill. This letter received 28 signatures and continues to be a useful advocacy tool in efforts for this legislation to be passed.
- **Responding to the Opioid Crisis:** Two-thirds of drug related deaths are due to opioid usage and the drivers for the epidemic are complex. Last year, the ERLC engaged with House leadership and the Department of Health and Human Services on a range of responses including poverty and welfare programs, engagement and training for the faith community, and drug prescription practices and regulation. The ERLC also supports initiatives that engage churches and other local organizations to call for awareness and advocacy that approached with a pro-life ethic.
- **Permanent Solution for DACA Recipients:** The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was enacted by the Obama Administration in 2012 to protect undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. as minors from deportation. In September 2017, the Trump Administration announced that it would rescind DACA which would leave the many recipients—known as Dreamers—vulnerable and without protection. Many lawsuits were filed in the days and months following the announcement challenging the Administration’s effort to terminate the program. On June 18, 2020, the Supreme Court released their decision for the case *Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California* regarding the status of DACA policy. The Court ruled that the Administration’s rescission of the policy violated the Administrative Procedures Act. In response to the Court’s decision, the Administration issued a new DACA memorandum that shortened the renewal period from two years to one year and indicated that the Administration would announce future plans for the DACA program at the end of 2020. The ERLC will continue to work closely with Congress and the White House to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and to find a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers.
- **Opposing Payday Lending:** Payday lending is a predatory practice that can entrap people and keep them in a perpetual state of poverty. This practice is not just an economic issue but also a matter of consequence for a just society. The interest rate attached to the payday loans exploit the vulnerable and prey on those unable to break out of a cycle of poverty. The goal of good business must be to seek the good of our

communities, not to take advantage of the marginalized and weak. As a solution, the Veterans and Consumers Fair Credit Act was introduced in both the House and the Senate in November 2019. This bill would extend the payday and car title 36% interest rate cap protections currently established under the Military Lending Act to all consumers, including veterans and their families. The ERLC believes that all Americans deserve such protection. In ongoing cooperation with the Faith for Just Lending Coalition, the ERLC will advocate for the passage of this bill and the regulation of an industry that has resulted in a devastatingly endless cycle of debt and despair for millions of Americans.

- **Confronting Religious Freedom Threats Around the Globe:** Keeping the door open for the advance of Gospel proclamation is a core tenet of Southern Baptist cooperation. It's out of that shared passion that the ERLC remains vigilant to religious liberty threats around the globe. We write about these threats to bring them to the attention of the church so we can pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters. We also highlight these threats in order to speak to the consciences of our American government leaders to stand up and defend the vulnerable for the cause of freedom. [Examples of this past year's work can be found here.]

As usual, other means by which the ERLC engaged the public square included one-on-one meetings and additional communications with elected officials and their staff. Through regular interaction with congressional offices, the ERLC sought to ensure that social issues and religious liberty matters were neither steamrolled nor relegated to backburner status. A second means by which the ERLC engaged the public square was through coalition work. ERLC staff participated in numerous coalitions, both formal and informal, among religious, life, family, and other public policy groups on issues of common agreement in an effort to find unified approaches to advance sound policy in the public square. In every instance, the ERLC brought a decidedly Baptist and Gospel-focused perspective to the issue at hand. In many cases, the ERLC helped to reshape thinking and action among coalition partners by consistently voicing its positions through the lens of the Gospel.

### **III. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.**

Without a doubt, the local church is at the center of Southern Baptist life. In fact, the primary front of the advance of the kingdom of God is the local church, faithfully proclaiming the Gospel, training disciples, and reaching the community around it with the Gospel. The ERLC never wants to lose sight of the primacy of the local church and the needs of the communities churches serve. That being the case, over the course of 2020 the ERLC has offered resources designed to assist churches in their moral witness in contexts around the nation. The ERLC provides new resources daily—from books, blog posts, articles, essays, podcasts, videos, bulletin inserts, and sermon outlines—for Christians and churches to help think through moral and ethical issues. Additionally, the ERLC continues its rapid response strategy for news-related items that churches may want to address. Moreover, ERLC staff and leadership teamed up with churches around the country to speak at digital events across the Southern Baptist Convention.

The ERLC was also able to play a role in various state policy achievements consistent with Southern Baptist convictions. One example took place in Tennessee. The Tennessee legislature passed a new law that protects the religious freedom of private, faith-based adoption agencies' right to refer children to families best suitable for rearing children. The legislation guarantees the right of faith-based adoption agencies to operate consistent with their religious and moral beliefs about marriage and sexuality. Such laws are becoming more and more necessary because faith-based providers are in many jurisdictions forced to either violate their beliefs or close down operations.

Similarly, in response to Governor Beshear's work on criminal justice reform in Kentucky, the ERLC compiled a list of local SBC leaders to engage with this issue. In June, we hosted an online event titled "Protests, Policing, and Prisons." Kentucky Baptist leaders joined the event that featured discussions on current challenges and faith responses. Similar efforts are planned in other states.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted all of our lives. During this time of isolation, the ERLC hosted a virtual series for Christian women about how to balance family and work from home. During this series, the ERLC hosted Christian women to provide an open and honest conversation about challenges and opportunities Christian women are facing in this unique working environment. The series was attended by women from all over the nation.

#### **IV. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.**

With new cultural flashpoints around seemingly every turn in 2020, increased attention to the issue of religious liberty provided the ERLC a unique opportunity to be a prophetic voice in the public square. This gave the ERLC with the ability to speak to a broad audience on issues of genuine concern to Southern Baptists. As we advanced the cause of religious freedom, we hoped to use the opportunity to model to the watching world a vision of religious liberty and Christian witness—with faithful men and women serving others, loving others, and welcoming them to hear the Gospel message. In doing so, a watching world was once again reminded that Southern Baptists have long advocated for a free church in a free state and that we are steadfastly committed to religious freedom for all. Beyond the concrete legislative efforts listed in sections above, ERLC staff regularly published articles in Baptist Press, on ERLC platforms, and at prominent outlets around the country. [Examples of this past year's work can be found here.]

Engagement with local officials to advocate for the religious liberty rights of people of faith, especially Christians, became a major priority during the pandemic. The organization made consistent contact with all 50 governor's offices during the pandemic in an effort to rekindle or open lines of communication between civic and church leaders and to serve as a conduit of information between the two spheres.

At various points, contact was also made with municipal and county authorities when conflicts could threaten the religious freedom of churches in local contexts. These conversations included efforts to identify church partners to serve vulnerable populations in need of housing in Tennessee; ensure pastors and their audio/visual staff were listed as essential in order to record worship services in Georgia; provide guidance for First Amendment protections with contact tracing in Arkansas; and facilitate efforts to de-escalate unhelpful enforcement measures in California.

Apart from this, the ERLC labored to promote religious freedom with like-minded groups and organizations in both domestic and international contexts—designed to promote religious liberty for Southern Baptists around the globe, particularly calling attention to persecution of Christian minorities by oppressive regimes. The ERLC also worked to continue to cultivate relationships with members of Congress and their staff by speaking at Capitol Hill events and meetings.

The ERLC continued to recognize leaders with the organization's distinguished service awards on the basis of their contribution to the cause of promoting religious liberty. In 2020, ethicist C. Ben Mitchell was honored with the John Leland Religious Liberty Award for his years of service on behalf of Southern Baptists. Southern Baptist pastor John Powell was posthumously recognized with the Distinguished Service Award after sacrificially giving his life to save stranded motorists from an oncoming truck.

***Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2021 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?***

**I. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.**

Each new year brings new challenges and questions in our culture that affect the lives of Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist churches. Part of the ERLC's role is being attentive to those questions and applying the Gospel to them for the benefit of our churches. In 2021, we believe it is paramount that churches emerge from the isolation and chaos of the previous year with a Gospel, moral witness intact. The challenges inherent to this moment include the crises of COVID-19, protecting religious liberty, combatting racial injustice and healing the divisions we see, the ongoing sexual abuse crisis, political fragmentation, and the general ecosystem of cynicism and nihilism that runs throughout our culture.

**II. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.**

Each new year brings new opportunities for the ERLC to continue to make inroads building coalitions, driving conversations, and being an influential voice in culture, courtrooms, and on Capitol Hill to represent Southern Baptists and their convictions. Here are some of the areas we intend to press onward in 2021:

- Defending religious liberty
- Defunding Planned Parenthood
- Advocating for pro-life judicial nominees
- Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act
- Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act
- Conscience Protection Act and conscience protection policies
- Advocacy for international religious freedom
- Defense of religious liberty protections for child welfare providers
- Opposition to the Equality Act
- Proclaiming biblical truth in a toxic public square

A continued focus over the next year will be expanding the reach of our podcasts such as *Signposts*, *The ERLC Podcast*, *Capitol Conversations*, and *Weekly Tech* to continue equipping Southern Baptists on the important issues of the day; regular ERLC meetings with coalition partners; and engagement with elected officials and influencers to stay abreast of developments and maintain influence with those crucial to defending America's first freedom of religious liberty.

**III. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.**

COVID-19 has presented opportunities for the ERLC to re-define our depth of engagement. With some platforms off the table (such as in-person conferences), we have concentrated on innovative strategies to provide and create content. We have learned much in that process, in

ways that will inform the way we move forward in the next year. For example, not only have we been able to engage more churches and organizations that we would be able to in-person, we have been able to create more timely resources about issues of genuine concern. We believe the momentum established through our digital platforms will ensure we are able to engage and equip the local church for issues they are facing in their local communities. Being the smallest SBC entity, it is an organizational challenge to be as involved in all of our states and associations as we would aspire to be, but through online events, podcasting, and video conferencing, the ERLC has the ability to extend its reach in unique and strategic ways.

#### **IV. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.**

As the nation emerges from the COVID-19 public health crisis, it will be imperative for the ERLC to continue being a consistent voice on behalf of Southern Baptist churches that reminds civic leaders of the temporary nature of restrictions created to combat the spread of the virus. With new leadership in our nation's capital, our focus will be to fortify existing relationships and build new ones throughout the Executive and Legislative Branch to ensure religious liberty is considered in all policy debates. At the same time, our engagement with relevant court cases to protect religious freedom will continue, particularly for cases before the U.S. Supreme Court. We will continue our efforts to ensure church leaders and public leaders create avenues for dialogue and partnership to lead their communities out of this moment of isolation and skepticism. In doing so, not only will we help this nation bridge the divides that have been created in recent years, we will strengthen our first freedom of religious liberty.

### **MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION**

The Convention referred the following items to The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Alabama, June 11–12, 2019, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting\*.

#### **1. SBC Referral: To request each SBC entity to provide an update on addressing abuse (Items 15 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 63)**

**Motion:** Phillip Bethancourt, Tennessee

“That the Southern Baptist Convention request each of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention provide an update related to their efforts to address abuse and report back to the 2020 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Orlando, Florida, covering three subjects: what is their entity doing to foster effective abuse awareness, prevention, and care; what additional steps has their entity taken to address abuse since the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas, Texas; and how is their entity partnering with the efforts of the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to address abuse?”

**Response:** The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has, arguably, devoted more energy to addressing the issue of sexual abuse as it has any single issue over the last year. Following the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, J. D. Greear formed a Sexual Abuse Advisory Group to work in partnership with the ERLC. As part of that work, the ERLC labored alongside this group over the last year as it moved through three phases: the first phase, a listening phase, pursued a goal of listening to and learning from hundreds of survivors, advocates, outside experts, and pastors. Many of the findings from this phase were conveyed verbally at the SBC annual meeting during the President's Sexual Abuse Advisory Group report. At the same time, even more detail was released in a written report titled, “Caring Well: A Report from the SBC Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.” In the second phase, a

\*Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the 2020 SBC Annual Meeting was cancelled.

development phase, the ERLC helped produce and house resources and recommendations to equip SBC churches to care for survivors and to prevent abuse. These resources have included a number of articles at [erlc.com](http://erlc.com) and [caringwell.com](http://caringwell.com); the new, free video-based curriculum, *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused*; and the Caring Well Challenge, an eight-step, twelve-month process to help churches know they are doing everything they can on the issue. The third phase, an implementation phase, continued through 2019. In this phase, the ERLC focused much of its effort in serving churches as they walk through the first round of the Caring Well Challenge.

Beyond serving the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, though, the ERLC has focused much additional time and energy on this issue. As merely a few examples, throughout 2019, the ERLC hosted several gatherings and events on this important topic. The ERLC also devoted its largest event of the year, the ERLC National Conference, to focus on this issue. The Caring Well Conference was held October 3–5, 2019 in Grapevine, Texas, and was the largest National Conference to-date in the history of the Commission. Beyond this event, the ERLC will continue to work throughout the upcoming years to keep a denomination-wide focus on this issue to combat the evil of sexual abuse.

**2. SBC Referral: To request the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission study the effects of birth control methods (Items 19 and 60, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 58, 63)**

**Motion:** David Haynes, Alabama

“That the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission study the effects of birth control pills, IUD’s, and other contraceptive devices and methods to see if ‘at any time and any way’ there is the possibility of these taking the life of a conceived child, that the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission give a report of their findings to the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Florida, in 2020, and that the compilation of studies in Randy Alcorn’s book *Does the Birth Control Pill Cause Abortions?* be used as one of the resources for studying this issue.”

**Response:** The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission takes very seriously the concerns raised about the possibility of certain contraceptive methods causing abortions (also known as abortifacients). As an organization tasked with monitoring trends and movements impacting pro-life witness, we are familiar with ongoing debates surrounding various contraceptive devices’ connection with abortion. As an unapologetically pro-life organization committed to advocating for the dignity of unborn children, we are vigilant about providing information on any technology or medical device that would cause an abortion. We are committed to providing resources and equipping individuals and churches to develop a whole-life approach to pro-life advocacy, which includes concerns over methods of contraception that may cause an abortion. At the ERLC website, readers can find numerous resources discussing the concerns associated with unquestioned use of contraception, in addition to resources discussing whether certain forms of contraception can induce abortion. In Washington, the ERLC team spent several years opposing the Obama Administration’s contraceptive mandate, standing with GuideStone and several other Baptist institutions who filed suit to challenge the mandate. Additionally, through event productions and coalition partnerships, the ERLC continues its commitment to awareness on the issue of abortifacient contraceptives. The ERLC is committed to providing further resources equipping Christians to think critically about the impact of contraception on unborn life.

**3. SBC Referral: To equip local churches on issues of marriage and sexuality (Items 47 and 79, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 61, 80)**

**Motion:** Dau Ayub, Texas

“That, due to the major assault on marriage and family by the normalization and desensitizing of the body of believers towards sexual immorality, common law union and same sex partnerships, and the continuous onslaught on Christian family values, including adoption by the unwed or same sex partnerships, the Southern Baptist Convention increase its efforts to equip the local church in order to minister to these groups, to love them well in Jesus’s name calling sin a sin, to lead them to a godly understanding of marriage and family, and to equip the local church to anticipate attacks on the pulpit, to stand with Christ’s definition of marriage and family, and to defend proper membership to the churches.”

**Response:** The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission wholeheartedly shares the conviction expressed in this motion concerning the importance of teaching the biblical view of marriage and sexuality to a world that is increasingly confused. In marriage, we see a picture of the very mystery that defines the existence of the people of God—the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the same time, allegiance to Christ must include obedience to his commands—including what Scripture says about a biblical sexual ethic. In light of this reality, the ERLC happily devotes significant resources to this matter as one of our primary issues of concern. This ranges from dozens of articles, podcasts, and interviews each year, to covering these issues at conferences, speaking on these issues at churches, events, and interviews with national and international print and television outlets. The Sexual Revolution cannot deliver on its promises, and the ERLC wants to do everything in its power to equip churches to remain faithful to the Gospel while at the same time embodying and articulating a biblical vision of marriage to the world around us.

**4. SBC Referral: To ask the Executive Committee and Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission to facilitate a healing process for abuse survivors (Items 49 and 79, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 11-12, 2019, *SBC Annual*, p. 61, 80)**

**Motion:** Rebecca Krueger, Alabama

“That, in light of the already active movement to fight for the vulnerable, the Executive Committee and Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission implement for those who have been, are being, and will be abused (all ages-including sexually, physically, emotionally, and spiritually) a process and clear path to receive training to counsel, that wisdom outside the walls of the convention be sought as to the psychological effects of abuse, and that professional recommendations be returned to the convention with biblical, clear, focused, actionable steps toward healing for those fighting for healing from horrific abuse so that we can move forward to minister to others affected.”

**Response:** The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission recognizes that the psychological effects of abuse are severe, long-term, and in many cases requires care and treatment from trained professionals. Over the last year, the ERLC has served the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group, which has involved a range of professionals—including psychologists and counselors with experience working with trauma—to develop resources for churches, state and national entities, and seminaries. This work has included the curriculum titled *Becoming a Church that Cares Well for the Abused*, which will be used and implemented widely among Southern Baptist churches and cooperative entities. This group of experts continues to provide advice to the Sexual Abuse Advisory Group moving forward.



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The Sexual Abuse Advisory Group continues to explore strategies to ensure that care and healing is available to all survivors of abuse and that those who will be providing biblical counseling and care are trained and equipped for the task. This includes providing training and resources for existing counselors and professionals, providing resources to those entities tasked with training new counselors, and exploring models for providing counseling to survivors through national, state, and local entities.

# AUXILIARY

**WMU**® God's mission.  
Our passion.

**WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION®**

P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Alabama 35283-0010

**LINDA COOPER, President**

**SANDRA WISDOM-MARTIN, Executive Director/Treasurer**

## INTRODUCTION

The challenges of 2020 were relentless and, in many ways, continued as we turned the calendar to 2021. The emotions and exhaustion have taken a tremendous toll, leaving most everyone feeling unsettled. In addition to death and illness, we've also experienced grief over the loss of plans, traditions, community, routine, and more. And as many churches suspended in-person gatherings, COVID-19 hit our vibrant ministry with a force unequal to anything we've seen in recent decades. It could almost be tempting to forsake our call and pack it in, but God was with us.

He enters our spaces and experiences. He takes our fears and confusion and isolation and creates something beautiful for His glory. What did God do out of the chaos of 2020? As the pandemic changed our ministry model and so many other realities seemingly overnight, it also brought opportunities to explore missions engagement in new and different ways. In our pursuit to meet needs and encourage discipleship and ministry opportunities, National WMU:

- Reached out to all SBC seminary presidents to see how we could help international students stranded on campuses. WMU members began adopting students;
- Partnered with state WMU offices to provide free resources to help with mental health concerns caused by issues related to the pandemic. State WMUs were free to distribute *Trading Up*, a PTSD resource comprised of 12 Bible studies. These were used in various ways, including one state WMU president who led the Bible studies online with 436 women participating. In addition, thanks to a grant from the WMU Foundation, state offices had access to printed and digital copies of *Your Pain Is Changing You*, a book by Dr. David Crosby written predominantly out of his painful experience from Hurricane Katrina;
- Sent daily prompts encouraging prayer for pastors and missionaries. We started with 30 days of prayer, but recipients asked us to continue sending devotionals and guided prayers for pastors and missionaries so we kept the initiative going for 174 days;
- Worked with IMB and state WMUs to offer assistance with a surge in requests for missionary housing for personnel returning stateside because of COVID-19. We maintain a database of more than 500 houses sponsored by churches, associations, and individuals and make this information available to missionaries on a secure website;
- Posted preschool stories weekly online during spring 2020. The very first recording had more than 8,000 views, and an encouraging "Don't Fear the Mask" video for preschoolers received lots of traction. Missions lessons for children were offered on Facebook Live with corresponding curriculum;

- Launched Honor 6:2 in partnership with the WMU Foundation and Iron Stream Media to minister by delivering Christian books free to senior adults who were sheltering in place and residents in retirement and nursing homes. See [honor62.com](http://honor62.com);
- Developed online minicourses related to WMU's compassion ministries and a church's response to difficult topics such as refugees, human trafficking, and poverty. These are available at [ChristianLeaderLearning.com](http://ChristianLeaderLearning.com);
- Engaged WMU members to handwrite 17,000 letters asking churches to support the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®. Many personally wrote 175 letters in celebration of IMB's 175th birthday;
- Created a virtual Week of Prayer for International Missions experience that gained more than 30 times the audience who typically participates in an in-person event at the WMU building in Birmingham. It was so well received we created a virtual Week of Prayer for North American Missions;
- Initiated 27 zoom calls in 2020 to facilitate proactive communication with state WMU leadership for updates, peer learning, and encouragement;
- Launched a podcast to reach new audiences with 31 episodes produced in 2020. WMU executive director Sandy Wisdom-Martin, host of the *On the Journey Conversations* podcast, said, "Our prayer is this podcast inspires listeners to go deeper in their Christian faith walk. It is designed to offer an extensive array of thought leaders who provide personalized perspectives of what it means to follow Christ." Topics have included ways to give and receive hope, dealing with anxiety, visionary leadership, following God's call, and racial reconciliation, just to name a few. The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts; and
- Despite a time of social distancing that makes interviews a challenge, our national correspondents, Trennis and Pam Henderson, found creative ways to capture and share 20 compelling stories since the onset of the pandemic. Through video, photos, and feature stories, the Hendersons shared inspiring stories of Acteens meeting on Zoom and ministering in their communities, Girls in Action® leaders and Christian Women's Job Corps® site coordinators who were persevering in making disciples, ministry to internationals and refugees, and pastor's wives and WMU leaders who continue finding ways to share God's love and see lives transformed, regardless of life's obstacles or circumstances.

While methods and approaches may change, making disciples of Jesus who live on mission is the unwavering focus of WMU®. This passion and purpose of WMU is driven by being:

- Biblically-rooted—Scripture guides us in knowing God, His ways, His character, His mission, His redemptive acts, and His purpose for the church;
- Missions-focused—Jesus commissioned His disciples to proclaim good news, disciple people of all nations, and teach them to live out the truths He taught;
- Church-based—Jesus gave the church authority to act on His behalf. Teaching all ages prepares the church to fulfill His mission;
- World-aware—God is always at work among all peoples, and we join Him where we discern He is calling us; and
- Denominationally-supportive—No one church can do alone what many churches can do together. Our voluntary cooperation extends the missions reach of a local church.

WMU seeks to cultivate the characteristics of a missional person—one who learns about missions, prays for missions, supports missions, does missions, and tells about Jesus. Our three key avenues for missions involvement are missions discipleship, leadership development, and compassion ministries. Through these three areas collectively, WMU had ministry touchpoints this year in 37 countries.

## REPORT OF MINISTRIES

### MISSIONS DISCIPLESHIP

#### **Missions in the Church**

From preschoolers to adults, WMU provides relevant resources to help inform, inspire, and involve those in WMU groups in missions. WMU created and distributed 11 subscription items, including periodicals and resource kits. Using these and other resources produced by WMU, involvement in our missions groups provides the opportunity to teach people of all ages about the work of missionaries throughout the world while developing disciples who pray for missions, give to missions, and take the Gospel into their community and beyond.

WMU's age-level groups include

- Mission Friends® for preschool boys and girls from birth through kindergarten;
- Girls in Action® (GA®) for girls in grades 1–6;
- Royal Ambassadors® (RA®) for boys in grades 1–6;
- Children in Action<sup>SM</sup> for boys and girls in grades 1–6;
- Acteens® for girls in grades 7–12;
- Challengers® for boys in grades 7–12;
- Youth on Mission<sup>SM</sup> for boys and girls in grades 7–12;
- myMISSION<sup>SM</sup> for collegiate and young women;
- Women on Mission® for women; and
- Adults on Mission<sup>SM</sup> for men and women.

#### **Mission Boards**

Through WMU, missions groups and individuals learn about North American and international missionaries and their work and readily support them through prayer and giving to the missions offerings.

In 2019\*, WMU helped raise \$159.4 million—the second-highest total in the offering's 131-year history—for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions. Since initiating the first offering in 1888, WMU has helped raise more than \$4.8 billion through this effort. The offering represents more than half of IMB's total annual support. Every penny given to the offering goes directly to support missionaries, including housing, training, health care, and more.

In 2020, WMU helped raise \$49.4 million for missions work in North America through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®, despite the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic that caused many churches to suspend in-person meetings the same time as this seasonal prayer focus and offering. Since 1907, when official reporting began for the home missions offering started by WMU, receipts total more than \$1.9 billion through 2020. All the funds raised through this offering go directly to NAMB to support field personnel and supplies nearly half of their total annual revenue.

Additionally, National WMU awards a variety of scholarships each year to children of Southern Baptist missionaries and continues to actively promote giving through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

*\*Final 2020 totals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering were not available at time of print.*

National WMU is not a part of the Cooperative Program allocation budget and receives no funds from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. National WMU is supported through the sale of magazines and products and from investments and charitable contributions.

### **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

As a key focus of WMU, we try to infuse leadership development in everything we do. From online, on-demand courses to print and digital resources to in-person training, WMU offers a variety of opportunities for discovering and expanding one's leadership skills and spiritual gifts.

For example, through our Christian Women's Leadership Center (CWLC), WMU offers courses that include stand-alone enrichment classes to a full leadership certificate program comprised of nine courses that require approximately 150 hours of coursework. See [ChristianLeaderLearning.com](http://ChristianLeaderLearning.com) for the full catalog of courses.

WMU also introduced a new WMU.com this year with free content for how to lead preschoolers, children, students, and adults, in addition to other audiences. We also hosted 73 workshop options at our 2020 January Board Meeting, included leadership development articles in all curriculum, and published approximately 60 blogs on the topic.

### **COMPASSION MINISTRIES**

#### **Pure Water, Pure Love**

WMU awarded 16 grants totaling \$226,512 in 2020 to supply clean water resources in Cuba, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, Liberia, North Africa, Pakistan, Rwanda, Uganda, and through Send Relief. In addition, 863 filters and replacements were given to International Mission Board personnel and missions teams through Pure Water, Pure Love<sup>SM</sup>.

#### **Christian Women's Job Corps/Christian Men's Job Corps**

Through this ministry, thousands of participants gained life and job skills in a Christian context through nearly 200 registered CWJC<sup>®</sup> and CMJC<sup>SM</sup> sites across the United States, along with four international sites. CWJC/CMJC offers classes, resources, mentoring, Bible study, and more. Lives are transformed as participants gain self-confidence, purpose, direction, and hope for the future.

#### **WorldCrafts**

Since 1996, we have worked to develop sustainable, fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world through WorldCrafts<sup>SM</sup>. This ministry now works with nearly 50 artisan groups in more than 20 countries to bring their products to market and provide income with dignity.

In 2020, we established a partnership with a new artisan group called Hill Top Crafts in Thailand. These Hmong women learned to sew watching videos on YouTube. The church has bought land and are building a facility to house their WorldCrafts ministry. Their dream is to invite women from other countries and teach them to sew as a way to earn a living for their families and share the good news.

This is just one of the many artisan groups connected to WorldCrafts that is meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of its workers. Through this ministry, men and women receive job training and enjoy comfort, camaraderie, friendship, and purpose. Some women find a safe haven and receive counseling as they leave the sex industry. WorldCrafts abides by and requires all partnering artisan groups to abide by Fair Trade Federation guidelines, ensuring artisans receive fair wages and the goods purchased were produced in an ethical and environmentally friendly manner.

**Baptist Nursing Fellowship**

WMU facilitates ongoing communication for this group of health-care professionals and hosted their national event in November 2020.

**Project HELP: Refugees**

Project HELP is a WMU initiative designed to help the church address a current social and moral issue by raising awareness, meeting needs, and sharing the Gospel. Our current focus is the global refugee crisis, as conflict and persecution around the world cause tens of thousands of people to flee their homes every day and become refugees. They leave behind their entire way of life and face the daily realities of uncertainty and distress.

As Christians, we are uniquely positioned to minister to refugees. Learn more and discover resources at [WMU.com/refugees](https://www.wmu.com/refugees).

**SUPPORTIVE OPERATIONS****Executive Board Meetings**

The executive board of WMU, which is comprised of women who serve as WMU presidents in their state or multistate territory, gathered twice in 2020 to conduct the business of the organization. These meetings took place January 11–13 in Birmingham, Alabama, and June 6 via Zoom video conference call.

# GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

## CHARTER

### An Act

To Incorporate ... the Southern Baptist Convention

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this act ... that William B. Johnson, Wilson Lumpkin, James B. Taylor, A. Docrey, R. B. C. Howell and others their associates and successors be and they are hereby Incorporated and made a body politic by the name and style of the Southern Baptist Convention with authority to receive hold possess retain and dispose of property either real or personal to sue and be sued and to make all bye-laws, rules and regulations necessary to the transaction of their business not inconsistent with the laws of this state or of the United States, said corporation being created for the purpose of eliciting combining and directing the energies of the Baptist denomination of Christians for the propagation of the gospel any law usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Signed:]

Charles J. Jenkins, Speaker of The House of Representatives

Absalom H. Chappell, President of the Senate

Approved December 27th 1845

Geo. W. Crawford, Governor

(Act 203, Georgia Archives RG 37-01-15 Enrolled Acts & Resolutions, Georgia Laws - 1845, Vol. 2-9838 Acts 98-228 pp. 428-431.)

## CONSTITUTION

The messengers from missionary societies, churches, and other religious bodies of the Baptist denomination in various parts of the United States met in Augusta, Georgia, May 8, 1845, for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intention of our constituents by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the gospel and adopted rules and fundamental principles which, as amended from time to time, are as follows:

**Article I. The Name:** The name of this body is the “Southern Baptist Convention.”

**Article II. Purpose:** It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

**Article III. Composition:** The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in cooperation with the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention’s current standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize from each cooperating church to attend the Convention’s annual meeting.

1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and sympathetic with its purposes and work (i.e., a “cooperating” church as that term is used in the Convention’s governing documents) which:

- (1) Has a faith and practice which closely identifies with the Convention's adopted statement of faith. (By way of example, churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the Convention.)
  - (2) Has formally approved its intention to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. (By way of example, the regular filing of the annual report requested by the Convention would be one indication of such cooperation.)
  - (3) Has made undesignated, financial contribution(s) through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity during the fiscal year preceding.
2. Under the terms above, the Convention will recognize to participate in its annual meeting two (2) messengers from each cooperating church, and such additional messengers as are permitted below.
3. The Convention will recognize additional messengers from a cooperating church under one of the options described below. Whichever method allows the church the greater number of messengers shall apply:
  - (1) One additional messenger for each full percent of the church's undesignated receipts which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity; or
  - (2) One additional messenger for each \$6,000 which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention's Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity.
4. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by their church to the Convention, but the Convention will not recognize more than twelve (12) from any cooperating church.
5. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he or she is appointed.
6. If a church experiences a natural disaster or calamitous event and, as a result, the church is not qualified to appoint as many messengers as the church could appoint for the Convention's annual meeting immediately before the event, the church's pastor or an authorized church representative may, for no more than the three (3) annual meetings after the event, certify the facts to the registration secretary and obtain the same number of messengers it could have certified for the Convention's annual meeting immediately before the event.

**Article IV. Authority:** While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the Convention does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention.

**Article V. Officers:**

1. The officers of the Convention shall be a president, a first and a second vice president, a recording secretary, a registration secretary, and a treasurer.
2. The officers shall be elected annually and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. The term of office for the president is limited to two (2) years, and a president shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is named. The first vice president shall be voted



upon and elected after the election of the president has taken place; and the second vice president shall be voted upon and elected after the election of the first vice president has taken place.

3. The president shall be a member of the several boards and of the Executive Committee.
4. The treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be the treasurer of the Convention.
5. In case of death or disability of the president, the vice presidents shall automatically succeed to the office of president in the order of their election.

**Article VI. The Boards, Institutions, and Commissions – Their Constitution and Powers:**

1. The general boards of the Convention shall be composed as follows, unless otherwise provided in their charters.
  - (1) Twelve (12) members chosen from the city or vicinity of the state in which the board is located, but not more than three (3) local members elected from the same church.
  - (2) One (1) member chosen from each cooperating state; and one (1) additional member from each state having two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members, and another additional member for each additional two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members in such state.
  - (3) The members shall be divided into four (4) groups as nearly equal as possible, and one (1) group shall be elected each year to serve four (4) years. Board members having served two (2) full terms of four (4) years shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as two (2) years have elapsed. This shall also apply to the Executive Committee.
2. The trustees of institutions and directors shall be composed as follows:
  - (1) The trustees or directors shall be elected in keeping with the requirements of the charter of the entity as printed in the 1948 *Book of Reports* or subsequently amended with the prior approval of the Convention.
  - (2) If the composition of the trustees or directors is not determined by charter requirements, the body of trustees or directors shall be composed of one (1) member chosen from each cooperating state and eight (8) local members from the city or vicinity in which the entity is located, but not more than two (2) local members shall be chosen from the same church.
  - (3) Unless it is contrary to the charter requirements of the entity, the trustees or directors shall be divided into four (4) groups as nearly equal as possible and one (1) group shall be elected each year to serve four (4) years. Members having served two (2) full terms of four (4) years shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as two (2) years have elapsed after one has served two (2) full terms.
  - (4) Regardless of charter provisions, no trustee or director shall be eligible for re-election until as much as two (2) years have elapsed after the trustee or director has served two (2) full terms.
3. Terms of Service: No trustee of a board, institution, or commission, or a member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms. A trustee or member of the Executive Committee who has served more than half a term shall be considered to have served a full term.
4. The governing groups of the entities may elect executive, administrative, finance, investment, and other committees if desired.

5. Each entity shall elect a president, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be required. The president may be named as treasurer.
6. The compensation of its officers and employees shall be fixed by each entity, but no salaried employee or officer shall be a member of the directors of the entity.
7. Each entity is authorized to adopt its own bylaws.
8. Fifty percent of the members of the governing group shall constitute a quorum of the entity directors for transaction of any business.

**Article VII. Duties of Officers of Boards, Institutions, and Commissions:** All officers shall be subject to the control and direction of their directors in matters pertaining to the work and obligations of the board, institution, or commission. They shall perform such duties as commonly appertain to such officers.

1. The executive head of each board, institution, and commission shall be responsible to the directors for all the work of the entity and shall carry on the work as the directors may direct.
2. The recording secretary of each entity shall keep a record of all meetings of directors, if not otherwise provided for, and shall keep the records in fireproof safes, vaults, or files.
3. The treasurer of each entity shall follow approved methods of accounting, keep the books, receipt for all monies and securities, deposit all funds with a depository or depositories approved by the directors, and render full statements as required to the directors or to the Convention. The treasurer shall not pay out money except as the directors may order and direct.

**Article VIII. Church Membership:** Officers of the Convention, all officers and members of all boards, trustees of institutions, directors, all committee members, and all missionaries of the Convention appointed by its boards shall be members of Baptist churches cooperating with this Convention.

**Article IX. Missionaries' Qualifications:** All missionaries appointed by the Convention's boards must, previous to their appointment, furnish evidence of piety, zeal for the Master's kingdom, conviction of truth as held by Baptists, and talents for missionary service.

**Article X. Distribution of Funds:** The Convention shall have the right to designate only undesignated funds, the right of contributors to the work of the Convention to designate the objects to which their contributions shall be applied being fully recognized.

**Article XI. Meetings:**

1. The Convention shall hold its meetings annually at such time and place as it may choose.
2. The president may call special meetings with the concurrence of the other officers of the Convention and of the Executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee may change the time and place of meeting if the entertaining city withdraws its invitation or is unable to fulfill its commitments.
4. The Convention officers, the Executive Committee, and the executive heads of the Convention's boards and institutions acting in a body may, in case of grave emergency, cancel a regular meeting or change the place of meeting.

**Article XII. As to Conflict with State Laws:** All incorporated entities of the Convention shall be required to comply with the letter and spirit of this Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Business and Financial Plan insofar as they are not in conflict with the statute law of the state in

which an entity is incorporated, and nothing herein contained shall be construed to require any such incorporated entity to act and carry on its affairs in conflict with the law of the state of its incorporation. In case any action of any entity of the Convention is found to be a violation of the law of the state of its incorporation, said action shall be reported by that entity to the Convention for appropriate action.

**Article XIII. Definition of a State:** The District of Columbia shall be regarded as a state for the purpose of this Constitution, the Bylaws, and all actions of the Convention.

**Article XIV. Amendments:** Any alterations may be made in these Articles at any annual meeting of the Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at the time the vote is taken, provided that an amendment shall be so approved by two (2) consecutive annual meetings of the Convention.

## BYLAWS

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In order to carry out the provisions of the Constitution, the following Bylaws are adopted for the government of the Convention:

### 1. Convention Session:

- A. The Convention shall open with the Tuesday morning session and continue through Wednesday, holding such sessions as the Committee on Order of Business finds necessary for the conduct of business, except that sufficient time on Wednesday afternoon shall be reserved for seminary luncheons and other necessary meetings.
- B. The Convention sermon and president's message shall be considered as fixed orders at the time designated by the committee on Order of Business.
- C. A messenger may speak in debate for longer than three minutes only with the permission of the Convention granted by a two-thirds vote.
- D. A messenger may introduce a second motion during a business session only if no other messenger is seeking the floor who has not made a motion during that session.

### 2. Presentation of Outside Causes:

Causes other than those provided for in the regular work of the Convention may be presented to the Convention upon authority of officers of the Convention in conference with the Committee on Order of Business in such ways and at such times as may be dictated by the courtesies of the case and the necessities of the program.

### 3. Convention Site:

- A. No city shall be considered as a meeting place for the Southern Baptist Convention in which there is a considerable distance between the available hotels and the Convention hall.
- B. No meetings other than the Convention services shall be held in the Convention hall during the sessions of the Convention. Every service held in the Convention auditorium shall be under the direction of the Committee on Order of Business.

### 4. Exhibits:

All exhibits of every description shall be rigidly excluded from those parts of the place of meeting where the people visiting the exhibits will disturb the proceedings of the Convention, their locations to be determined by the Executive Committee or its agent. The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have exclusive control of all exhibit space.

**5. *Book of Reports:***

- A. Copy for reports and recommendations to the Convention shall be submitted to the recording secretary by March 1, unless circumstances beyond the control of the reporting entity or committee make it impossible.
- B. Recommendations of entities and committees of the Convention may not be voted upon until the recommendations have been printed in the *Book of Reports* or the Convention *Bulletin*. The recording secretary is authorized to provide the Baptist Press and other interested parties, upon their request, copies of recommendations requiring Convention action.

**6. *Convention Annual:*** The Convention *Annual* containing reports and actions of the Convention and other pertinent material shall be published as soon as possible after the meeting of the Convention and shall be made available without charge to all active pastors and denominational agents.**7. *Bulletin:***

- A. The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have printed each day a sufficient number of brief reports, or bulletins, of the Journal of Proceedings, reporting specifically matters of business proposed and acted upon, including the names of committees appointed, reports of the committees, and such business as may be transacted and carried over to the following day, also including a list of the titles or subjects of the resolutions presented and the names of the persons presenting them.
- B. Such report, or bulletin, shall not include speeches or addresses or any comment thereon, a photograph, or any personal reference to any messenger of the Convention, but shall be only a resume of the business transacted during that day.

**8. *Messenger Credentials, Registration Committee, and Credentials Committee:***

- A. *Messenger Credentials:* Each person elected by a church cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention as messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention shall be registered as a messenger to the Convention upon presentation of proper credentials. Credentials shall be presented by each messenger, in person, at the Convention registration desk and shall be in the following form:
  - (1) A completed, properly authorized, official Southern Baptist Convention registration document, certifying the messenger's election in accordance with Article III. Composition, of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention; but if the messenger does not have the messenger registration document,
  - (2) A letter from the messenger's church, signed by the pastor, clerk or moderator of the church, certifying the messenger's election in accordance with Article III. Composition, of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention; or
  - (3) Some other document (which may include a fax, e-mail, or other physical or electronically transmitted document) from the messenger's church which is deemed reliable by the Registration Committee or qualifies under guidelines approved by the registration secretary and the Registration Committee.

Messengers registered in accordance with this section shall constitute the Convention.

- B. *Registration Committee:* The president of the Convention, in consultation with the vice presidents, shall appoint, at least thirty (30) days before the annual session, a Registration Committee to serve at the forthcoming sessions of the Convention. The registration secretary shall convene the Registration Committee at least one day prior

to the annual meeting to supervise the registration of messengers, to oversee the operations of the registration desk, and to rule upon any questions which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers.

- C. *Credentials Committee*: The Credentials Committee, a standing committee, shall be composed of the registration secretary, the chair of the Executive Committee, three members nominated by the Executive Committee, and four members nominated by the Committee on Nominations. Committee members may serve simultaneously on another board, institution, commission, or committee of the Convention or as a member of the Executive Committee. The names of the Executive Committee chair and the members nominated by the Executive Committee shall appear in the Committee on Nominations's report to the annual meeting, along with the names of members being nominated by the Committee on Nominations, for election by the Convention. Members other than the registration secretary and the Executive Committee chair shall serve a term of three (3) years. The committee shall elect its own chair. Members of the Credentials Committee shall be divided into three groups of three persons each with the registration secretary and the Executive Committee chair assigned to different groups. The term of office of one of the three groups shall expire each year. A member's term of office shall begin and expire at the conclusion of the Convention's annual meeting. Members having served one full term of three (3) years shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed after the last term of service has concluded. Vacancies occurring on the committee between annual meetings shall be filled by the Executive Committee, provided that any vacancy shall be filled only until the next annual meeting.
- (1) The Credentials Committee shall meet on the call of its chair or of any two of its members after reasonable notice of the time and place for the meeting. Meetings and reports of the committee may be private or public in order to maintain the degree of confidentiality which is appropriate under the circumstances to serve the best interests of the Convention and individual churches. When practical, meetings shall be held in conjunction with meetings of the Executive Committee or electronically. The committee may meet by teleconference, videoconference, or any other lawful means. Appropriate staff and legal assistance shall be provided for the Credentials Committee by the Executive Committee.
  - (2) When, during an annual meeting, an issue arises whether a church is in cooperation with the Convention, the Credentials Committee shall consider the matter and review any information available to it. The committee shall either:
    - (a) consider the question in the manner described in section (3)a below and, when prepared, recommend any action to the Executive Committee, in which case messengers from the church shall be seated pending any action by the Executive Committee; or
    - (b) at the earliest opportunity, recommend to the Convention whether the church should be considered a cooperating church. The Convention shall immediately consider the committee's recommendation. One representative of the church under consideration and one representative of the Credentials Committee shall be permitted to speak to the question, subject to the normal rules of debate. When debate is concluded, the Convention may decide whether the church is a cooperating church or refer the matter to the Executive Committee for further review and a decision. Unless the Convention decides that the church is not a cooperating church, messengers from the church shall be registered and seated in accordance with the Convention's rules.

- (3) When an issue arises between annual meetings whether a church is in cooperation with the Convention, the Credentials Committee shall consider the matter and review any information available to it.
  - a. If the committee forms the opinion that a church is not in friendly cooperation with the Convention as described in Article III. Composition, of the Constitution, the committee shall submit to the Executive Committee a report stating that opinion and the committee's reasons for its opinion. The Executive Committee shall, at its next meeting, consider the report of the Credentials Committee and determine whether the church is in cooperation with the Convention. The Executive Committee's decision shall be final unless the church appeals the decision to the Convention during the next annual meeting.
  - b. A church which has been found not to be in cooperation may appeal the decision to the Convention by submitting a written appeal to the chair of the Credentials Committee at least 30 days prior to the Convention's annual meeting. The Credentials Committee chair shall immediately notify the Credentials Committee, the chair of the Committee on Order of Business, and the President that an appeal to the Convention has been lodged.
  - c. The registration secretary shall notify the Convention of the appeal in the initial registration report to the Convention.
  - d. The Convention shall consider the appeal during a time established for miscellaneous business on the afternoon of the first day of the Convention. The question before the messengers will be "Shall the decision of the Credentials Committee and the Executive Committee that [*name of the church in question*] is not in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention be sustained?" One representative of the church under consideration and one representative of the Credentials Committee or Executive Committee shall be permitted to speak to the question, subject to the normal rules of debate. When debate is concluded, the Convention shall vote whether to sustain the Executive Committee's ruling. If the ruling of the Executive Committee is reversed, messengers from the church shall immediately be registered and seated in accordance with the Convention's rules.
- (4) If a church which has been found not to be in cooperation with the Convention addresses the issues which led to that finding, it may apply to the Credentials Committee for a reconsideration of its status. If the circumstances warrant, the Credentials Committee may recommend to the Executive Committee that the church be once again considered a cooperating church.
- (5) The committee may make inquiries of a church, but shall never attempt to exercise any authority over a church through an investigation or other process that would violate Article IV of the Constitution.

**9. Address of Welcome:** There may be one (1) address of welcome limited to ten (10) minutes and one (1) response thereto limited to ten (10) minutes.

**10. Election of Officers and Voting:**

- A. The president, the first and second vice presidents, and the secretaries shall be elected at the Convention, their terms of office to begin at the final adjournment.

- B. Election of officers shall be by ballot, provided however that if there is only one (1) nomination, and no other person desires to nominate, the registration secretary or anyone designated for the purpose may cast the ballot of the Convention. If an officer does not receive a majority of votes cast on the first ballot, subsequent ballots shall carry the names of those who are included in the top 50 percent of the total votes cast in the previous ballot.
  - C. Nominating speeches for officers of the Convention shall be limited to one (1) address of not more than three (3) minutes for each nominee.
  - D. The president, in consultation with the registration secretary, shall appoint tellers. The tabulation of any vote by the tellers or otherwise (such as by electronic means) shall be under the supervision of the registration secretary. The president or registration secretary shall announce election and voting results to the Convention as soon as practicable.
  - E. Any materials, instructions, and/or devices necessary to vote shall be made available to the messengers.
  - F. No proxy voting is permitted. All propositions, decisions, and choices shall be by a majority vote of the messengers present and voting in person, except where provisions have been made for a greater than majority vote. Except for officer elections, votes may be taken by ballot, by voice, by rising, by show of hands, by common consent, or by some other acceptable method. "Ballot" shall include electronic voting that protects the integrity of the voting process and provides for messengers' votes to remain confidential.
- 11. Parliamentary Authority and Parliamentarians:** The parliamentary authority of the Southern Baptist Convention shall be *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest revised edition). The Convention president, in conference with the vice presidents, shall select a chief parliamentarian and assistant parliamentarians, as necessary, to advise the presiding officers of the Convention on matters of parliamentary procedure. The chief parliamentarian shall be a person of experience and knowledge, sufficient to qualify him or her to serve as parliamentarian to the Southern Baptist Convention, and he or she shall be certified by the American Institute of Parliamentarians and/or the National Association of Parliamentarians. It shall be the responsibility of the president and treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to sign, on behalf of the Executive Committee, any contracts or letters of agreement related to the services of the chief parliamentarian.
- 12. Ministry Leaders:** Leaders of Southern Baptist Convention entities shall be admitted to the Convention sessions and shall be authorized to serve as resource persons for discussion of those matters which affect their areas of ministry responsibility.
- 13. Memorial Services:** The Committee on Order of Business is instructed to arrange for any memorial service to be held during the Convention.
- 14. Entities and Auxiliary of the Convention:**
- A. The entities of the Convention are as follows:
    - (1) General Boards: The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, Virginia; The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc., Alpharetta, Georgia; Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee; GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dallas, Texas.

- (2) Institutions: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana; Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, Ontario, California; The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc., Wake Forest, North Carolina; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri.
- (3) Commission: The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee.
- B. Auxiliary: Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama, is an auxiliary of the Convention.

#### 15. Committee on Nominations:

- A. The Committee on Nominations shall be composed of two (2) members from each qualified state, who shall be elected by the Convention. Nominations for each position shall be made by the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees shall make its recommendation of nominees to the Convention in the form of a single motion to elect all those persons it recommends for the Committee on Nominations. The motion may be amended but no messenger shall be allowed to propose more than one (1) person at a time for election. When adopted by the Convention, the motion of the Committee on Committees, as amended, shall constitute the election of the persons named in the motion to the Committee on Nominations. One (1) person nominated to the Committee on Nominations from each state shall be a person not employed full time by (or retired from) a church or denominational entity. Persons nominated to the Committee on Nominations shall have been resident members for at least three (3) years of Southern Baptist churches either geographically within the states or affiliated with the conventions of the states from which they are elected.
- B. The Committee on Nominations thus elected shall prepare its report through the year, carefully following the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention and the documents of the respective Convention entities, and shall recommend to the next Convention the following:
  - (1) Members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention
  - (2) Directors/trustees of the boards of the Convention
  - (3) Trustees of the institutions of the Convention
  - (4) Trustees of the commissions of the Convention
  - (5) Members of any standing committees, except certain members of the Credentials Committee as expressly provided by Bylaw 8.
- C. Excluding the president and recording secretary of the Convention, and the president of Woman's Missionary Union, and unless otherwise specifically permitted or required by these bylaws, no person shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to serve simultaneously on more than one of the boards, institutions, commissions, or committees of the Convention, or as a member of the Executive Committee, and no person shall be elected or appointed to serve on one of these bodies if that person's spouse has been elected or appointed to serve on one of these bodies for a time which would be simultaneous.
- D. The committee shall not recommend a fellow committee member or the member's spouse or a member of the previous year's Committee on Committees or the member's spouse for a first term on an entity.



- E. The committee shall recognize the principle that the persons it recommends shall represent the constituency of the Convention, rather than the staff of the entity.
  - F. No person and no person's spouse shall be eligible to serve on the board of any one of the above entities (1) from which the person receives, directly or indirectly, any form of payment or financial benefit except for reimbursements for reasonable and authorized expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of a trustee, or, (2) which provides funds for which he/she has a duty of administration. When such conditions become applicable, that person or that person's spouse shall be considered as having resigned and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with established Convention procedure.
  - G. All of the above entities shall include both church or denominational employees and those who are not church or denominational employees. Not more than two-thirds of the members of any of these entities shall be drawn from either category. Where a person was serving as a church or denominational employee at the time of retirement, he/she should be counted as a church or denominational employee after retirement as far as the work of the Committee on Nominations is concerned.
  - H. Any person elected to serve on any of the boards, institutions, commissions, or the Executive Committee, shall at the time of such election have been continuously a resident member for at least the preceding three (3) years of a church or churches which were in those years in friendly cooperation with the Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work, and, where representation is by qualifying states, which were either geographically within the state or affiliated with the convention of the state from which the person is elected. Any person who is a member of one of these entities shall be considered as having resigned when the person ceases to be a resident member of a church either geographically within the state or affiliated with the convention of the state from which he/she has been elected as a representative.
  - I. No person who has served on the board of an entity or on the Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve on the board of any entity or on the Executive Committee until two years after the conclusion of his or her term of office, except that a person may be re-elected to an authorized successive term or serve by virtue of a separate office.
  - J. The report of the Committee on Nominations shall be released to Baptist Press no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention and shall be published in the first day's Bulletin. Persons desiring to amend the report of the Committee on Nominations are encouraged to publicize the nature of their amendment sufficiently in advance of the annual meeting of the Convention to allow information concerning the amendment to be made available to Convention messengers.
  - K. The Committee on Nominations shall make its recommendation to the Convention in the form of a motion to elect those persons it recommends for specific terms of office. The motion may be amended but no messenger shall be allowed to propose more than one (1) person at a time for election. When adopted by the Convention, the motion of the Committee on Nominations, as amended, shall constitute the election of the persons named in the motion to their respective terms of office.
- 16. Vacancies on Boards:** All entities shall report all vacancies on the entities to the Committee on Nominations immediately on the occurrence of such vacancies. Any entity's board may make interim appointments only when authorized by its charter. Any such appointment shall only be of a person who is eligible and qualified both to be elected by the Convention and to serve according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**17. Fraternal Messengers:**

- A. The Convention shall send a fraternal messenger to the annual sessions of the American Baptist Churches and the National Baptist conventions. The expenses of the fraternal messengers incurred while in attendance upon the conventions herein named shall be included in the items of Convention expenses.
- B. The fraternal messenger to the American Baptist Churches shall be the president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the time of the meeting of the American Baptist Churches, and he shall also be the fraternal messenger to the other National Baptist conventions named. If the president is unable to attend, he shall be authorized to name another officer as a substitute.
- C. The fraternal messengers to other Baptist bodies or other religious bodies may be elected by the Convention as occasion may require. The expenses of such messengers shall be borne by the messengers themselves unless specifically provided for by the Convention.

**18. The Executive Committee:**

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the president and the recording secretary of the Convention, the president of the Woman's Missionary Union, and one (1) or more members from each qualified and cooperating state or defined territory of the Convention, subject to the provisions of Section 30 of the Bylaws.
  - (1) Once the number of members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches in such an area reaches the levels shown in the following table, the number of Executive Committee members from that area shall thereafter be as indicated:

Any such qualified area:	One (1) Executive Committee member
250,000 church members:	Two (2) Executive Committee members
500,000 church members:	Three (3) Executive Committee members
750,000 church members:	Four (4) Executive Committee members
1,000,000 or more church members:	Five (5) Executive Committee members.
  - (2) In addition, and solely for the purpose of providing representation on the Convention's fiduciary for cooperating areas which are not yet qualified as provided above, there shall be one Executive Committee member from each of the four following geographical areas: the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, and Montana.
  - (3) Except for areas represented by only one member, at least one-third of the members from any area shall be persons employed by a church or denominational entity, and at least one-third of the members from that area shall be persons not employed by a church or denominational entity.
  - (4) At least one-third of the entire membership of the Executive Committee shall be persons employed by a church or denominational entity, and at least one-third of its members shall be persons not employed by a church or denominational entity.
  - (5) Except for the president and the recording secretary of the Convention and the president of Woman's Missionary Union, the following persons are disqualified from serving as members of the Executive Committee:
    - a. Employees of the Convention or its Executive Committee
    - b. Trustees, directors, or employees of a Convention entity or its auxiliary

- c. Employees of a convention for a state or defined territory, or of an entity or body that is empowered to act on behalf of such a convention
  - d. Employees of an entity of a convention for a state or defined territory
- B. Members shall be divided into four (4) groups as nearly equal as possible and shall hold office for four (4) years, one-fourth going out of office each year.
- C. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- D. The Executive Committee shall elect a president, who shall also be treasurer, and other officers and staff who may be needed. All the main executive officers and all the office employees who handle funds shall be bonded, and no salaried officer or employee shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
- E. The Executive Committee shall be the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive entity of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically committed to some other board or entity.

The Executive Committee is specifically authorized, instructed, and commissioned to perform the following functions:

- (1) To act for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for.
- (2) To be named in transfers of real and personal property for the use and benefit of the Convention either by deed, conveyance, will, or otherwise and to affix the seal of the Convention to all approved transactions; and to take title to and hold or to convey title to all properties, real or personal, and all funds, monies, and securities that are donated or transferred or left by will to or for the use of the Convention. As to such properties, funds, monies, and securities as the Executive Committee shall hold and not convey title to, the Executive Committee shall be custodian of such, holding them in trust for the Convention to be managed, controlled, and administered by the Executive Committee in accordance with the direction, general or specific, of the Convention. Rules governing the handling of securities set out in Article VII, Section 3, of the Constitution shall be observed by the Executive Committee.
- (3) To receive and receipt for all current funds of the Convention including all undesignated cooperative missionary, educational, and benevolent funds and all current special or designated funds for missionary, educational, and benevolent purposes which may be contributed by individuals, churches, societies, corporations, associations, or state conventions; and to disburse all undesignated funds, according to the percentages fixed by the Convention and all the designated funds according to the stipulations of the donors. The Executive Committee shall keep the accounts of all inter-entity groups and shall disburse their funds on requisition of the properly constituted officers of the inter-entity organization.
- (4) To recommend to the Convention a time and place and to have oversight of the arrangements for the meetings of the Convention, with authority to change both the time and place of the meetings in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution.
- (5) To act in an advisory capacity on all questions of cooperation among the different entities of the Convention, and among the entities of the Convention and those of other conventions, whether state or national.

- (6) To present to the Convention each year a consolidated and comprehensive financial statement of the Convention and all its entities, which statement shall show the assets and liabilities of the Convention and all its entities, and all the cash and other receipts of the year.
- (7) To present to the Convention a comprehensive budget for the Convention and for all its entities, which budget shall include the budgets of all the entities of the Convention whether or not they receive Cooperative Program funds, as reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall recommend the amount of Convention funds which may be allocated to each cause. It shall not recommend any direct allocation of funds for any entity or institution for which the Convention does not elect trustees or directors.
- (8) To conduct the general work of promotion and the general work of publicity for the Convention in cooperation with the entities of the Convention. The Executive Committee shall provide a Convention relations service and a Convention news service to interpret and publicize the overall Southern Baptist ministry. These services shall be available to support the work of all Convention entities and ministries.
- (9) To maintain open channels of communication between the Executive Committee and the trustees of the entities of the Convention, to study and make recommendations to entities concerning adjustments required by ministry statements or by established Convention policies and practices, and, whenever deemed advisable, to make recommendations to the Convention. The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, entities, and institutions of the Convention. This is the responsibility of trustees elected by the Convention and accountable directly to the Convention.
- (10) To make its own bylaws in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention in carrying out these instructions to the Executive Committee; to hold meetings whenever deemed necessary; to make reports of all meetings to the Convention; to notify all the boards, entities, and institutions of the actions of the Convention and to advise with them as to the best way of promoting all the interests of the Convention.
- (11) To derive, in accordance with the action of the Convention in Atlanta in 1944, the expenses of the Executive Committee from the Operating Budget of the Convention specifically established for this purpose and formally approved by the Convention.
- (12) To utilize an appropriate report format which will enable the Executive Committee to obtain from the entities adequate and comparable information about ministry plans, accomplishments, and financial data.
- (13) To maintain an official organization manual defining the responsibilities of each entity of the Convention for conducting specific ministries and for performing other functions. The manual shall cite the actions of the Convention that assigned the ministries and other functions to the entity. The Executive Committee shall present to the Convention recommendations required to clarify the responsibilities of the entities for ministries and other functions, to eliminate overlapping assignments of responsibility, and to authorize the assignment of new responsibilities for ministries or functions to entities.

- (14) To send copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee to the heads of all Southern Baptist Convention entities, and copies of the minutes of all entities shall be sent to the office of the Executive Committee.

**19. Committee on Committees:** A Committee on Committees, composed of two (2) members from each qualified state or defined territory, shall be appointed by the president, in conference with the vice presidents, of whom one (1) shall be designated as chairperson. Persons named to the Committee on Committees shall have been resident members for at least three (3) years of Southern Baptist churches either geographically within the states or affiliated with the conventions of the states from which they are appointed. Members so named shall be notified by the president in writing, at least 45 days before the meeting of the Convention. Their names shall be released by the president to Baptist Press no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, and their names shall be published in the first issue of the Convention Bulletin. The president may fill any vacancies on the committee when those originally named do not attend the Convention. This committee shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the Convention not otherwise provided for. All special Convention committees shall transfer, upon their discharge, all official files to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

**20. Committee on Resolutions:** At least seventy-five (75) days in advance of the Convention, the president, in conference with the vice presidents, shall appoint a Committee on Resolutions to consist of ten (10) members, any two (2) of whom shall have served as Committee on Resolutions members during the prior year, and any three (3) of whom shall be members of the Executive Committee. One of the Committee members shall be designated as chairperson. Members so named shall be notified by the president in writing at least 75 days before the annual meeting of the Convention. The names of the members of the Committee on Resolutions shall be released by the president to Baptist Press no later than 75 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, and their names shall be published in the first issue of the Convention Bulletin.

In order to facilitate thorough consideration and to expedite the Committee's work, all proposed resolutions shall:

- 1) Be submitted to the Committee for review and consideration as early as April 15th, but no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the next SBC annual meeting,
- 2) Be addressed to the Committee on Resolutions in care of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at its registered or e-mail address (electronic copies are preferred),
- 3) Be typewritten, titled, and dated,
- 4) Be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing, and
- 5) Include complete contact information for both the person submitting it, and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year. The Committee on Resolutions shall prepare and submit to each annual meeting of the Convention only such resolutions the Committee recommends for adoption. Such resolutions may be based upon proposals received by the Committee or may originate with the Committee. Only resolutions recommended by the Committee may be considered by the Convention, except the Convention may, by a 2/3 vote, consider any other resolution properly submitted to the Committee.

A list of the titles of all properly submitted proposed resolutions shall be printed in the Convention *Bulletin*. The list shall include the name and city of each person properly submitting a resolution, and the disposition of each proper submission.

21. **Committee on Order of Business:** The Committee on Order of Business, a standing committee, shall consist of seven (7) members – the president of the Convention and six (6) other members, two (2) of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years and two (2) of whom shall be persons not employed full time by a church or denominational entity. No member of the committee can succeed himself or herself. The committee shall suggest an order of business for the next meeting of the Convention. It shall provide periods of time during the Convention for the introduction of all matters requiring a vote not scheduled on the agenda, and, when introduced (unless the Convention then gives its unanimous consent for its immediate consideration) shall fix times for the consideration of the same. All such matters of business shall be introduced to the Convention by the end of the afternoon session of the first day of the annual meeting of the Convention. When practicable it shall give notice in the Convention *Bulletin* of the substance of the motion or resolution and the time for its consideration. If unable to give notice in the *Bulletin*, it shall cause announcement to be made from the floor of the Convention of the same, action thereon to be taken at the subsequent session of that Convention. The committee shall recommend to the Convention a preacher for the succeeding Convention sermon and the director of music. The director of music shall be elected annually and the term of office is limited to two (2) years. The director of music shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is named.
22. **Notification of Committees:** Within thirty (30) days after the Convention adjourns, the recording secretary shall notify the members of all committees of their appointment and all chairpersons of their position and furnish each one a list of that committee. The recording secretary shall also notify all board members, trustees of institutions, and commission members of their appointment.
23. **The Great Commission Council:** The Great Commission Council shall serve as the organization through which the various entities and the auxiliary of the Convention will correlate their work. The membership of the Great Commission Council shall be composed of the chief executives of The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the auxiliary of the Convention, and the entities named in Bylaw 14.
  - A. The work of the Council shall be in keeping with its prescribed functions. It will neither launch nor execute ministries; it will formulate no policies, except those which govern its own activities. Its chief purpose is that of consultation, communication, and cooperation. The scope of its work will be that of:
    - (1) finding ways of mutual re-enforcement in assigned responsibilities and distinctive ministries;
    - (2) considering and seeking to avoid overlapping endeavors and competitive ministries;
    - (3) considering the means for helping the churches fulfill their divine mission in Bible teaching, evangelism, world missions, stewardship, Christian training, education, and Christian social service;
    - (4) finding ways for effective cooperation in promoting the total work of the Southern Baptist Convention;
    - (5) considering the significant factors affecting the work and witness of the denomination; and

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- (6) seeking to find the means through which the power of the Christian gospel may be comprehensively and effectively applied to the ends of the earth.
- B. In the matter of relationships:
- (1) the Council is not, itself, an entity of the Convention;
  - (2) it has no authority over the several entities;
  - (3) its decisions are not binding on the entities, since the boards and commissions must retain the authority to reach the decisions required to carry out their own responsibilities;
  - (4) its relationship to the entities is purely advisory;
  - (5) the Council does not report formally either to the Convention or the Executive Committee, nor does the Convention refer matters directly to the Great Commission Council;
  - (6) it may receive from and refer to the Executive Committee problems for consideration;
  - (7) it is not required to take formal action with regard to matters referred to it by the Executive Committee in serving as a channel of cooperation and correlation relative to the work of the Convention; and
  - (8) the Council sustains no direct relationship with state conventions or local churches, but it will strive to be mindful of the needs of the churches as well as the functions and ministries of the several conventions.
- 24. Ministry Statements:** The ministry statements of the entities as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and published in the 1967 *Annual* and subsequently amended, renamed, or rewritten, and approved by the Convention, express the policy of the Convention with respect to the ministries of the entities of the Convention.
- 25. New Enterprises and Abolishing of Entities:** No new enterprise, involving expenditure of money, shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two (2) succeeding annual meetings; provided, however, that this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of an entity of the Convention concerning its own work. No entity shall be discontinued without a majority vote at two (2) successive annual sessions of the Convention.
- 26. Procedures:**
- A. *Method of Procedure for Entities:* To facilitate consideration and discussion of the interests of the Convention, the following method of procedure is hereby adopted:
- (1) Printed reports of the boards, institutions, commissions, and standing committees shall be consolidated into the *Book of Reports* for distribution to messengers on their enrollment;
  - (2) Reports of all special commissions and standing committees, containing recommendations for the Convention's action, shall be included in the *Book of Reports*; and
  - (3) All recommendations of each board, institution, commission, special committee, and standing committee shall be printed together at the end of its report before they may be considered by the Convention. In case any entity or committee shall be unable to comply with this requirement, its recommendation shall be printed in the Convention *Bulletin* before consideration and action by the Convention.

Recommendations by an entity which are not published in the *Book of Reports* or the Convention *Bulletin* shall, when presented to the Convention, be referred to the Executive Committee or to such other committee as the Convention may direct.

- B. *Procedure for Motions of Messengers Concerning Entities:* Motions made by messengers dealing with internal operations or ministries of an entity shall be referred to the elected board of the entity for consideration and report to the constituency and to the next annual meeting of the Convention for action with the exception that the Committee on Order of Business may be instructed by a two-thirds vote to arrange for consideration at a subsequent session of the same Convention, subject to provision of Bylaw 21.

On all matters referred by the Convention, entities shall respond in writing at the close of their report in the *Book of Reports* and *Annual*, giving specific information on:

- (1) how the matter referred was considered;
  - (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and
  - (3) any actions on the matter taken by the entity or action proposed to the Convention.
- C. *Limitations:* The last one-third of the time allotted for consideration of every entity report before the Convention shall be reserved for discussion from the floor.

**27. Publicity and Press Representative:**

- A. Boards, institutions, and special committees dealing with matters of general importance and interest shall have in the hands of the press representative of the Convention, at least one (1) week in advance, copies of digests of their report to be submitted to the approaching Convention.
- B. The press representative shall cooperate with the representatives of the secular press in furnishing intelligent, accurate, and creditable reports of this Convention while in session.

- 28. Closing of Books:** Entities of the Convention shall close their books and accounts and have them audited as of midnight September 30, or in the case of the seminaries, July 31, or in the case of GuideStone Financial Resources, December 31. Supplemental reports for the period between the closing of the books of the entities and the Convention session should be included in the reports to the Convention.

- 29. Participation in Convention Affairs:** To promote broad participation in the affairs of the Convention, a person need not be a registered messenger to serve as a Convention committee member or volunteer (such as an usher or teller), but must be a member of a church cooperating with the Convention.

**30. Representation From Qualified States and Territories:**

- A. When the cooperating Baptist churches in a state or defined territory have fifteen thousand (15,000) members, an initial application may be filed for representation on the Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees, and the Committee on Nominations.
- B. When the cooperating Baptist churches have twenty thousand (20,000) members, an updated application may be filed for representation on the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, unless otherwise provided in the Board's charter.



- C. When the cooperating Baptist churches have twenty-five thousand (25,000) members, an updated application may be filed for representation on GuideStone Financial Resources, the commissions, and institutions, unless otherwise provided in the commission's or institution's charter, and on the standing committees of the Convention, all as provided by the Bylaws of the Convention.
  - D. The application in each instance shall be filed with the Executive Committee, through its president, prior to its February meeting. The application shall contain information as specified by the Executive Committee.
  - E. Upon receiving the initial application, the Executive Committee shall investigate all matters pertaining to the request and make a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention at its next annual meeting. If the recommendation of the Executive Committee is favorable to the application, a copy of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the chairman of the Committee on Committees prior to the next annual meeting of the Convention.
  - F. Upon receipt of the favorable recommendation of the Executive Committee on the initial application in (1) above, the president of the Convention, in conference with the vice presidents, shall appoint two (2) persons from the state or territory to serve as members of the Committee on Committees, and the Committee on Committees shall nominate two (2) persons from the state or territory to serve on the Committee on Nominations, all conditional upon the approval of the application by the Southern Baptist Convention.
  - G. Those elected by the Convention shall be immediately eligible to begin their appropriate terms of service.
- 31. Adoption of Reports:** The adoption of recommendations contained in reports to the Convention shall not bind the Convention on any other matters in the body of the reports; but the Convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports.
- 32. As to Violation of State Laws:** All incorporated entities of the Convention shall be required to comply with the letter and spirit of the Constitution insofar as it is not in conflict with the statute law of the state in which an entity is incorporated, and nothing herein contained shall be construed to require any such incorporated entity to act and carry on its affairs in conflict with the law of the state of its incorporation. In case any action of any entity of the Convention is found to be a violation of the law of the state of its incorporation, said action shall be reported by that entity to the Convention for appropriate action.
- 33. Charters of Entities, Subsidiaries, and Ancillary Organizations:** The charters of all entities of the Convention shall provide that the trustees or directors of such entities be elected by the Convention, and that the charters may not be further amended without the prior consent of the Convention. The charters of all subsidiaries of any entity of the Convention shall provide that they may not be further amended without the prior consent of the Convention or its Executive Committee. No entity of the Convention shall establish a subsidiary corporation or any other legal entity or form for conducting its affairs, nor acquire a controlling interest or greater than a 25% interest in any other corporation or business enterprise, until the Convention or its Executive Committee has approved the same and its governing instruments. An entity of the Convention shall not undertake through a subsidiary or by any other means any action which, if undertaken by the entity itself, would violate the Constitution, Bylaws, or Business and Financial Plan of the Convention.

- 34. Quorum:** The quorum for conducting business during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention shall be a minimum of 25 percent of those duly registered and seated messengers.
- 35. Trustee Absenteeism:**
- A. Upon the request of any entity, the Convention may remove from office any trustee/director of that entity who has excessive unexcused absences. Following such removal, the Convention shall elect a successor to complete the term of office of the person removed.
  - B. An entity shall give written notice of any request to remove a trustee/director for absenteeism at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the meeting of the Convention which shall consider the removal. The notice shall be given to the president of the Convention, the president/chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, and the individual trustee/director whose removal shall be considered.
  - C. If required by state law, an entity shall incorporate this procedure in its charter or bylaws prior to requesting the Convention to remove any trustee.
- 36. Amendments:** The Bylaws may be amended pursuant to Bylaw 21 by a two-thirds majority vote at any time except during the last session of the Convention. Bylaw 14, which lists the entities and auxiliary of the Convention, may be amended by a majority vote of two (2) successive annual meetings.

## BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Convention Budget:** Each entity of the Convention shall submit to the Executive Committee for its review:

- A. an itemized estimate of its receipts for the next fiscal year, and
- B. an itemized estimate of its expenditures for the next fiscal year according to the rule set forth below (See Section II-C) for making operating budgets.

The Executive Committee shall present to the Convention a budget, which budget shall consist of all the budgets of all the entities which have been submitted to the Executive Committee and reviewed by it, and recommend the amount of Convention funds to be allocated to each cause or entity.

### **II. Operating Budgets:**

- A. *Convention Operating Budget* - The Executive Committee shall recommend to the Convention an operating budget which shall include all expenses of the Convention, committees, and other items included in the Convention Operating Budget. The Executive Committee shall also recommend to the Convention the source of these funds.
- B. *Entities Not Sharing in Table of Percentages* - The entities of the Convention not sharing in the table of percentages for distribution of funds shall be provided for as follows:
  - 1. Expenses of Standing Committees – The Executive Committee shall approve or recommend to the Convention, after a personal conference or correspondence with chairpersons of standing committees, a sum of money to be appropriated to each of them for the Convention year.

2. Expenses of Special Committees –

- a. The expenses incurred by special committees appointed by the Convention to perform duties connected with one or more entities of the Convention shall be borne by the entity or entities concerned on a basis pro rata to receipts unless the expenses are otherwise specifically provided.
- b. The expenses incurred by special committees which do not directly concern any of the entities of the Convention shall be paid out of the Convention Operating Budget. Unless the amount of expenses is fixed by the Convention, the Executive Committee must agree to the amount to be expended before such expenditure is incurred.
- c. Itemized accounts of expenses of members of such committees shall be required and approved by the chairperson before the same shall be paid.

C. *Entities Sharing in the Direct Allocation* - The entities of the Convention sharing in the direct allocation for the distribution of funds shall make their operating budgets in the following manner:

1. The current operating budget of the entities of the Convention shall be made on the basis of the current distributable operating allocation, plus any other anticipated receipts which can be substantiated by previous experience, not including wills, bequests, and special gifts for special purposes; and any debt incurred within the current year shall become a preferred item in the budget of the Convention year immediately following.
2. In making the annual appropriations on the basis set forth, a contingent item shall be set up in the budget according to the needs of the entity.
3. It is understood that an entity may borrow money for seasonable needs, provided, however, that such borrowing shall not exceed the amount of its budget allowance remaining at the time of borrowing, and provided further that if an emergency should arise, additional money may be borrowed on the approval of the Executive Committee of the Convention.

**III. Convention Year:** The financial affairs of the Convention and all its entities, except those of the theological seminaries and GuideStone Financial Resources, shall be operated on the fiscal year beginning October 1 and closing September 30. The seminaries owned and operated under the authority of the Convention shall use the fiscal year beginning August 1 and closing July 31. GuideStone Financial Resources shall use the fiscal year beginning January 1 and closing December 31.

**IV. The Disbursing Entity:** By agreement, all sums collected in the states for the causes fostered by this Convention will be forwarded at least monthly by each state office to the Executive Committee of this Convention, which shall act as the disbursing agent of this Convention. The Executive Committee shall remit at least weekly to each of the entities of the Convention the funds, distributable and designated, belonging to each entity. The first distribution in each month shall be on the seventh day of the month, or the nearest working day thereafter. The Executive Committee shall make monthly reports of receipts by states, and of disbursements by entities, and shall forward each month copies of these reports to the executives of the entities of the Convention, to the state offices, and to the denominational papers.

**V. Distribution of Cooperative Program Receipts:** In order that the financial plans and purposes of the Convention may operate successfully, the Convention appeals to its constituents to give to the whole Cooperative Program and to recognize the wisdom

and right of the Convention to distribute its receipts from the Cooperative Program, thus assuring an equitable distribution among the entities of the Convention.

#### **VI. Fund Raising Activities:**

- A. *Approval of Financial Activities* – No entity of the Southern Baptist Convention shall conduct any type of fund raising activity without the advance approval of the Convention, or its Executive Committee. No advance approval shall be required for the two Convention approved special offerings: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.
- B. *Reporting Fund Raising Activities* – Each Convention entity shall report annually to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention on any type of fund raising activity conducted by the entity. The report shall include a summary of the activity, its title, financial goals, structure, cost, and the results of such fund raising during the past year. No report shall be required for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.
- C. *Cooperative Program Promotion* – Each Convention entity shall report on its efforts during the year in promoting Cooperative Program missions giving.
- D. *No Financial Appeals to Churches* – In no case shall any Convention entity approach a church for inclusion in its church budget or appeal for financial contributions.

**VII. Designated Gifts:** The Convention binds itself and its entities faithfully to apply and use such gifts as designated by the donor.

**VIII. Trust Funds:** Each entity of the Convention is hereby instructed and ordered to keep all trust funds and designated gifts (for they are trust funds) sacred to the trust and designation; that they be kept separate from all other funds of such entity; that they are not to be used even temporarily for any other purpose than the purpose specified; and that such funds shall not hereafter be invested in the securities of any denominational body or entity.

**IX. Gift Annuity Agreements:** All entities of this Convention writing gift annuity agreements in the future, and the Executive Committee when writing gift annuity agreements on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention, are encouraged to place the annuity portion of each gift annuity on deposit with the Southern Baptist Foundation or GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention and enter into a contractual agreement with the Southern Baptist Foundation or GuideStone Financial Resources to pay the annuity payments required under the gift annuity agreement. This provision shall not apply to gifts of property, real or personal, the income of which is to go to the donor without further or additional obligation on the part of the entity accepting the gift. The Southern Baptist Foundation and GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention shall, when determining the amounts required to fund the annuity portion of any gift annuity agreement, use mortality, interest, and expense rates which are approved or recommended by any appropriate regulatory authority, if any, or which are based on sound actuarial statistics.

**X. Indebtedness/Liability:** An entity or institution shall not create any liability or indebtedness, except such as can and will be repaid out of its anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three (3) years, without the consent of the Convention or the Executive Committee. In order to obtain such approval, the entity must file a statement showing the source of such anticipated receipts.

Such consent must be likewise obtained for a purchase of properties (directly or indirectly or through ownership of controlling stock in other corporations or otherwise) subject to liens or encumbrances which cannot be repaid out of its anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three (3) years.

**XI. Capital Fund Allocations:** Capital funds are allocated for the purpose of obtaining, expanding, improving, or maintaining properties owned by entities of the Southern Baptist Convention and essential to implementing entity program assignments.

Capital funds are used in projects which add to the long-range assets of the entity.

In making allocations for capital funds, priority shall be given to those projects which make the greatest contribution to advancing the overall objectives of the Southern Baptist Convention in bringing men to God through Jesus Christ.

Capital funds projects shall cost more than \$5,000 and have a projected life span of more than five (5) years.

Items such as office equipment, furniture replacement, or books shall not be acquired through the capital fund allocation process.

Repairs and maintenance of income-producing property shall be made from earned income. Major repairs to non income-producing property may be considered as being eligible for capital fund allocations.

**XII. Contingent Reserves:** Each entity of this Convention shall set up as soon as possible a reserve for contingencies to provide for deficits that may occur either through decreased receipts or through emergencies or both. The maximum amount of contingent reserve of any entity shall be determined by the entity, subject to the approval of the Convention. Entities shall state on the balance sheets of the annual audits the amounts in Contingent Reserve Funds.

**XIII. Financial Report:**

**A. Audit Reports -** The entities of the Convention and the Executive Committee shall close their books and accounts as of the close of business on September 30 of each year, or July 31 in the case of the seminaries, or December 31 in the case of GuideStone Financial Resources, and have them audited by an independent certified public accountant (the external auditor) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

Each entity of the Convention shall forward a copy of its external auditor's audit report (or, if more than one, all such reports) to the Executive Committee, as soon as possible after the close of its fiscal year. Additionally, as a part of this annual submission process, each entity shall also submit a statement signed by its chief executive officer and the chief financial officer which affirms that the books and accounts are accurate and complete to the best of the officer's knowledge, and that the officer believes the corporation's internal controls are adequate.

Each entity and the Executive Committee shall appoint a committee of its own trustees to undertake and accomplish duties pertinent to audit reports. These committees shall be appointed, and the trustees serving on the committees shall operate, independent of influence by their corporation's management, and each such committee shall include at least one trustee who is competent by training and experience in fiscal matters. The duties these committees shall perform for their respective entities shall include:

- 1) recommending the appointment of the external auditor,
- 2) studying the external auditor's audit report upon its completion,

- 3) maintaining the independence of the entity's financial auditors,
- 4) reviewing the entity's critical accounting policies and decisions and the adequacy of its internal control systems,
- 5) preserving the integrity of the financial reporting process implemented by management, and
- 6) assuring that the business procedures listed in Article XVII are followed.

As a part of each external auditor's audit report, the external auditor shall prepare for the entity's audit committee a separate letter on the auditing firm's letterhead (the "management letter") in which the external auditor makes any recommendations concerning the entity's financial and accounting policies, processes, internal controls, or other matters. If the external auditor has no recommendations, he should so state in the management letter to the entity's audit committee. The entity's administration shall forward a copy of the management letter along with any comments that the administration might deem desirable to the Executive Committee simultaneously with the external auditor's audit report, for review and response (if appropriate) by the Executive Committee. The process of submission and review of the external auditors' audit reports and management letters of the several entities by the Executive Committee shall be governed by the assigned responsibilities and limitations upon authority described in SBC Bylaw 18 E and its subparagraphs (6), (7), (9), and (12).

When securities are placed for holding with a trustee (i.e. bank, trust company, foundation, etc.), a certified statement from such trustee should be made to the external auditor and be made a part of the annual external auditor's audit report or submitted as a supplement to the report.

B. *Printing of Reports* - The financial report of each entity and of the Executive Committee shall be printed in the *Convention Book of Reports*, or the *Convention Annual*, and shall contain the following six items, the first five of which come from its latest annual audit report:

- 1) Statement of Financial Position
- 2) Statement of Activities (revenues, expenses, and other changes in net assets)
- 3) Statement of Cash Flows
- 4) Classified list of investments by fund and type of investment
- 5) Receipts by states of contributions. These should show:
  - a. Cooperative Program receipts received through the Executive Committee
  - b. Designated receipts received through the Executive Committee
  - c. Gifts not received through the Executive Committee
- 6) A statement executed by the chair of the entity's board attesting that the board's officers confirm the following fiscal conditions exist:
  - a. The expenses and perquisites of the president are not excessive and are in keeping with biblical stewardship, including every emolument and personal benefit of any kind (and specifically including housing, travel, automobile(s), and personal assistants) all valued at market rates.
  - b. All corporate expenses are reasonable and incurred to accomplish the entity's *Organization Manual* mission statement, *Organization Manual* ministry assignments, and any other responsibilities previously approved by the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention and still in force.

- c. All corporate expenses are incurred by the administration in a manner that reflects integrity and avoids appearances of impropriety while upholding a positive Christian witness to the Convention and beyond.

Lifeway Christian Resources shall include in its annual report to the Convention information on the amount of funds transferred to state conventions during the preceding year.

At the end of the presentation of entity financial data in each *SBC Book of Reports*, a statement shall be inserted which discloses that the entities have all supplied (or naming which have and which have not, if some have not) the statement required by Article XIII B 6, above, and setting forth the elements thereof, in order that the messengers and the Convention's affiliated churches may be annually reassured that those fiscal conditions set forth are continuing to be maintained by the Convention's entities.

- XIV. Safeguarding of Funds:** All persons who transfer or safeguard funds or securities of the Convention or any entity of the Convention shall be bonded in an amount sufficient to protect against loss of the funds or securities involved. Such bonds may be reviewed and approved by the Convention or its Executive Committee.

Members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches shall have access to information from the records of Southern Baptist Convention entities regarding income, expenditures, debts, reserves, operating balances, and salary structures.

The securities of all Convention entities shall be held and maintained in a prudent manner, including under such internal controls as may be recommended in the entity's annual audit.

- XV. New Enterprises:** No new enterprise involving expenditure of money shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two (2) succeeding annual meetings; provided, however, that this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of any entity of the Convention concerning its own work. In the event any new hospital propositions are made, they must be considered as new enterprises of the Convention, whether money is involved at the time of the acquiring of such property or not, and must be presented to two (2) succeeding annual sessions of the Convention.

- XVI. Appropriations by the Entities:** No entity shall make any appropriation to any cause or for any purpose other than for the promotion of its own work except by the approval or upon the instruction of the Convention or of the Executive Committee.

Lifeway Christian Resources shall be required to transfer funds to the Southern Baptist Convention each year to be used as the Convention determines. Lifeway Christian Resources shall not be permitted or required to transfer funds to other Southern Baptist Convention entities or committees.

- XVII. Business Procedure:** Entity boards of trustees should oversee the operations of the entity in such a manner as will assure effective and ethical management. Disclosures of the entity's relationship with other entities, its activities, liabilities, commitments, and results of operations should be accurate and complete and include all material information. The entity should not make any loan from funds of the entity to a trustee. The entity should not make any loan from funds of the entity to an officer or employee without having first obtained the approval of its board (or its delegated subcommittee) after disclosure of all relevant details. Employees and trustees should not appropriate for personal advantage any corporate property or business opportunities which should be enjoyed by the entity.

As a normal operating policy, each entity of the Southern Baptist Convention shall refrain from entering any business transaction with a trustee or employee, or a business enterprise in which a trustee or employee has an interest. An exception to this policy may be made, at the discretion of the board of trustees, in any case wherein it appears that a commodity or service is unavailable on a more favorable basis from any other source, or a commodity or service, at the discretion of the board, is found to be in the best interest of the entity. Competitive bids should be taken if possible. In any case being considered for exception, the extent of the trustee's or employee's interest shall be disclosed to the entire board.

- XVIII. Professional Services:** The Executive Committee at its discretion may employ an auditor to study the audited report with the auditors of the entities in the light of Convention instructions.

The Executive Committee at its discretion may employ an engineer or architect to study proposed capital projects or maintenance of present capital assets.

- XIX. Publication and Merchandising Policy:** All entities of the Convention should give priority to using the services of Lifeway Christian Resources for editing, publishing, and distributing published materials that are to be sold. Entities may publish their own materials in print or digital form promoting their assigned ministries.

No entity other than Lifeway Christian Resources should be authorized to operate physical book stores at any location other than its principal office.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention may review the financial agreements entered into by Lifeway Christian Resources and other Convention entities and should, whenever appropriate, recommend changes in Convention policies and revisions of existing policies related to such agreements. At the request of any Convention entity, this committee should also suggest to Lifeway Christian Resources and other Convention entities steps they should take to resolve any disagreements that arise concerning financial agreements.

No entity shall publish a printed or digital format periodical, for general distribution to the churches or to members of the churches, if the Convention or its Executive Committee votes to request the periodical not be published.

- XX. Publications:** The plans and methods herein set forth shall be published each year in the Convention *Annual*, following the Bylaws of the Convention.

- XXI. Amendments:** This Business and Financial Plan may be amended by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at any time except during the last session of the Convention.



# ORGANIZATION MANUAL

## PREFACE

In 1960 the Southern Baptist Convention adopted the following bylaw. It shall be the function of the Executive Committee:

~ To maintain an official organization manual defining the responsibilities of each agency of the Convention for conducting specific programs and for performing other functions. The manual shall cite the actions of the Convention that assigned the programs and other functions to the agency. The Executive Committee shall present to the Convention recommendations required to clarify the responsibilities of the agencies for programs and other functions, to eliminate overlapping assignments of responsibility, and to authorize the assignment of new responsibilities for programs or functions to agencies.

— *SBC Annual 1960*, p. 51

Beginning that same year the Convention approved program statements for all the entities. These were brought into uniform styling and form by another bylaw approved by the Convention in 1967:

14. Program Statements. The program statements of the agencies as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and published in the 1967 Annual and subsequently amended express the policy of the Convention with respect to the programs of the agencies of the Convention.

— *SBC Annual 1967*, p. 61

On November 1, 1967 the Executive Committee published its first complete organization manual. Since then the Convention has made numerous changes in the ministries (formerly programs) of the entities which render this first manual out of date.

In the following pages are presented all of the ministries, as approved by the Convention. At the bottom of the last page for each one of them, you will find the dates when these ministries were approved, or when changes were made.

Please note also on page 243 the procedures adopted by the Executive Committee for changing ministry statements.

On June 20, 1995, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted **Covenant for a New Century** with an introduction to ministry statements as follows:

Ministry statements assigned to each Southern Baptist Convention entity are rooted in and measured by our shared mission. The charge assigned to each entity is founded upon the conviction that the entities of the Convention exist to serve the churches, their ministries, and mission. The statements have been developed in order that each entity will serve the Convention's mission to the greatest standard of faithfulness and the maximum standard of stewardship.

These ministry statements will replace the present program statements as assigned to the entities of the Convention. The ministry statements, a statement of cooperation, a listing of relationships for cooperation, and details of the process of cooperation will be published in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention* as required by SBC Bylaw 20,(5),(m). [Note: This is now Bylaw 18E (13).]

Beginning in the fall of 2006, *The Organization Manual* began being printed in each year's *SBC Annual* and *SBC Book of Reports* among the other governing documents of the Convention to keep Southern Baptists apprised of each entity's charge. (See Item 160, 2006 *SBC Annual*, p. 94, and pp. 204-5.)

## THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

### MISSION

The International Mission Board exists to assist the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to be on mission with God in penetrating the unevangelized world outside the United States and Canada with the gospel and making Christ known among all people.

### MINISTRIES

- 1. Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.**

Develop and maintain a systematic strategy for gospel proclamation and planting churches that will result in the rapid reproduction and multiplication of local indigenous congregations that will make the gospel accessible to all persons among every ethno-linguistic people group; assist national conventions and unions in providing programs of discipleship and leadership training; develop and distribute relevant electronic and print media that support evangelism and church planting, and facilitate the translation and distribution of the Bible, Scripture portions, and other materials in indigenous languages.

- 2. Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.**

Enlist, appoint, equip, and provide support for God-called Southern Baptist missionaries to serve in long-term and short-term channels of service who give evidence of piety, zeal for their Master's kingdom, conviction of truth as held by Southern Baptists, and giftedness for cross-cultural witness; inform, promote, and provide opportunities for Southern Baptist volunteers to assist in the ministries of the International Mission Board through projects of various duration, and provide resources and materials for training and equipping these volunteers.

- 3. Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.**

Inform, challenge, and work in partnership with local churches, associations, state conventions, and other SBC entities to enable Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission overseas by facilitating involvement in prayer strategies, encouraging generous and sacrificial giving to missions through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and promoting channels for volunteer and missionary service.

- 4. Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.**

Provide and maintain an organizational structure and support staff with appropriate leadership and financial management that are designed to implement a comprehensive program to reach the whole world with the gospel through direct evangelism and creative access platform ministries; utilize hospitals, clinics, community health, agricultural, and other development programs, hunger relief and disaster response to meet human needs and share the gospel.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The International Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 17, 2003. See *SBC Annual 2003*, pp.50-51.

Amended June 14, 2011. See *SBC Annual 2011*, pp. 62-64.

## THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

### MISSION

The North American Mission Board exists to work with churches, associations and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting.

### MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada; and provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the International Mission Board in assisting churches to plant churches for specific groups outside the United States and Canada.**

Work in partnership with churches, associations, and state conventions, and the International Mission Board to start new congregations with a priority to reach population centers and underserved people groups; lead a missional movement to encourage Southern Baptist churches to become church planting congregations.

2. **Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

Equip Southern Baptists for faithful evangelism; encourage churches in evangelism and discipleship; implement direct evangelism projects; prioritize spiritual awakening; develop an evangelism strategy for reaching North America with the Gospel.

3. **Assist churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.**

Appoint, approve, support and supervise missionaries assigned to accomplish the ministries of NAMB; endorse chaplains; enlist and assist bi-vocational ministers in mission service.

4. **Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.**

Develop organizations, services, and materials for establishing, enlarging, and improving missions and ministry learning and involvement experiences in churches; assist in volunteer mission involvement.

5. **Assist churches by providing leadership development.**

Equip pastors for effective congregational leadership, contextual evangelism, and church planting; connect pastors to pastors through leadership development; encourage pastors as they serve in diverse congregational settings.

6. **Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.**

Provide appropriate assistance and coordination in service to state Baptist conventions, when multi-state and national disaster responses are needed; coordinate with federal government as well as national disaster relief entities to ensure good response coordination on behalf of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; direct and assist Christian social ministries.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The North American Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 14, 2011. See *SBC Annual 2011*, pp. 64-68.

Amended June 16, 2015. See *SBC Annual 2015*, pp. 47-49.

## LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

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### MISSION

Lifeway Christian Resources exists to assist churches and believers to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers, and grow churches by being the best provider of relevant, high quality, high value Christian products and services.

### MINISTRIES

**1. Assist churches in the development of church ministries.**

Provide programs, products, and services that help churches grow in the areas of Bible study, discipleship, music, worship, administration, media/library, recreation, fellowship, and family ministry; consult with church leaders regarding total church growth concepts, strategies, and resources.

**2. Assist churches in ministries to college and university students.**

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a program, products, and services that may be used in establishing, administering, enlarging, and improving ministry with college students, faculty, and administration.

**3. Assist churches with Christian schools and home school ministries.**

Provide consultation, products, and services needed by churches with Christian schools and members educating through home schools.

**4. Assist churches in ministries to men and women.**

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a program, products, and services that may be used in establishing, administering, and improving ministries to men and women.

**5. Assist churches through the operation of conference centers and camps.**

Develop, promote, and operate conference and resident camp facilities useful to Southern Baptist Convention entities, state conventions, associations, and churches in establishing, enlarging, and improving their ministries.

**6. Assist churches through the publication of books and Bibles.**

Produce, publish, and distribute products, including books, of Christian content and purpose and Bibles that contribute to the effectiveness of churches and individuals.

**7. Assist churches through the operation of Lifeway Christian Stores.**

Serve people and the churches, associations, state conventions, and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention by distributing appropriate products through Lifeway Christian Stores.

**8. Assist churches through church architecture consultation and services.**

Develop products and services needed by Southern Baptist churches, associations, state conventions, and denominational entities to assist them in planning, financing, furnishing, equipping, and utilizing property.

**9. Assist churches in capital fund raising.**

Provide leadership to churches in securing funds for capital needs.

**10. Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics.**

Conduct research and compile statistics on matters relating to, and of interest to, Southern Baptists, noting future trends and possible effects on church practice, productivity, witness, and health, and tender reports to the Executive Committee for review and possible report or action in an SBC annual meeting.

**RELATIONSHIPS**

Lifeway Christian Resources will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

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Original program statement approved June 2, 1965. See *SBC Annual 1965*, pp. 61-67.

Finally approved May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 103-117.

New statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 6, 1972. See *SBC Annual 1972*, pp. 60-67.

Amended June 12, 1973. See *SBC Annual 1973*, p. 55.

Amended June 11, 1974. See *SBC Annual 1974*, p. 60.

Amended June 10, 1975. See *SBC Annual 1975*, pp. 59-60.

Amended June 15, 1976. See *SBC Annual 1976*, pp. 36-37.

Amended June 13, 1984. See *SBC Annual 1984*, pp. 49-50.

Revised June 11, 1985. See *SBC Annual 1985*, pp. 38-58.

Amended June 13, 1989. See *SBC Annual 1989*, pp. 36-37.

Amended June 4, 1991. See *SBC Annual 1991*, pp. 46, 48.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 13, 2006. See *SBC Annual 2006*, pp. 62-64.

Amended June 12, 2007. See *SBC Annual 2007*, pp. 68-69.

## THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

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### MISSION

Southern Baptist Theological Seminaries exist to prepare God-called men and women for vocational service in Baptist churches and in other Christian ministries throughout the world through programs of spiritual development, theological studies, and practical preparation in ministry.

### MINISTRIES

**1. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.**

Provide for students who have at least the equivalent of high school education biblical, theological, historical, and practical studies designed to develop ministerial competencies; provide extension study opportunities for persons in church vocations who have not completed college or seminary training, persons not in church vocations who desire theological training which is academically oriented, and seminary-trained persons desiring opportunities for continuing education.

**2. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.**

Provide theological education leading to a Master's Degree for those whom the churches recommend as called by God for a lifetime of leadership in the various ministries of the churches and other areas of Christian service.

**3. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.**

Provide advanced theological education for persons who have earned a basic theological degree and have given evidence of capacity for effective performance in ministry to the churches.

**4. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.**

Provide graduate theological education for persons who have completed their basic theological studies and have given evidence of academic ability and capacity for research, writing, and teaching.

**5. Assist churches through the administration of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.**

Operate the official Southern Baptist Convention library and archives as a national center for the study of Baptists.

### RELATIONSHIPS

Southern Baptist seminaries will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

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First program statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention May 20, 1964. See *SBC Annual 1964*, pp. 60-62.

Finally approved May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 120-122.

Amended June 12, 1973. See *SBC Annual 1973*, pp. 69-70.

Amended June 11, 1974. See *SBC Annual 1974*, pp. 57-59.

Completely rewritten and approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 12, 1979. See *SBC Annual 1979*, pp. 37-39.

Amended June 15, 1993. See *SBC Annual 1993*, p. 74.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

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## THE ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

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### MISSION

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission exists to assist the churches by helping them understand the moral demands of the gospel, apply Christian principles to moral and social problems and questions of public policy, and to promote religious liberty in cooperation with the churches and other Southern Baptist entities.

### MINISTRIES

**1. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.**

Provide research, information resources, consultation, and counsel to denominational entities, churches, and individuals with regard to the application of Christian principles in everyday living and in the nation's public life.

**2. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.**

Represent Southern Baptists in communicating the moral and ethical positions of the Southern Baptist Convention to the public and to public officials.

**3. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.**

Provide information resources that inform and equip churches for active moral witness in their communities.

**4. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.**

Provide information and counsel to denominational entities, churches, and individuals regarding appropriate responses to religious liberty concerns; represent Southern Baptists in communicating the positions of the Southern Baptist Convention on religious liberty issues to the public and to public officials.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

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First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

## GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### MISSION

GuideStone Financial Resources exists to assist the churches, denominational entities, and other evangelical ministry organizations by making available retirement plan services, life and health coverage, risk management programs, and personal and institutional investment programs.

### MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches, denominational entities, and other evangelical ministry organizations by making available retirement plan programs for their ministers and employees.**

Make available retirement plan programs and related services for ministers and denominational employees.

2. **Assist churches, denominational entities, other evangelical ministry organizations, and like-minded individuals, by making available life and health coverage and risk management programs.**

Make available medical, life, and disability programs and other risk management programs to respond to the needs of churches, denominational entities, other evangelical ministry organizations, and like-minded individuals.

3. **Assist churches and denominational entities through relief to Southern Baptist ministers and Southern Baptist denominational employees.**

Make available a channel through which Southern Baptists can extend systematic financial help to Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees and their widows who are in need and to interpret the channel to Southern Baptists for the purpose of eliciting support.

4. **Assist churches, denominational entities, other evangelical ministry organizations, and like-minded investors, by making available a personal investment program to their ministers and employees and their spouses, and to like-minded investors.**

Make available personal investment program and related services to further enhance the financial security of ministers and other employees and their spouses.

5. **Assist churches and denominational entities by making available institutional investment services through cooperative agreements with state Baptist foundations (or state Baptist conventions where no foundation exists). Assist other evangelical ministry organizations by making available institutional investment services.**

Develop mutually beneficial relationships with the state Baptist conventions and foundations and the Southern Baptist Foundation to assist Southern Baptist institutions in the states and the Southern Baptist Convention entities with their institutional investment needs. Develop relationships with other organizations that will enhance investment opportunities.

### RELATIONSHIPS

GuideStone Financial Resources will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First program statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention May 8, 1963. See *SBC Annual 1963*, pp. 55-56.

Amended May 25, 1966. See *SBC Annual 1966*, pp. 56-57.

Finally approved May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 118-119.

Amended June 14, 1988. See *SBC Annual 1988*, pp. 52-53.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 13, 2000. See *SBC Annual 2000*, pp. 66-67.

Amended June 12, 2007. See *SBC Annual 2007*, pp. 74-75.

Amended June 11, 2013. See *SBC Annual 2013*, pp. 64-66.



## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### MISSION

The Executive Committee exists to minister to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by acting for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for in a manner that encourages the cooperation and confidence of the churches, associations, and state conventions and facilitates maximum support for worldwide missions and ministries.

### MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches through conducting and administering the work of the Convention not otherwise assigned.**

Manage according to the Southern Baptist Convention Bylaws, Bylaw 18, The Executive Committee; manage the operation of the Southern Baptist Convention Building according to guidelines adopted by building occupants.

2. **Assist churches by providing a Convention news service.**

Provide regular news releases about Southern Baptists; serve as the Convention's press representative; coordinate news operations for annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

3. **Assist churches by providing a Convention public relations service.**

Interpret the Southern Baptist Convention to internal and external publics.

4. **Assist churches, Baptist general bodies and their entities, and other evangelical organizations and individuals through estate planning consultation and investment management primarily for funds providing support for Southern Baptist causes.**

Encourage and consult with Baptist general bodies and their entities, and other evangelical organizations and individuals, regarding wills, gifts, trusts, or deeds which benefit Baptist or other evangelical causes; and provide investment management for a balanced portfolio of securities.

5. **Assist churches through the promotion of cooperative giving.**

Consult with state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities regarding cooperative giving advancement; interpret the Cooperative Program as the basic channel of support for the ministries of the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

6. **Assist churches in stewardship education.**

Produce, develop, publish, and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship.

### RELATIONSHIPS

The Executive Committee will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

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First program statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 55-56.

Revised statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 9, 1992. See *SBC Annual 1992*, pp. 43-46.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 13, 2006. See *SBC Annual 2006*, pp. 62-64.

Amended June 15, 2010. See *SBC Annual 2010*, p. 66.

## WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

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*Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention*

### MISSION

Woman's Missionary Union assists churches in developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy of missions in order that a church can fulfill its total mission in the world. Woman's Missionary Union challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God.

### MINISTRIES

**1. Assist churches in the development of Woman's Missionary Union organizations.**

Provide programs, products and services that help churches and individuals grow in missions awareness and involvement.

**2. Assist churches in Christian development for women in missions.**

Assist churches by providing plans and materials that contribute to the individual woman's spiritual growth and missions consciousness.

**3. Assist churches through the publication and distribution of magazines and products.**

Produce, publish, and distribute magazines and products that help churches and individuals grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical concepts of missions.

### RELATIONSHIPS

Woman's Missionary Union will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

*As an auxiliary, Woman's Missionary Union's program statement is at the discretion of the WMU. The Southern Baptist Convention does not assign ministries to Woman's Missionary Union.*

## SBC ENTITY RELATIONSHIP GUIDELINES

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1. Entities are to relate to each other cooperatively and voluntarily out of deep convictions of faith in Christ and the urgency to serve him effectively in assisting churches.
2. Entities are to respect Ministry Statements as both directives and restraints in the same manner as the SBC Bylaws and Business and Financial Plan and honor them in working together to assist churches in their ministries.
3. Entities are to work together through established processes of the Great Commission Council to determine needs of churches and ways to meet these needs, and wherever appropriate, to coordinate the activities and resources involved in meeting them.
4. Entities are to work together for mutual reinforcement and for promoting the work of the Convention.
5. Entity administrators should reinforce with their trustees the principle that entity trustees are to represent the interests of the entire Convention as well as those of the entity.
6. Entity administrators are to ensure that their employees understand the need and the processes for working cooperatively with the personnel of all entities in the spirit of Matthew 7:12 (CSB) *“Therefore, whatever you want other to do for you do also the same for them,”* and are committed to honor them in day-to-day operations.
7. Entities exploring the possibility of launching new programs, projects, or services are to provide information to the Great Commission Council and/or its committees and other entities whose assignment(s) may be closely related to the new venture in order to avoid conflict with another entity’s Ministry Statement and to allow for timely review, feedback, clarification of relationships, and discovery of supportive activities by other entities.
8. Entities are to communicate with state convention, association, and church leadership in keeping with their Ministry Statements and in order to provide churches maximum service with minimum confusion.
9. Entities are to initiate relationships with or respond to initiatives of organizations outside the Southern Baptist convention according to their respective ministry Statements and assist, as needed, by directing such organizations to appropriate entities.

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### PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING MINISTRY STATEMENTS

- A. Amendments to ministry statements may be initiated by any messenger or by the SBC Executive Committee. Amendments may also be initiated by any SBC entity at any time with the approval of the entity’s trustees. Conferences with Executive Committee staff on matters of form and relationship are desirable. Where relationships are involved, these are discussed with all parties concerned before submission to the Executive Committee.
- B. Proposed changes in ministry statements are circulated to SBC entity executives, state convention executives, and state Baptist paper editors before presentation to the Executive Committee for approval as recommendations to the SBC.
- C. Amendments are presented to the Cooperative Program Subcommittee of the Executive Committee and all parties have opportunity to express their point of view before that committee makes its final recommendation to the Executive Committee. Ministry statement changes approved by the Executive Committee are recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention at its next meeting.
- D. All ministry changes must be approved by a majority vote of the messengers present in the Southern Baptist Convention in session.

— Approved by the SBC Executive Committee, February 20, 2007

# LEGAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES

## of CORPORATIONS RELATED to the SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

### **The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention**

901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203-3699

### **The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention**

P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767

3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230

### **The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc.**

4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022

### **Lifeway Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention**

One Lifeway Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234

### **GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention**

5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 2200, Dallas, TX 75244

### **The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary**

2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280

### **The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary**

P. O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122

2001 W. Seminary Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76115

### **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126

### **Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention**

3210 E. Guasti Road. Ontario, CA 91761-8642

### **The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc.**

P. O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, NC 27587

120 South Wingate Street, Wake Forest, NC 27587

### **Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc.**

5001 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118

### **The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention**

901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696

### **Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention**

P. O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010

100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242

# THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

## PREAMBLE

Baptists are a people of deep beliefs and cherished doctrines. Throughout our history we have been a confessional people, adopting statements of faith as a witness to our beliefs and a pledge of our faithfulness to the doctrines revealed in Holy Scripture.

Our confessions of faith are rooted in historical precedent, as the church in every age has been called upon to define and defend its beliefs. Each generation of Christians bears the responsibility of guarding the treasury of truth that has been entrusted to us [2 Timothy 1:14]. Facing a new century, Southern Baptists must meet the demands and duties of the present hour.

New challenges to faith appear in every age. A pervasive anti-supernaturalism in the culture was answered by Southern Baptists in 1925, when the *Baptist Faith and Message* was first adopted by this Convention. In 1963, Southern Baptists responded to assaults upon the authority and truthfulness of the Bible by adopting revisions to the *Baptist Faith and Message*. The Convention added an article on “The Family” in 1998, thus answering cultural confusion with the clear teachings of Scripture. Now, faced with a culture hostile to the very notion of truth, this generation of Baptists must claim anew the eternal truths of the Christian faith.

Your committee respects and celebrates the heritage of the *Baptist Faith and Message*, and affirms the decision of the Convention in 1925 to adopt the *New Hampshire Confession of Faith*, “revised at certain points and with some additional articles growing out of certain needs . . .” We also respect the important contributions of the 1925 and 1963 editions of the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

With the 1963 committee, we have been guided in our work by the 1925 “statement of the historic Baptist conception of the nature and function of confessions of faith in our religious and denominational life . . .” It is, therefore, quoted in full as a part of this report to the Convention:

- (1) That they constitute a consensus of opinion of some Baptist body, large or small, for the general instruction and guidance of our own people and others concerning those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us. They are not intended to add anything to the simple conditions of salvation revealed in the New Testament, viz., repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- (2) That we do not regard them as complete statements of our faith, having any quality of finality or infallibility. As in the past so in the future, Baptists should hold themselves free to revise their statements of faith as may seem to them wise and expedient at any time.
- (3) That any group of Baptists, large or small, have the inherent right to draw up for themselves and publish to the world a confession of their faith whenever they may think it advisable to do so.
- (4) That the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Confessions are only guides in interpretation, having no authority over the conscience.
- (5) That they are statements of religious convictions, drawn from the Scriptures, and are not to be used to hamper freedom of thought or investigation in other realms of life.

Baptists cherish and defend religious liberty, and deny the right of any secular or religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches. We honor the principles of soul competency and the priesthood of believers, affirming together both our liberty in Christ and our accountability to each other under the Word of God.

Baptist churches, associations, and general bodies have adopted confessions of faith as a witness to the world, and as instruments of doctrinal accountability. We are not embarrassed to state before the world that these are doctrines we hold precious and as essential to the Baptist tradition of faith and practice.

As a committee, we have been charged to address the “certain needs” of our own generation. In an age increasingly hostile to Christian truth, our challenge is to express the truth as revealed in Scripture, and to bear witness to Jesus Christ, who is “*the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*”

The 1963 committee rightly sought to identify and affirm “certain definite doctrines that Baptists believe, cherish, and with which they have been and are now closely identified.” Our living faith is established upon eternal truths. “Thus this generation of Southern Baptists is in historic succession of intent and purpose as it endeavors to state for its time and theological climate those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us.”

It is the purpose of this statement of faith and message to set forth certain teachings which we believe.

## 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.

*Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 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.

*Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3, 15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 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; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 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 obedience, 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.

*Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 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; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 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; Revelation 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.

*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 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; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11, 13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8, 14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 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 inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of 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.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5, 7, 18-22; 3:9-6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6, 12, 19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18, 29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 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.

*Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 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; Romans 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 Corinthians 1:18, 30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 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; Revelation 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.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 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; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7, 26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10, 19; Hebrews 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 the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

*Matthew 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; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11, 21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 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.

*Matthew 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; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29; Colossians 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.

*Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 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; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 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.

*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 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; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10, 16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 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.

*Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 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; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 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.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 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; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 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-ordinate 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.

*Deuteronomy 4:1, 5, 9, 14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7, 11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3, 8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 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.

*Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 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; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 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.

*Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 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 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 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.

*Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 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; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; 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.

*Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9, 38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36, 38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 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.

*Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1, 13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 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.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 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; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*

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Additional information relating to *The Baptist Faith and Message*, including an introduction, preamble, committee information, commentary, multilingual versions, and more, can be found online at [bfm.sbc.net](http://bfm.sbc.net).