



2023

Annual Meeting

NEW ORLEANS



Serving
the Lord
 Serving
others



Book of Reports



BOOK OF REPORTS OF THE 2023 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

prepared for the

**One Hundred Sixty-Fifth Session
One Hundred Seventy-Eighth Year**

meeting in

**New Orleans, Louisiana
June 13-14, 2023**

2023 CONVENTION OFFICERS

President

C. Bart Barber

First Vice President

Victor Chayasirisobhon

Second Vice President

Alex Sands

Recording Secretary

Nathan A. Finn

Registration Secretary

Don Currence

Interim Treasurer

Willie D. McLaurin

FUTURE SBC ANNUAL MEETING SITES

Indianapolis, Indiana – June 11–12, 2024

Dallas, Texas – June 10–11, 2025

Orlando, Florida – June 9–10, 2026

Salt Lake City, Utah – June 8–9, 2027

Indianapolis, Indiana – June 13–14, 2028

FOREWORD

This June, Southern Baptists will gather for two days for our 2023 Annual Meeting in the great city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Our theme will be “Serving the Lord, Serving Others.” Attendees will hear reports from our various denominational ministries. We will worship together and, Lord willing, witness together. We will connect with friends from hither and yon. We will commission missionaries to take the gospel to the nations, which will be the highlight for most in attendance. Numerous auxiliary gatherings will also take place around the Annual Meeting.

Most important, duly elected messengers from local churches will come to the Annual Meeting to conduct the business of the Southern Baptist Convention. We have done so since 1845, the year of our founding in Augusta, Georgia. In the 177 years since that first Annual Meeting, our “sacred task” has ever remained the “eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the gospel.” The Southern Baptist Convention exists so that our churches can labor together to obey Jesus’s Great Commission to make disciples here, there, and everywhere.

Southern Baptists value the principle of local church autonomy. Every congregation is free to set its own kingdom agenda, under the lordship of King Jesus as it is revealed in His inspired, authoritative, trustworthy, and sufficient Scriptures. But Southern Baptists are also deeply committed to the principle of cooperative mission. We partner together for the sake of kingdom advance, knowing we can accomplish more together than we can alone. The Cooperative Program, which will celebrate its centennial in two years, remains our primary strategy whereby autonomous churches combine our resources so that we can effectively fund our cooperative mission.

The *Book of Reports* exists so that messengers can better handle the business of the Convention. It is a record of the work of our denominational ministries. It provides Southern Baptists with the information they need to celebrate God’s work in and among us. It is a tool to enable Southern Baptists to faithfully pray for their Executive Committee, general boards, institutions, and the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. It is a record that informs Southern Baptists so that we can continue to hold our ministries accountable to their respective missions. The information contained the *Book of Reports* is also made available in the SBC app, which is available for download to your electronic device.

Dr. John Yeats served as the Recording Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention for a quarter century. His are very big shoes to fill! I’m grateful to Dr. Yeats for his willingness to offer advice and encouragement as I have undertaken this responsibility following my election as Recording Secretary last summer in Anaheim, California. It is my great pleasure to serve Southern Baptists by recording our story for the glory of God, the health of our churches, and the sake of our cooperative mission.

Nathan A. Finn

Recording Secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention

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*Prepared and distributed by: Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, 901 Commerce Street; Nashville, TN 37203
Reviewed by: Nathan Finn, SBC Recording Secretary*

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**Serving
the Lord
✦ Serving
others**

**SBC ANNUAL MEETING
NEW ORLEANS | JUNE 13-14, 2023**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ninety-Sixth Annual Report



SBC | EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE

901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

DAVID H. SONS, Chairman

WILLIE D. McLAURIN, Interim President and Chief Executive Officer

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee presents this ninety-fifth 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 2022-2023:

August 15, 2022	Video Conference Call
September 19-20, 2022	Nashville, TN
February 20-21, 2023	Nashville, TN
May 1, 2023	Dallas, TX

- 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.

Willie McLaurin serves as its interim president and the other officers, as well as the chairs, vice chairs, and secretaries of the four standing committees are named below:

Chair: David H. Sons, South Carolina

Vice Chair: VACANT

Secretary: Pamela H. (Pam) Reed, North Carolina

Committee on Convention Missions and Ministry

Chair: Richard W. Spring, California

Vice Chair: David L. (Dave) Bryan, Oklahoma

Secretary: Nancy W. Spalding, Michigan

Committee on Convention Finances and Stewardship Development

Chair: Harry C. (Archie) Mason, Arkansas

Vice Chair: Dwight Easler, South Carolina

Secretary: Nick Sandefur, Kentucky

Committee on Convention Events and Strategic Planning

Chair: Mark Stinson, Ohio

Vice Chair: Carolyn J. Fountain, Louisiana

Secretary: John C. (Jay) Ridenour, New England

Committee on Southern Baptist Relations

Chair: Adron Robinson, Illinois

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, 2021 - September 30, 2022, is as follows:

	<u>2021 - 2022</u>	<u>2019 - 2020</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total CP as a % of			
Undesignated Gifts ²	4.59%	4.68%	(2.00%)
Total Undesignated Gifts	\$ 9,962,910,482	\$ 9,774,807,128	1.92%
Total Cooperative Program ²	\$ 457,417,314	\$ 457,928,996	(0.11%)
State Convention Share			
of Total CP ²	\$ 261,516,321	\$ 270,153,074	(3.20%)
SBC Share of Total CP ²	\$ 195,900,993	\$ 187,775,922	4.33%

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Undesignated Gifts</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Total Cooperative Program</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2017-18	\$ 9,601,534,950	0.87%	\$ 463,076,368	0.09%
2018-19	\$ 9,600,108,179	(0.01%)	\$ 462,299,010	(0.17%)
2019-20	\$ 9,531,225,749	(0.72%)	\$ 455,553,027	(1.46%)
2020-21	\$ 9,774,807,128	2.56%	\$ 457,928,996	0.52%
2021-22	\$ 9,962,910,482	1.92%	\$ 457,417,314	(0.11%)
Average Change 1980s		7.58%		5.10%
Average Change 1990s		5.42%		4.91%
Average Change 2000s		4.12%		4.82%
Average Change 2010s		(0.21%)		0.71%
Average Change Last 5 Years		0.92%		(0.22%)

<u>Year</u>	<u>SBC \$ Share of Total CP²</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>SBC % Share of Total CP²</u>	<u>Total CP² as a % of Undesignated Gifts</u>
2017-18	\$191,257,988	(0.36%)	41.30%	4.82%
2018-19	\$190,967,403	(0.15%)	41.31%	4.82%
2019-20	\$187,806,636	(1.66%)	41.23%	4.78%
2020-21	\$187,775,922	(0.02%)	41.01%	4.68%
2021-22	\$195,900,993	4.33%	42.83%	4.59%
Average Change 1980s		7.98%	37.47%	10.50%
Average Change 1990s		2.06%	37.04%	8.73%
Average Change 2000s		2.22%	37.16%	6.80%
Average Change 2010s		(0.15%)	39.34%	5.22%
Average Change Last 5 Years		0.43%	41.54%	4.74%

Notes:

- 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 2021-22 for comparative purposes. Over the last 20 years Total Receipts averaged 7.25% more than Total Gifts.
- For 2012-13 through 2021-22, 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.

[^] Sections 2 and 3 were prepared by the SBC Executive Committee based on information from the 2022 ACP Statistical Summary which was prepared by Lifeway Research, Lifeway Christian Resources (April 25, 2023).

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 2021-2022 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget was approved. The 2021-2022 SBC Cooperative Program funds distributed include funds received from state conventions and identified by them as Cooperative Program Allocation Budget funds.

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
International Mission Board	\$ 100,420,424	\$ 96,823,210
North American Mission Board	\$ 45,399,354	\$ 43,773,080
Gateway Seminary	\$ 3,740,975	\$ 3,739,988
Midwestern Seminary	\$ 8,005,347	\$ 7,282,775
New Orleans Seminary	\$ 6,928,740	\$ 6,747,844
Southeastern Seminary	\$ 7,366,320	\$ 7,204,576
Southern Seminary	\$ 10,655,318	\$ 10,148,966
Southwestern Seminary	\$ 6,969,550	\$ 6,977,910
Historical Library and Archives	\$ 478,098	\$ 460,971
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	\$ 3,286,922	\$ 3,169,179
<u>SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating</u>	<u>\$ 7,201,561</u>	<u>\$ 5,942,937</u>
Grand Totals	<u>\$ 200,452,609</u>	<u>\$ 192,271,436</u>

5. ^A **2022 Southern Baptist Convention Statistical Summary** ⁽¹⁾ – A summary of the statistical record for the Southern Baptist Convention for 2021–22 is as follows:

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

<u>Item/Statistic</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Numeric Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
State Conventions	41	41	0	0.00%
Associations	1,093	1,100	(7)	(.64%)
Churches	47,198	47,614	(416)	(0.87%)
Church-type Missions Operating ⁽²⁾	2,644	2,809	(165)	(5.87%)
Total Baptisms	180,177	154,701	25,476	16.47%
Ratio of Baptisms: Total Members	1:73	1:88	—	—
In-Person Weekly Worship				
Average Attendance	3,804,490	3,607,530	196,960	5.46%
In-Person Sunday School/Bible Study/				
Small Group Average Attendance	2,334,665	2,241,514	93,151	4.16%

Other 2022 Items – Not Asked by All State Conventions ³

<u>Item/Statistic</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total Members ⁽⁴⁾	13,223,122	13,680,493
Other Additions ⁽⁵⁾	152,752	124,356
Online Weekly Worship		
Average Participation ⁽⁶⁾	1,062,870	1,447,313
Online Sunday School/Bible Study/		
Small Group Average Participation ⁽⁷⁾	82,404	198,122
Undesignated Receipts ⁽⁵⁾	\$ 9,962,910,482	\$ 9,774,807,128
Total SBC Mission Expenditures ⁽⁹⁾	\$ 730,245,493	-

Notes for this table can be found on the following page

Notes:

1. Data reported for the 2022 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 2021.
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. Totals for items in this table have incomplete data for 2022 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 2021 SBC Statistical Summary for specific details to determine if a comparison is desirable.
4. Florida Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
5. Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Florida Baptist Convention, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
6. Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Florida Baptist Convention, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Northwest Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
7. Florida Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item. 8. Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the Florida Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item. For the first time adjustments were made to this total for congregations that did not report the item using data reported in prior years, and the item was asked by two additional state conventions.

Prepared by: Lifeway Research, Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Pl Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027, April 25, 2023

Church Plants, Replants, New Affiliates, and Campuses for 2022, SBC: 917**

Source: Reports from State Directors of Missions compiled by the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, GA (see page 102); 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 2022, partners reported 639 new church plants, 106 replants, 126 new affiliations, and 46 new campuses.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
International Missionaries	3,521	3,592	-71	-2%
North American Missionaries	2,961 ⁽¹⁾	2,469 ⁽¹⁾	492	19.9%*
— Chaplains ⁽²⁾	3,350	3,721	-371	-10.0%

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

⁽²⁾ 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 \$197,253,505 through the SBC Executive Committee for North American and International Missions in 2021-2022. The record is as follows:

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions	\$ 137,346,386	\$ 123,285,813	14,060,573	11.40%
Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions	\$ 59,907,119	\$ 59,148,967	758,152	1.23%
Total	<u>\$ 197,253,505</u>	<u>\$ 182,434,780</u>		

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 - \$200.4 million; Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions - \$68.9 million.

7. **Global Hunger Relief Funds** – Southern Baptists contributed a total of \$2,046,475 for global hunger relief through the SBC Executive Committee in 2021-2022. The record is as follows:

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Received by SBC Executive Committee	2,046,475	2,062,506	(0.78%)
Forwarded to International Mission Board	1,685,337	1,703,746	(1.08%)
Forwarded to North American Mission Board	361,138	358,760	0.66%_

2022 SBC STATISTICS BY STATE CONVENTION

SBC and State Conventions	Associations	Churches	Baptists	Other Admissions	Total Membership	In-Person Weekly Attendance	Online Weekly Attendance	Online Weekly Participation	In-Person Sunday School	Average Attendance	Online Sunday School	Average Attendance	Online Sunday School	Indesignated Receipts	Total SBC Mission Expenditures
Alabama	74	3,200	9,660	13,957	758,194	207,322	97,253	136,956	8,697	3,076	8,983	3,076	562,820,619	\$ 65,153,630	
Alaska	4	809	19	158	9,873	443	751	1,257,875	3	935	3	935	\$ 1,257,875	\$ 1,006,186	
Arizona	13	4,611	1,993	1,409	82,111	38,596	9,328	18,719	935	3,511	935	3,511	\$ 63,690,703	\$ 5,531,131	
Arkansas (4)	42	1,381	6,233	7,520	391,092	103,927	32,161	65,026	See Footnote 4	3,151	3,151	3,151	\$ 299,191,917	\$ 40,420,946	
California	28	1,783	595	2,091	1,809	392,119	86,496	10,154	35,319	3,581	3,581	3,581	\$ 291,061,658	\$ 7,310,186	
Colorado	11	303	55	559	372	16,117	6,338	2,513	2,247	264	264	264	\$ 24,483,150	\$ 1,784,182	
Dakota	6	80	5	187	1,058	518	329	627	15	15	15	15	\$ 7,035,419	\$ 787,000	
Florida (6)	48	2,663	22,015	7,777,048	362,808	378,520	210,306	See Footnote 5	See Footnote 5	See Footnote 5	See Footnote 5	See Footnote 5	\$ 1,011,962,791	\$ 68,114,352	
Georgia	86	3,316	15,021	17,366	1,157,168	3,527	2,999	3,527	1,182	1,182	1,182	1,182	\$ 14,108,116	\$ 10,289,898	
Hawaii-Pacific	7	120	8	234	11,002	5,602	2,999	3,527	4,407	4,407	4,407	4,407	\$ 89,131,464	\$ 10,289,898	
Illinois	34	833	53	2,771	163,649	52,523	24,680	31,554	963	963	963	963	\$ 183,833,867	\$ 3,321,884	
Indiana	14	382	56	1,211	833	66,187	5,161	15,128	963	963	963	963	\$ 40,775,876	\$ 3,628,102	
Iowa	116	31	1,098	791	16,798	20,262	3,260	10,493	120	120	120	120	\$ 59,505,628	\$ 6,392,220	
Kansas-Nebraska	12	310	105	2,294	921	71,073	33,020	5,573	602	602	602	602	\$ 328,294,617	\$ 33,616,926	
Kentucky (6)	66	2,316	8,424	7,370	559,034	17,452	89,158	16,577	See Footnote 6	3,822	3,822	3,822	\$ 310,081,365	\$ 28,510,807	
Louisiana	38	1,371	6,686	6,624	431,020	118,424	32,427	73,388	3,734	3,734	3,734	3,734	\$ 28,972,456	\$ 3,249,741	
Maryland-Delaware	11	490	1,262	930	72,259	24,270	7,355	13,715	2,699	2,699	2,699	2,699	\$ 73,608,735	\$ 5,618,509	
Michigan	13	274	1,110	392	23,156	15,756	4,907	9,930	440	440	440	440	\$ 16,598,718	\$ 1,565,644	
Minnesota-Wisconsin	7	182	1,702	9,304	519,778	144,190	45,750	109,897	5,445	5,445	5,445	5,445	\$ 432,606,490	\$ 31,452,535	
Mississippi	58	1,721	5,882	7,233	437,951	132,598	33,854	81,848	6,151	6,151	6,151	6,151	\$ 34,221,827	\$ 50,152,802	
Montana	5	120	664	361	9,177	8,447	1,786	5,905	179	179	179	179	\$ 13,680,884	\$ 1,542,612	
Nevada	3	155	9	785	516	11,633	3,300	6,129	910	910	910	910	\$ 25,984,971	\$ 2,350,426	
New England	7	358	3	1,805	378	30,265	31,498	11,549	1,529	1,529	1,529	1,529	\$ 47,753,566	\$ 645,346	
New Mexico	12	323	8	2,246	757	55,912	14,758	16,710	2,783	2,783	2,783	2,783	\$ 13,787,536	\$ 6,332,463	
New York	10	518	1	1,099	709	25,454	7,327	10,456	1,067	1,067	1,067	1,067	\$ 901,208,361	\$ 2,021,727	
North Carolina	78	4,301	11,325	12,133	1,029,680	310,722	94,242	189,800	7,749	7,749	7,749	7,749	\$ 53,913,551	\$ 73,324,286	
Northwest (4)	13	431	1,438	1,317	45,560	26,348	6,509	17,856	See Footnote 4	25,566	25,566	25,566	\$ 70,346,358	\$ 3,416,358	
Ohio	15	631	51	2,287	1,802	59,704	40,553	8,231	17,856	1,272	1,272	1,272	\$ 53,913,551	\$ 9,327,634	
Oklahoma (7)	40	1,694	8,232	7,696	501,743	135,557	54,419	102,719	See Footnote 4	1,723	1,723	1,723	\$ 361,581,209	\$ 1,700,201	
Penn.-South Jersey	5	279	19	996	15,349	17,913	5,419	7,741	1,723	1,723	1,723	1,723	\$ 25,360,722	\$ 7,207,200	
Puerto Rico	1	51	104	182	2,315	2,110	565	1,060	259	259	259	259	\$ 2,509,378	\$ 247,596	
Puerto Rico	1	51	104	182	2,315	2,110	565	1,060	259	259	259	259	\$ 2,509,378	\$ 247,596	
South Carolina	42	2,010	8,101	8,843	449,767	158,062	46,321	95,101	146	146	146	146	\$ 396,682,701	\$ 145,572	
Tennessee	65	3,005	19,975	14,784	872,118	262,249	115,609	282,114	4,249	4,249	4,249	4,249	\$ 674,479,217	\$ 29,163,805	
Texas (6)	99	6,379	730	20,540	16,994	8,988	308,778	188,213	6,875	6,875	6,875	6,875	\$ 1,615,688,466	\$ 116,108,217	
BGCT (6)	91	4,378	730	14,191	13,317	1,882,638	282,944	203,363	6,041	6,041	6,041	6,041	\$ 1,166,071,686	\$ 73,353,058	
SBTC (6)	97	2,711	13,324	8,932	1,123,544	530,889	162,314	262,314	See Footnote 6	3,750	3,750	3,750	\$ 908,082,323	\$ 70,468,456	
Utah-Idaho	11	131	37	313	704	14,227	1,945	3,750	172	172	172	172	\$ 14,909,603	\$ 1,723,022	
Virginia (6)	40	1,871	27	6,688	5,149	517,401	112,265	75,418	6,998	6,998	6,998	6,998	\$ 329,926,786	\$ 26,315,294	
BGAV	40	1,175	24	1,971	324,770	60,772	21,953	33,140	3,988	3,988	3,988	3,988	\$ 185,336,405	\$ 13,102,299	
SBCV	776	3	5,212	3,241	219,566	103,581	93,206	41,515	3,391	3,391	3,391	3,391	\$ 167,451,999	\$ 14,864,623	
West Virginia	10	193	17	481	336	25,937	2,733	4,689	547	547	547	547	\$ 17,810,416	\$ 2,503,375	
Wyoming	92	4	204	177	5,435	3,112	998	1,694	148	148	148	148	\$ 5,984,693	\$ 760,920	
Sub-Totals	1,093	46,758	2,415	188,079	158,366	12,621,299	82,342	\$ 91,573,575	\$ 8,234	\$ 11,453,575	\$ 8,234	\$ 11,453,575	\$ 745,667,863	\$ 730,245,493	
Adjustments (10)	440	229	-7,902	-5,614	531,665	62	62	\$ 885,377,907	\$ 62	\$ 885,377,907	\$ 62	\$ 885,377,907	\$ 15,422,370		
Grand Total	1,093	47,198	2,407	182,177	152,752	13,223,122	82,404	\$ 9,962,910,482	\$ 82,404	\$ 9,962,910,482	\$ 82,404	\$ 9,962,910,482	\$ 750,245,493		
For SBC (11)															

NOTES: 1. All information as of April 25, 2023. 2. Some states have a separate 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. Data compiled by incomplete data from some state conventions. See notes of other states for details. One state should be exercised comparing SBC totals to previous years. 4. Arkansas Baptist State Convention and Northwest Baptist Convention did not ask the following item or the Bible Study/missions item. 5. Florida Baptist Convention did not ask the following items. 6. Kansas-Nebraska, Louisiana, Maryland-Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah-Idaho, and West Virginia did not ask the following items or the information necessary to obtain the items: Online Weekly Worship Participation and Online Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group Participation. 7. Baptist General Conference of Oklahoma did not ask the items: Online Weekly Worship Participation and Online Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group Participation. 8. 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. 9. Two state 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. 10. This line includes four types of adjustments to the data: a. The removal of duplicate data caused by 851 congregations that are related to more than one state convention. b. The removal of data relating to 27 congregations affiliated with the addition of data from the SBC's 1,735 congregations with the SBC that did not relate to a state convention. c. The removal of data caused to a state convention. d. The addition of data carried forward from previous ACP reporting cycles for 13,651 congregations that did not report an item in 2022. 11. Consistent to the national totals (and some state convention totals) included in the report, data carried forward for non-reporting items from data reported in prior years. a. Totals include carried forward Total Membership from the last year the congregation reported in Person Weekly Worship Participation and in Person Sunday School/Bible Study/Small Group Participation. b. Totals include carried forward Unassigned Receipts and Totals SBC Mission Expenditures from the most recently reported data from the prior 2 years adjusted for the impact of COVID-19. c. Totals include carried forward Unassigned Receipts and Totals SBC Mission Expenditures from the most recently reported data from the prior 4 years.

Prepared by Lifeway Research & Lifeway Christian Resources, 200 Powell Pk, Ste 100, Brentwood, TN 37027, April 25, 2023.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS OF THE SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following actions of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee are reported for information.

1. **U.S. Department of Justice Investigation** – On August 12, 2022, the SBC Executive Committee announced the United States Department of Justice had initiated an investigation of sexual abuse allegations within the Southern Baptist Convention. The following statement was released:

The SBC Executive Committee recently became aware that the Department of Justice has initiated an investigation into the Southern Baptist Convention, and that the investigation will include multiple SBC entities.

Individually and collectively each SBC entity is resolved to fully and completely cooperate with the investigation. While we continue to grieve and lament past mistakes related to sexual abuse, current leaders across the SBC have demonstrated a firm conviction to address those issues of the past and are implementing measures to ensure they are never repeated in the future. The fact that the SBC Executive Committee recently completed a fully transparent investigation is evidence of this commitment.

We recognize our reform efforts are not finished. In fact, those efforts are continuing this very moment as the recently announced Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force begins its work and as each entity has strengthened its efforts to protect against abuse. Our commitment to cooperate with the Department of Justice is born from our demonstrated commitment to transparently address the scourge of sexual abuse.

While so many things in the world are uncertain, we can be certain that we serve a mighty God. Nothing, including this investigation, takes Him by surprise. We take comfort in that and humbly ask you be in prayer in the days and weeks ahead. Specifically, we ask God to grant wisdom and discernment to each person dealing with the investigation.

Signed by -

Daniel L. Akin, President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Jason K. Allen, President, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Bart Barber, President, SBC
 Paul Chitwood, President, International Mission Board
 James K. Dew, President, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
 D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr., President, Guidestone Financial Resources
 Kevin Ezell, President, North American Mission Board
 Adam W. Greenway, President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Jeff Iorg, President, Gateway Seminary
 Brent Leatherwood, Acting President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
 Ben Mandrell, President, Lifeway Christian Resources
 Willie D. McLaurin, Interim President, SBC Executive Committee
 R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
 Sandra Wisdom-Martin, Executive Director, Woman's Missionary Union

2. **Amendment of SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions** – (See Recommendation 3, page 40.) The SBC Executive Committee reported to the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention it approved the request of the Committee on Convention Missions and Ministry for its chair

to appoint an ad hoc committee composed of previous Committee on Resolutions members and others deemed familiar with the resolutions process to study the matter and report back any recommendations to the Committee on Convention Missions and Ministry during their September 19-20, 2022, meeting for consideration. Among the issues considered were four 2021 motions and two 2022 motions, each pertaining to resolutions, which were referred to the SBC Executive Committee. During its September 19-20, 2022, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Convention and Missions and Ministry to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, amend SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions.

3. **Request for Operating Reserves** – During its September 19-20, 2022, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee approved up to \$500,000 to be made available from the its investments for transfer to the SBC Executive Committee Operating Budget for areas impacted by increased costs related to the U.S. Department of Justice investigation and relocation expenses related to new incoming staff.
4. **Review of SBC Entity Fund Raising Reports** – During its September 19-20, 2022, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee received as information the Annual Fund Raising Activity Reports of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.
5. **Committee on Order of Business: Vacancy** – During its September 19-20, 2022, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee, acting for the Convention ad interim, elected Narri Cooper, member of New Seasons Church, Spring Valley, California, for the three-year term, 2022-2025, to fill the vacancy on the Committee on Order of Business.
6. **Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force** – During its September 19-20, 2022, and February 20-21, 2023, meetings, the SBC Executive Committee received updates from the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force.
7. **Report from SBC Executive Committee Presidential Search Committee** – During its September 19-20, 2022, and February 20-21, 2023, meetings, the SBC Executive Committee received a report from its Presidential Search Committee. It was reported the committee received 25 nominations. Of those, 14 candidates declined to be considered. When its candidate is selected, the Presidential Search Committee will bring the candidate to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee for consideration. The Presidential Search Committee is as follows: Chairman Adron Robinson (IL), Mollie Duddleston (AR), Mike P. Keahbone (OK), Jeremy D. Morton (GA), Philip J. Robertson (LA), David H. Sons (SC), and Jared C. Wellman (TX) served in an ex officio role from June 2022, when he was elected chairman of the Executive Committee, until his recusal in January 2023.
8. **Credentials Committee Report and Recommendations** – During its September 19-20, 2022, and February 20-21, 2023, meetings, upon the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, the SBC Executive Committee adopted the following recommendations.

College Park Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its September 19-20, 2022, meeting, that due to open affirmation, approval and endorsement of homosexual behavior, that College Park Baptist Church, Greensboro, North Carolina, no longer be considered a church in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Amazing Grace Community Church, Franklinville, New Jersey

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its September 19-20, 2022, meeting, that due to the lack of cooperation demonstrated by the church to resolve concerns regarding alleged

discriminatory behavior, that Amazing Grace Community Church, Franklinville, New Jersey, no longer be considered a church in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Freedom Church, Vero Beach, Florida

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, that Freedom Church, Vero Beach, Florida, be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the Convention, based on a lack of intent to cooperate in resolving concerns regarding a sexual abuse allegation.

New Faith Mission Ministry, Griffin, Georgia

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, that New Faith Mission Ministry, Griffin, Georgia, be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the Convention, based on a lack of intent to cooperate in resolving a question of faith and practice regarding the church having a female senior pastor functioning in the office of pastor.

St. Timothy's Christian Baptist, Baltimore, Maryland

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, that St. Timothy's Christian Baptist, Baltimore, Maryland, be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the Convention, based on a lack of intent to cooperate in resolving a question of faith and practice regarding the church having a female senior pastor functioning in the office of pastor.

Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting that Calvary Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi, be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the Convention, on the basis that the church has a faith and practice that does not closely identify with the Convention's adopted statement of faith, as demonstrated by the church having a female lead pastor functioning in the office of pastor.

Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting that Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the Convention, on the basis that the church has a faith and practice that does not closely identify with the Convention's adopted statement of faith, as demonstrated by the church having a female lead pastor functioning in the office of pastor.

Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, California

That the Credentials Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommend to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting that Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, California, be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the Convention, on the basis that the church has a faith and practice that does not closely identify with the Convention's adopted statement of faith, as demonstrated by the church continuing to have a female teaching pastor functioning in the office of pastor.

These churches have the opportunity to appeal the decision at the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting in New Orleans, June 13-14, 2023.

9. **Amendment to SBC Bylaw 7. Bulletin and Related Bylaws: SBC Bylaw 5. Book of Reports, SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions, and SBC Bylaw 26. Procedures Regarding Publishing SBC Bulletins (See Recommendation 4, page 41.)** – Due to the volatility of the printing industry, the SBC Executive Committee, during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, considered the need to amend the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention regarding how information will be published. Every effort will be made to continue to produce the SBC Bulletin in print form, however, should print form be unattainable for an overnight turnaround, the publication will be published online. The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, adopt amendments to SBC Bylaw 7. Bulletin and related bylaws: SBC 5. Book of Reports, SBC 20. Committee on Resolutions, and SBC 26. Procedures.
10. **2023-2024 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget (See Recommendation 1, page 39)** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee adopted the 2023-2024 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget in the amount of \$195,250,000 and will recommend the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, for adoption.
11. **2023-2024 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget (See Recommendation 2, page 40.)** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee adopted the 2023-2024 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,305,500 and will recommend the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, for adoption.
12. **12. SBC Executive Committee Bylaw Amendments** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee considered a 2022 motion which was referred to the SBC Executive Committee regarding the removal of the SBC Recording Secretary from membership on the SBC Executive Committee. The SBC Executive Committee chose to retain the SBC Recording Secretary but limit each of its ex officio Executive Committee members—the SBC President, SBC Recording Secretary, and WMU President—from serving as Officers of the Board or Presidential Search Committee members. The SBC Executive Committee bylaws were amended to read:

Article IV
Officers and Their Duties

4.3 Election, Appointment, and Term....

4.3.3 The SBC President, SBC Recording Secretary, and WMU President may not be nominated for or serve as an Officer of the Board.

...

Article VI
Committees

6.5 Presidential Search Committee....

6.5.1 This committee shall be elected by written ballot from nominees offered from the floor. Each trustee shall be allowed to cast a vote for as many as six of the nominees but may cast only one vote for any nominee. The six nominees with the greatest number of votes shall be elected to and shall constitute the committee. The committee shall select from among its membership a chairperson and secretary. The SBC President, SBC Recording Secretary, and WMU President may not be nominated for or serve on the Presidential Search Committee.

13. **Interim SBC Executive Committee Chief Financial Officer** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee received as information the action of the Officers of the Board contracting Michael Bianchi to serve as interim chief financial officer.
14. **Personnel Policies of the SBC Executive Committee Amendments** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee received as information the approval of the amended *Personnel Policies of the SBC Executive Committee* by the Executive Committee Officers of the Board.
15. **Election of Southern Baptist Foundation Trustees** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee directed its president, as the agent designated to represent it as the Member of the Southern Baptist Foundation, to elect Marshall Albritton, Tennessee, and Anita Elliott, Tennessee, as directors of the Southern Baptist Foundation, for terms of office expiring 2026 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 2023
16. **Loan Status Reports** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee received as information loan status reports from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. They will report their loan status to the SBC Executive Committee again during its February 2024 meeting.
17. **Report of Audits of SBC Entities** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee received as information the fact that the Committee on Convention Finances and Stewardship Development received and reviewed the 2022 required communications submitted to the SBC Executive Committee as outlined by Article XIII of the SBC Business and Financial Plan as well as the 2021-22 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.
18. **SBC Parliamentary Contract** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee received as information the fact that the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee will secure the full execution of a contract with Al Gage to serve as the chief parliamentarian for the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023.
19. **Meeting Hall Expenses of the SBC Pastors’ Conference** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the SBC Executive Committee requested the SBC Pastors’ Conference reimburse the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee \$100,000 for the year 2023 for its use of meeting space and the meeting hall and facilities at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The staff was requested to continue documenting the variable cost attributed to the SBC Pastors’ Conference. The SBC Executive Committee requested the SBC Pastors’ Conference leadership recognize the significant indirect support provided through the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget to help offset the costs of the SBC Pastors’ Conference annually.

20. **Recognitions** – During its February 20-21, 2023, meeting, the following were recognized for their contributions as state convention leaders:
- **David Hardage**, who served the Baptist General Convention of Texas as executive director from February 2012 through December 2022.
 - **Gary Hollingsworth**, who served South Carolina Baptist Convention as executive director-treasurer from January 2016 through April 2023.
 - **J. D. “Sonny” Tucker**, who served Arkansas Baptist State Convention as executive director from January 2013 through December 2022.
21. **SBC Calendar of Activities Recommendations and Amendments** – During its February 20-21, 2023, the SBC Executive Committee approved the 2028 SBC Calendar of Activities and amendments to the 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027 SBC Calendars of Activities which included the addition of “Caring Well Sunday” stemming from a 2022 motion referred to the SBC Executive Committee for consideration.

SBC CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES 2028

JANUARY

Focus on Christian Discipleship

- **January 2-19:** January Bible Study Week
- **January 23:** 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 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 16:** Easter
- **April 23:** 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 Indianapolis
- **June 11-12:** WMU Missions Celebration
- **June 13-14:** SBC Annual Meeting (Indianapolis, IN)
- **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
- **September 24:** Caring Well Sunday

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

AMENDMENTS*Caring Well Sunday – Add*

- **2023 SBC Calendar of Activities** – September 24
- **2024 SBC Calendar of Activities** – September 29
- **2025 SBC Calendar of Activities** – September 28
- **2026 SBC Calendar of Activities** – September 27
- **2027 SBC Calendar of Activities** – September 26

22. **Nominee for President/CEO** – During its May 1, 2023, special called meeting, the SBC Executive Committee considered nominee, Jared C. Wellman, for the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. The ballot vote on the recommendation failed, with the official vote count reported as 30 votes in favor of the recommendation, and 51 votes against the recommendation.
23. **SBC Executive Committee Presidential Search Committee** – During its May 1, 2023, special called meeting, the SBC Executive Committee selected, by ballot vote, the following six SBC Executive Committee members to serve as the SBC Executive Committee Presidential Search Committee: Corey Cain (TN), Neal Hughes (AL), Drew Landry (VA), Sarah Rogers (SC), Nick Sandefur (KY), and Nancy Spalding (MI). SBC Executive Committee Chairman David H. Sons (SC) will serve as an ex officio member.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14-15, 2022, 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 Ask the Executive Committee to Cease Using Executive Sessions (Items 20 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 57, 71)

Motion: Tom Rush, Georgia

“That the Executive Committee eliminate the use of executive sessions from its business proceedings”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it declines the request to eliminate executive sessions as this request is in conflict with SBC Bylaw 11 which provides that the parliamentary authority of the Southern Baptist Convention shall be *Robert’s Rules of Order*. The SBC Executive Committee affirms the need and desire for transparency and openness in Convention work and commits to limit the use of executive sessions to instances when deemed absolutely necessary.

2. SBC Referral: To Amend Article III, Section 1 to Add an Exclusion of Any Church That Affirms Women as Pastors (Items 22 and 26, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 57, 71)

Motion: Michael Law, Virginia

“That Article III, Section 1, of the SBC Constitution be amended to add ‘(6) Does not affirm, appoint, or employ a woman as pastor of any kind.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it discussed the motion during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting and will consider the matter again during its June 12, 2023, meeting. The SBC Executive Committee will report any action taken in the SBC *Daily Bulletin*.

3. SBC Referral: To Add a Pro-Israel Amendment to The Baptist Faith & Message (Items 23 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 57, 71)

Motion: Matt Dunn, Missouri

“That *The Baptist Faith & Message* be amended to add that God will regather Israel and will restore Israel to fulfill His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that while it appreciates the spirit of the motion and fully supports the nation of Israel, it declines the request to add Article 19 to *The Baptist Faith & Message*.

4. **SBC Referral: To Publish Trustee Contact Information in the Book of Reports. (Items 25 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 57, 71)**

Motion: Samuel Gilliam, Louisiana

“That a list of trustees for every entity, along with contact information be published in the Book of Reports or another publication including mailing address, email, and phone number.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it affirms the reported response to a similar motion in 2018 and it identifies strongly with any motion aimed at underscoring trustee board accountability and availability to Southern Baptists, and wishes for all Southern Baptists to know that for over a decade SBC entity trustee information has been listed on SBC.net on the “Trustee Directories” page, accessible from the front page of SBC.net. Additionally, the same information has been provided in the SBC Annual (also available in digital form on SBC.net) and several of the individual websites of the SBC entities also provide a roster of their board of trustees, some of which, like the Executive Committee’s, are pictorial.

5. **SBC Referral: To Utilize Existing Technologies to Allow Messengers to Vote When Not Physically Present (Items 26 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 58, 71)**

Motion: Toby Brogden, Tennessee

“That the Executive Committee of the SBC take the necessary steps to insure that all cooperating SBC churches have the opportunity, regardless of church size or financial constraints, to have a voice and a vote at the SBC 2023, to be held in New Orleans, LA, by utilizing existing technologies in order to allow all registered messengers to vote on all matters presented to the messengers physically present at the Convention in New Orleans.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that while it desires to see the maximum number of messengers participating in the SBC Annual Meeting, because of prohibitive costs as well as technological obstacles, it declines to recommend allowing virtual voting for messengers not present at the SBC Annual Meeting.

6. **SBC Referral: To Amend the SBC Constitution to Add Article XV. Transparency and Accountability (Items 27 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 58, 71)**

Motion: Nathan Stuller, Illinois

“That the Executive Committee meeting in Anaheim, California, June 14-15, 2022, amend the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention by adding

Article XV. Transparency and Accountability

Records of all meetings and communications of all entities, boards, committees, and other organizations of the Southern Baptist Convention, and all pertinent communications of all officers, trustees, committee members, and employees of these organizations, shall be promptly made available upon request to any participating Southern Baptist church.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that because SBC Constitution Article VII states, “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;” and because, according to SBC Bylaw 26.A., entities are required to report all

significant actions, financial reports, audit reports, and recommendations to the Convention, it declines to recommend amending the SBC Constitution to include Article XV. Transparency and Accountability.

7. **SBC Referral: To Request the Executive Committee Study the Impact of Waiving Attorney Client Privilege (Items 28 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 58, 71)**

Motion: Sherri Martin, Florida

“That the Executive Committee provide a legal update on the effect of waiving attorney client privilege and the impact on the SBC at least 30 days prior to the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it will consider the matter during its June 12, 2023, meeting and will report any action taken in the *SBC Daily Bulletin*.

8. **SBC Referral: To Form a Work Group to Study Making Baptist Press an Editorially Independent News Service (Items 32 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 58, 71)**

Motion: Rob Collingsworth, Texas

“In light of the recently released report on the Executive Committee's response to sexual abuse allegations, specifically the ways that the lack of editorial independence at Baptist Press has played a role in harming survivors of sexual abuse, as well as the necessity for Southern Baptists to have a convention news service that adheres to the highest ethical guidelines and standards of journalism as outlined in Baptist Press' Operating Guidelines, I move that the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention gathered June 14-15, 2022, in Anaheim, California, ask the chairman of the Executive Committee to appoint a workgroup to study structural changes that would grant Baptist Press editorial independence and freedom from undue influence. The workgroup would be comprised of members of churches cooperating with this Convention who have training or experience in journalism as well as current members of the Executive Committee. The study would include, but not be limited to, a determination of whether such changes are warranted as well as options for how such changes could be implemented. The workgroup would report their findings back to the whole of the Executive Committee no later than thirty days prior to their scheduled spring meeting, at which point the Executive Committee will formally receive recommendations from the workgroup and determine what, if any action should be taken. The findings of the study shall also be made available in the *Book of Reports* for the messengers of the 2023 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that the Executive Committee, believing the various elements of church activity such as that then-chairman Jared C. Wellman named a study group which made its report to the SBC Executive Committee during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting. The SBC Executive Committee reports that it affirms the following recommendations, as received by the appointed work group:

1. Request the SBC Executive Committee include a section defining the relationship between the Executive Committee & Baptist Press in the *Personnel Policies of the SBC Executive Committee*.
2. Request the members of the Great Commission Council to review Baptist Press'

journalistic guidelines and reaffirm their commitment to cooperating with Baptist Press as they seek to fulfill the vital ministry assignment they have been given.

3. Form a small, independent, advisory team to consult with the editor of Baptist Press in matters of opinion content and news coverage. This group would be selected by the editor and serve at his/her discretion. The advisory team will have no formal authority over the editor or Baptist Press but will be available to provide helpful feedback when sensitive or complicated issues arise

9. SBC Referral: To Suspend the Resolutions Committee (Items 33 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 58, 71)

Motion: Mark Spence, Colorado

“That the Executive Committee perform a study regarding the suspension of resolutions at the Annual Meeting as a means of promoting unity within the Southern Baptist Convention.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it will recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, amend SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions. (See Recommendation 3, p. 40.)

10. SBC Referral: To Remove the Recording Secretary from the Executive Committee. (Items 35 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 59, 71)

Motion: Jay Adkins, Louisiana

“[That] the convention-elected office of Recording Secretary be permanently removed from holding a seat as a member on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention by striking ‘... and the recording secretary ...’ from Bylaw 15, C., Bylaw 18, A., Bylaw 18, A. (5) and any other applicable references of the Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This action should also be understood to nullify the phrase ‘... and the recording secretary ...’ found in Article 9 of the Amended and Restated Charter of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If, for some reason this action requires a ‘division of the question’ regarding the change to the Charter then it is the intention of this action to address that point as well and move the strike of ‘and the recording secretary’ from Article 9 of the Amended and Restated Charter of the Executive Committee of the SBC.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it will retain the SBC Recording Secretary as a member of the SBC Executive Committee, but it has amended the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee limiting all ex officio Executive Committee members, the SBC President, SBC Recording Secretary, and WMU President, from serving as Officers of the Board or members of the Presidential Search Committee.

11. **SBC Referral: To Amend Bylaw 15 Regarding Trustee Selection (Items 36 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 59, 66)**

Motion: Jason Sampler, Georgia

“That Bylaw 15 (I) be amended to read as follows: ‘No person who has served two full terms on the board of an entity or a commission or on the Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve on the board of any entity or Commission or on the Executive Committee, except that a person may serve by virtue of a separate office’”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that while it will continue to promote broad participation in the affairs of the Convention, it declines the request to amend SBC Bylaw 15 to exclude from future participation anyone who has previously served on a board of the Convention. The SBC Executive Committee encourages the Committee on Nominations to continue its diligent work in selecting potential trustee nominees from the broadest possible spectrum of Southern Baptist life.

12. **SBC Referral: To Study the Polity and Legal Relationship of the Body of Messengers to Entity Trustees (Items 38 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 59, 71)**

Motion: Jerry Watts, Mississippi

“That the Executive Committee obtain a legal opinion regarding the relationship between the messengers of the Convention and the elected trustees of the Convention entities. Including whether the larger body can request, suggest, give permission, direction & communicate to the trustees our wishes and desires or if we can demand by action and/ or resolution, that actions must be taken. Additionally, the legal opinion would include what actions messengers can utilize such as removing, replacing and/or electing trustees.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it will consider the matter during its June 12, 2023, meeting and will report any action taken in the SBC *Daily Bulletin*.

13. **SBC Referral: To Add a Day to the SBC Calendar to Accentuate “Abuse of Any Kind.” (Items 40 and 66, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 59, 71)**

Motion: Keith Myer, Maryland

“That a day be added to the SBC Calendar of Events dedicated to raising awareness regarding the effects of and prevention of all types of abuse as we work to eliminate it from our churches.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it approved adding “Caring Well Sunday” to all future *SBC Calendars of Activities*, and amended the *SBC Calendar of Activities* to add the emphasis to all previously approved future calendars.

14. **SBC Referral: To Evaluate the Organizational Structure of the SBC Executive Committee (Items 76 and 128, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 82, 92)**

Motion: Scott Smith, Indiana

“That the trustees of the Executive Committee of the SBC study and examine the internal measures of accountability of all paid Executive Committee staff to said trustees for their day-to-day actions relating to the Convention. Subsequently, I request that the trustees of the EC make any needed policy or structural changes that they can and that are within their purview or if necessary, bring any recommended changes in either how said staff operates or is structured before the convention at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 2023.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it considered the motion during its February 20-21, 2023, meeting and will consider the matter again during its June 12, 2023, meeting. The SBC Executive Committee will report any action taken in the *SBC Daily Bulletin*.

15. **SBC Referral: To Amend The Baptist Faith & Message Regarding Scriptural Authority Over the Southern Baptist Convention. (Items 77 and 128, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 83, 92)**

Motion: Parker Roberts, Alabama

“That Article I of The Baptist Faith & Message be amended to include ‘Therefore the Scriptures hold the ultimate authority over the Southern Baptist Convention, the church, and individuals, and therefore hold the final say in doctrine and polity.’”

SBC Executive Committee Action: Acknowledging that Southern Baptists affirm the Word of God as the ultimate authority, while honoring “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,” the SBC Executive Committee declines to recommend amending Article I of *The Baptist Faith and Message*.

16. **SBC Referral: To Amend the Bylaws for a Timely Release of Resolutions. (Items 79 and 128, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 83, 128)**

Motion: Timothy Livingston, Oklahoma

“That Bylaw 20 be amended to allow for each year’s recommendations from the committee to be published no later than 30 days prior to the SBC Annual Meeting by changing the president’s appointment to be 105 days prior to the Annual meeting rather than the current 75 days and with submissions to the committee due 45 days prior to the SBC Annual Meeting rather than the current 15 days required.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports it will recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, amend SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions. (See Recommendation 3, p. 40.)

17. **SBC Referral: To Amend Bylaw 26(B) to Exclude an Investigation of an Entity. (Items 80 and 128, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 83, 92)**

Motion: Bill Tackett, Oklahoma

“That Bylaw 26(B) be amended to insert the words ‘with the exception that the motion is for an investigation of the very institution which would review the motion.’”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that while messengers of the Convention are charged with electing the trustees of each entity, the request to amend SBC Bylaw 26B is declined as such amendment would disrupt not only the ecclesiastical structure of the Southern Baptist Convention but would also violate the charters of its incorporated entities.

18. **SBC Referral: To Require All Churches to Adhere to The Baptist Faith & Message. (Items 84 and 128, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 83, 92)**

Motion: Scott Frady, North Carolina

“That SBC Constitution Article III be amended to require adherence to *The Baptist Faith & Message* to be considered to be in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that while “our adopted confession of faith ‘is’ a witness to the world, and ‘an’ instrument of doctrinal accountability,” Baptists “deny religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches” and therefore, it declines the request to amend the SBC Constitution to require all SBC churches adhere to *The Baptist Faith and Message*. Further, the motion maker, Scott Frady, requested to withdraw his motion from consideration.

19. **SBC Referral: To Allow Local Associations to Vet Messengers for Participation in the SBC Annual Meeting from Remote Locations (Items 86 and 128, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, pp. 83, 92)**

Motion: Craig Hartzog, Georgia

“That the SBC allow messengers to the annual convention to be registered with all voting rights and privileges through their local association during the annual meeting. The local association will register and monitor all messengers just like they are at the annual convention. The messengers can watch and participate at their associational offices or designated gathering place. This will allow greater participation with more messengers. And due to the high cost of travel is more feasible for many churches and pastors to participate.”

SBC Executive Committee Action: The SBC Executive Committee reports that while it desires to see the maximum number of messengers participating in the SBC Annual Meeting, because of prohibitive costs as well as technological obstacles, it declines to recommend the use of local associations as remote or satellite locations for the SBC Annual Meeting.

COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET

	<u>2023-2024*</u>	<u>2022-2023*</u>	<u>2021-2022*</u>
Convention Operating Budget	\$ 8,305,500	\$ 8,335,000	\$ 14,901,244
International Mission Board	288,355,000	282,700,000	269,631,000
North American Mission Board	134,700,000	134,700,000	175,713,108
Lifeway Christian Resources	271,621,000	262,972,000	241,725,000
GuideStone Financial Resources	116,500,000	107,200,000	99,100,000
Gateway Seminary	12,520,000	12,275,000	12,275,000
Midwestern Seminary	33,288,700	31,728,000	29,808,000
New Orleans Seminary	25,023,487	24,458,322	21,851,538
Southeastern Seminary	31,371,300	30,672,810	31,017,540
Southern Seminary	52,194,827	50,418,484	48,046,616
Southwestern Seminary	36,755,141	37,635,341	35,314,365
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	3,336,255	3,688,392	2,633,435
Historical Library and Archives	512,700	501,200	497,130
TOTAL OF ALL BUDGETS	<u>\$1,014,483,910</u>	<u>\$ 987,284,549</u>	<u>\$ 982,513,976</u>

* Actual budget years will vary within each convention year

SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SBC OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

I. STATEMENT OF INCOME	Proposed Budget	Budget	Actual
	<u>2023-2024****</u>	<u>2022-2023**</u>	<u>2021-2022*</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,830,500	\$ 5,742,893	\$ 5,956,300
Designations	325,000	260,000	342,247
Lifeway Christian Resources	-	-	-
Interest/Dividends	300,000	540,000	(1,344,623)
Global Relations	-	-	89,237
Vision 2025****, Centennial Celebration, & SBC Prayer Ministry	250,000	200,000	1,245,261
Cost Recovery (Annual Meeting, SBC Life, etc.)	1,500,000	1,380,000	1,820,134
Other Income	100,000	212,107	88,404
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 8,305,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,335,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,196,960</u>
II. SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2023-2024****</u>	<u>2022-2023**</u>	<u>2021-2022*</u>
Convention Administration Expenses			
SBC General Operations		\$ 1,014,300	\$ 1,432,304
-- Global Evangelical Relations			
SBC Committees		75,000	57,821
SBC Annual Meeting		1,000,000	2,422,664
SBC Building Management		739,451	859,709
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 2,500,500</u>	<u>\$ 2,828,751</u>	<u>\$ 4,772,498</u>
Executive Committee Operations Expenses			
Administration & Financial Operations		\$ 2,082,218	\$ 2,203,662
Strategic Leadership Development		-	211,005
Executive Committee Meetings		250,000	4,168,697
Great Commission Relations & Mobilization		1,471,029	1,313,806
Convention Communications		1,703,002	1,954,955
Other Designated Expenditures			276,621
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 5,813,850</u>	<u>\$ 5,506,249</u>	<u>\$ 10,128,746</u>
Other non-cash year-end adjustments			
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 8,305,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,335,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,901,244</u>

* Source: Actual 2021-2022 Year-End Financial Statements

** Source: SBC Operating Budget approved September 2022

*** Source: Estimates for 2023-2024 based on projected income

**** Source: Priority will be given to Vision 2025 Strategic Action #6, with the anticipation of receiving a request and recommendation from the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force.

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

STATEMENT OF INCOME	2024 ⁽³⁾	2023 ⁽²⁾	2022 ⁽¹⁾
Cooperative Program	\$ 98,700,000	\$ 96,820,000	\$ 100,420,000
Lottie Moon	186,700,000	176,150,000	182,978,000
Other Income	8,600,000	9,730,000	8,356,000
TOTAL	<u>\$ 294,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 282,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 291,754,000</u>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	33.57%	34.25%	34.42%

⁽¹⁾ Based on unaudited financials for unrestricted contributions and other income.

⁽²⁾ Amounts based on budget.

⁽³⁾ Amounts based on estimates.

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	2024 ⁽³⁾	2023 ⁽²⁾	2022 ⁽¹⁾
Personnel Support	\$ 236,266,000	\$ 231,633,000	\$ 217,680,000
Global Engagement	12,424,000	12,180,000	15,647,000
President's Office	4,329,000	4,244,000	2,496,000
Marketing and Communications	2,468,000	2,420,000	4,741,000
Mobilization	831,000	815,000	763,000
Logistics, Finance, Travel & Meetings, Technology	26,606,000	26,084,000	24,963,000
Human Resources	2,280,000	2,235,000	1,474,000
Training	1,978,000	1,939,000	1,290,000
Send Relief	1,173,000	1,150,000	577,000
TOTAL	<u>\$ 288,355,000</u>	<u>\$ 282,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 269,631,000</u>

⁽¹⁾ Amounts based on unaudited financials.

⁽²⁾ Amounts based on budget.

⁽³⁾ Amounts based on estimates.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

STATEMENT OF INCOME	FY 2024*	FY 2023**	FY 2022***
Cooperative Program	\$ 46,500,000	\$ 46,500,000	\$ 45,399,354
Annie Armstrong	66,500,000	66,500,000	68,919,955
Unrestricted Gifts	7,670,000	7,670,000	7,689,195
Investment & Interest	12,030,000	12,030,000	(31,220,381)
Other	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,421,810
Total Budgeted Income	<u>\$ 134,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 134,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 93,209,933</u>
Restricted Gifts Received			<u>\$ 27,263,436</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 134,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 134,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 120,473,369</u>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	34.52%	34.52%	37.68%

* Estimates provided for FY24

** Approved budget for FY23

*** Audited actuals for FY22

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	FY 2024*	FY 2023**	FY 2022***
Church Planting	\$ 70,034,816	\$ 70,034,816	\$ 80,736,526
Evangelism & Relief	18,512,045	18,512,045	51,464,939
Mission Ed. & Opportunities	11,610,589	11,610,589	15,181,213
Sending & Leadership	9,373,769	9,373,769	12,129,048
Administration	26,477,616	26,477,616	16,201,382
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 134,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 134,700,000</u>	<u>\$ 175,713,108</u>

* Estimates provided for FY24

** Approved budget for FY23

*** Audited actuals for FY22

Church Planting represents over 51% of total operating expenses for FY22.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

	<u>2023-2024</u> ⁽¹⁾	<u>2022-2023</u> ⁽²⁾	<u>2021-2022</u> ⁽³⁾
Revenue			
Product Sales	208,343,000	200,330,000	188,092,000
Events & Services Sales	52,170,000	50,163,000	43,387,000
Other Operating Revenue	<u>14,108,000</u>	<u>13,479,000</u>	<u>14,422,000</u>
Total Revenue From Operations ⁽³⁾	<u>\$ 274,621,000</u>	<u>\$ 263,972,000</u>	<u>\$ 245,901,000</u>
Costs and Expenses			
Product Costs/Operating Expenses	<u>271,621,000</u>	<u>262,972,000</u>	<u>241,725,000</u>
Total Costs and Expenses	<u>271,621,000</u>	<u>262,972,000</u>	<u>241,725,000</u>
Funds Provided From Operations	3,000,000	1,000,000	4,176,000
	1.1%	0.4%	1.7%
Net Realized/Unrealized Reserve Fund Income	0	0	(7,679,000)
Pension/Postretirement Credit/Other	0	0	36,513,000
Other Adjustments	0	0	476,000
Donated Activity	0	0	0
Discontinued Operations (Lifeway stores, Ridgecrest)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,512,000</u>
Inc (Dec) in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 3,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 35,998,000
Inc (Dec) in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Inc (Dec) in Net Assets	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 36,023,000</u>

⁽¹⁾ Amounts are preliminary as the 2023-2024 budget has not yet been developed.

⁽²⁾ Information is based on 2023 budget which was approved by trustees August 30, 2022.

⁽³⁾ From audited financial statements.

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

	<u>2023</u> *	<u>2022</u> **	<u>2021</u>
Statement of Income			
Operating Revenue	\$ 139,000,000	\$ 150,000,000	\$ 124,000,000
Net Investment Income			
Insurance	4,000,000	(1,000,000)	1,000,000
Mission:Dignity	6,000,000	(6,000,000)	4,000,000
Other Reserves & Benefits Trust	<u>41,000,000</u>	<u>(9,000,000)</u>	<u>58,000,000</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 190,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 134,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 187,000,000</u>
Entity Summary Operating Budget			
Retirement Servicing	\$ 71,600,000	\$ 66,100,000	\$ 62,300,000
Insurance	43,000,000	39,400,000	35,300,000
Mission:Dignity	<u>1,900,000</u>	<u>1,700,000</u>	<u>1,500,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 116,500,000</u>	<u>\$ 107,200,000</u>	<u>\$ 99,100,000</u>

* Projected

** Unaudited

GATEWAY SEMINARY

	Proposed* <u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
INCOME			
Educational and General:			
Tuition and Fees	\$ 4,217,372	\$ 4,057,286	\$ 4,156,271
Endowment and Investment	2,908,700	2,950,700	2,791,500
Cooperative Program	3,665,466	3,500,329	3,564,312
Other Gifts	912,600	846,000	877,699
Other Income	<u>119,812</u>	<u>93,116</u>	<u>84,378</u>
Total Educational & General	11,823,950	11,447,431	11,474,160
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>696,050</u>	<u>681,648</u>	<u>674,840</u>
Total Unrestricted & Auxiliary Revenue	12,520,000	12,129,079	12,149,000
Restricted Transfers	-	145,921	126,000
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 12,520,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,000</u>
CP as Percent of Total Income	29.3%	28.5%	29.0%

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
EXPENSE			
Educational and General:			
Instruction	\$ 4,737,023	\$ 4,922,723	\$ 4,884,307
Academic Support	589,705	580,727	729,406
Student Services	1,120,638	1,047,361	1,026,259
Institutional Support	3,381,032	3,270,636	3,266,860
Libraries	703,892	680,426	726,376
Plant Operations & Maintenance	<u>1,687,370</u>	<u>1,492,261</u>	<u>1,387,514</u>
Total Educational & General	12,219,660	11,994,134	12,020,722
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>300,340</u>	<u>280,865</u>	<u>254,278</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$ 12,520,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,000</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,000</u>

* Budget Pending Approval by Board of Trustees

MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2023-2024*</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 8,481,000	\$ 7,872,000	7,536,000
Student Fees	19,665,700	19,389,000	18,289,000
Other Gifts	1,021,000	710,000	477,000
Auxiliary Enterprises	3,016,000	2,772,000	2,659,000
Other Income	1,105,000	985,000	847,000
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 33,288,700</u>	<u>\$ 31,728,000</u>	<u>\$ 29,808,000</u>
CP as Percent of Total Income	25%	25%	25%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2023-2024*</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Instruction	\$ 9,975,269	\$ 9,365,894	\$ 9,287,293
Administrative and General	7,318,253	6,975,616	5,847,623
Student Services	2,537,334	2,298,961	2,036,190
Operations and Maintenance	2,377,003	2,187,303	1,946,610
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,330,841	1,150,226	1,190,284
Capital Expenses & Reserves	9,750,000	9,750,000	9,500,000
Debt Retirement	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 33,288,700</u>	<u>\$ 31,728,000</u>	<u>\$ 29,808,000</u>

*Projected Budget at 3.15.23 (not yet approved by the Board when submitted)

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2023-2024*</u>	<u>2022-2023*</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Student Fees	\$ 10,700,000	\$ 10,115,000	\$ 9,500,000
Cooperative Program	6,650,000	6,686,689	6,601,538
Other Gifts	1,375,000	1,250,000	1,200,000
Endowment Income	275,000	275,000	275,000
Other Income	3,400,000	3,500,000	2,195,000
Auxiliary Income	2,623,487	2,631,633	2,080,000
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 25,023,487</u>	<u>\$ 24,458,322</u>	<u>\$ 21,851,538</u>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	26.58%	27.34%	30.21%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2023-2024*</u>	<u>2022-2023*</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Academic	\$ 8,947,909	\$ 9,266,047	\$ 9,836,974
Administrative and General	4,189,759	4,137,213	4,031,083
Maintenance	0	0	2,200,000
SUBTOTAL EDUCATION AND GENERAL	13,137,668	13,403,260	16,068,057
Auxiliary Expenses	11,885,819	11,055,062	5,783,481
Student Aid	0	0	0
TOTAL	<u>\$ 25,023,487</u>	<u>\$ 24,458,322</u>	<u>\$ 21,851,538</u>

* Projected

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Tuition & Fees	\$ 13,769,208	\$ 14,181,755	\$ 15,162,876
Housing & Other Auxiliary Income	5,642,148	5,354,550	5,273,820
SBC Cooperative Program	6,898,824	7,025,722	7,015,740
Development Gifts	1,680,012	1,475,000	1,400,004
Investment Income & Designated Releases	3,017,772	2,454,988	2,003,856
Other Income	363,336	180,795	161,244
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 31,371,300</u>	<u>\$ 30,672,810</u>	<u>\$ 31,017,540</u>
CP as a Percent of Total Income	21.99%	22.91%	22.62%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Education	\$ 12,503,868	\$ 12,373,806	\$ 12,225,636
Administration	5,144,892	4,881,533	4,726,728
Institutional Advancement	3,286,404	3,230,162	3,182,172
Student Life	1,509,792	1,499,114	1,460,796
Facilities	3,209,348	3,145,504	3,158,040
Capital Projects & Discretionary	1,350,000	1,200,000	1,152,912
Auxiliary Enterprises	4,366,996	4,342,691	5,111,256
TOTAL	<u>\$ 31,371,300</u>	<u>\$ 30,672,810</u>	<u>\$ 31,017,540</u>

SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2023-2024*</u>	<u>2022-2023**</u>	<u>2021-2022**</u>
Educational and General:			
Tuition and Fees	\$ 25,182,939	\$ 25,113,070	\$ 24,910,246
Cooperative Program	10,000,000	10,000,000	9,300,000
Other Gifts	3,580,000	3,200,000	3,000,000
Endowment and Other Investment Income	4,577,862	4,047,105	3,949,244
Other Income	<u>1,453,351</u>	<u>1,279,525</u>	<u>1,206,796</u>
Total Educational and General	44,794,152	43,639,700	42,366,286
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>7,400,675</u>	<u>6,778,784</u>	<u>5,680,330</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 52,194,827</u>	<u>\$ 50,418,484</u>	<u>\$ 48,046,616</u>

CP as Percent of Total Income 19.2% 19.8% 19.4%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET *	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Educational and General:			
Institutional Support	\$ 15,754,053	\$ 15,171,163	\$ 14,458,568
Instruction	10,748,969	10,602,101	10,343,840
Academic Support	2,029,590	1,988,214	1,926,412
Student Services	5,853,048	5,708,698	5,409,833
Student Financial Aid	1,401,670	1,448,296	1,325,811
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant	<u>7,154,381</u>	<u>6,164,498</u>	<u>5,752,155</u>
Total Educational and General	42,941,711	41,082,970	39,216,619
Auxiliary Enterprises	5,025,870	3,576,500	3,062,232
Debt Service and Capital Appropriations	<u>4,227,246</u>	<u>5,759,014</u>	<u>5,767,765</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 52,194,827</u>	<u>\$ 50,418,484</u>	<u>\$ 48,046,616</u>

* Projected Budget

** Approved Budget

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023*</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Revenue			
Student Fees	\$ 16,012,402	\$ 16,012,402	\$ 14,908,248
Cooperative Program	6,400,000	7,080,000	7,030,000
Other Gifts	3,000,000	3,200,000	3,183,545
Endowment	4,521,000	4,521,000	4,264,214
Auxilliary Enterprises	6,609,739	6,609,739	5,703,844
Other Income	<u>212,000</u>	<u>212,200</u>	<u>224,514</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 36,755,141</u>	<u>\$ 37,635,341</u>	<u>\$ 35,314,365</u>

CP as a Percent of Total Income 17% 19% 20%

Expenses			
Instruction	\$ 8,751,114	\$ 8,751,114	\$ 9,592,589
Administrative and General	15,493,217	15,493,217	13,629,475
Student Services	1,803,005	1,803,005	1,688,526
Operations and Maintenance	4,795,180	4,795,180	6,521,703
Auxiliary Enterprises	5,100,000	3,716,382	3,365,740
Capital Expenses & Reserves	-	-	516,332
Debt Retirement	<u>812,625</u>	<u>3,076,443</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 36,755,141</u>	<u>\$ 37,635,341</u>	<u>\$ 35,314,365</u>

* Adjusted 10/22

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022
STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 3,217,500	\$ 3,389,637	\$ 3,286,921
Other Support	95,000	95,000	33,969
Project And Other Related Income	23,755	23,755	28,961
Reserves	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 3,336,255</u>	<u>\$ 3,688,392</u>	<u>\$ 3,349,851</u>
CP as a Percent of Total Income (not counting reserves)	96.4%	96.6%	98.1%

	2023/2024	2022/2023	2021/2022
ACTUAL	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,322,356	\$ 2,638,493	\$ 1,866,424
Travel	199,610	235,610	152,041
Executive Office	85,100	85,100	72,231
Events & Strategic Initiatives	152,362	152,362	133,175
Business & Finance	199,011	199,011	198,781
Communications/External Affairs	299,896	299,896	185,503
Public Policy	<u>77,920</u>	<u>77,920</u>	<u>25,280</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 3,336,255</u>	<u>\$ 3,688,392</u>	<u>\$ 2,633,435</u>

HISTORICAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

	Proposed	Budgeted	Actual
STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2023-2024</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 468,600	\$ 460,900	\$ 477,086
Interest	32,000	32,000	31,864
Microfilm/Duplication	8,500	8,000	5,596
Designated & Miscellaneous	<u>3,600</u>	<u>2,100</u>	<u>3,527</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 512,700</u>	<u>\$ 503,000</u>	<u>\$ 518,073</u>
CP as Percent of Total Income	92%	92%	92%

	2022-2023	2021-2022	2020-2021
SUMMARY OF OPERATING BUDGET			
Personnel	\$ 363,400	\$ 368,600	\$ 354,807
Office Expenses/Equipment	60,700	55,500	67,568
Outreach/Promotion	5,500	6,000	3,791
Acquisitions	5,500	5,500	4,536
Preservation/Microfilm	9,000	15,700	7,332
Travel/Employee Development	5,800	5,700	1,424
Information Services/Digitization	56,000	40,500	54,760
Contingency/Miscellaneous	4,300	3,000	2,912
Advisory Board	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL BUDGET/EXPENSES	<u>\$ 512,700</u>	<u>\$ 501,200</u>	<u>\$ 497,130</u>

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 2022)

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, as of December 31, 2022 (unaudited)

Assets	
Investment in Funds	\$ 15,800,000,000
Notes Receivable from Participants	109,000,000
Other Assets	<u>64,000,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 15,973,000,000</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Restricted Insurance Reserves	\$ 65,000,000
Other Liabilities	80,000,000
Participant Accumulations & Fund Balances	<u>15,828,000,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 15,973,000,000</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 page 182)

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD, as of September 30, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 14,29,000
Investments	387,762,000
Investments – Restricted	38,537,000
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	154,001,000
Property and Equipment	14,918,000
Other Assets	<u>10,796,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 620,307,000</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 17,291,000
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	93,612,000
Net Assets without donor restrictions	306,070,000
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>203,334,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 620,307,000</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 page 182)

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES, as of September 30, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 146,507,000
Investment – Reserve Funds	79,879,000
Fixed Assets, net	6,703,000
Other Noncurrent Assets	<u>17,993,000</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 251,082,000</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 29,253,000
Long-term Liabilities	7,125,000
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	132,463,000
Net Assets without donor restrictions	82,039,000
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>202,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 251,082,000</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 page 182)

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD, as of September 30, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 3,108,739
Investments	150,676,452
Investments – Restricted	5,484,170
Beneficial Interest in Trusts	59,779,408
Church Loans, net	70,215,749
Property and Equipment	128,834,882
Other Assets	<u>11,713,012</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 429,812,412</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 11,761,195
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	40,518,409
Net Assets without donor restrictions	302,292,304
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>75,240,504</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 429,812,412</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 page 182)

GATEWAY SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 5,891,066
Investments	56,062,461
Beneficial Interest in Split Interest Agreements	6,909,759
Property and Equipment	<u>51,858,922</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 120,722,208</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,144,449
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	4,586,600
Net Assets without donor restrictions	84,761,278
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>30,229,881</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 120,722,208</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 page 182)

MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, INC., as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 5,520,940
Investments	31,862,907
Property and Equipment	45,237,205
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trusts	<u>381,982</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 83,003,034</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 4,362,817
Net Assets without donor restrictions	65,307,875
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>12,332,342</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 83,003,034</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 page 182)

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 4,574,520
Investments	97,466,175
Investments – Held in Trust	3,051,755
Property and Equipment	<u>17,849,893</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 122,942,343</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 1,697,027
Net Assets without donor restrictions	48,977,670
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>72,267,646</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 122,942,343</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 page 182)

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 25,790,737
Investments	39,280,289
Beneficial interest in split interest agreements	5,471,220
Property and Equipment	33,557,169
Total Assets	<u>\$ 105,099,415</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,691,596
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	11,768,935
Loan Payable	3,509,900
Net Assets without donor restrictions	37,378,506
Net Assets with donor restrictions	48,750,478
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 105,099,415</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 page 182)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 48,229,388
Investments	78,962,384
Investments – Held in Trust	25,820,614
Property and Equipment	61,319,859
Other assets	512,419
Total Assets	<u>\$ 214,844,664</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 6,630,826
Notes Payable	18,133,869
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	4,215,824
Net Assets without donor restrictions	87,290,148
Net Assets with donor restrictions	98,573,997
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 214,844,664</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 page 182)

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 2,133,741
Investments	142,300,262
Beneficial interest in split interest agreements	15,376,459
Property and Equipment	130,637,867
Other Assets	<u>645,923</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 291,094,252</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,139,836
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	1,002,632
Notes Payable	18,345,296
Liability Under Annuity Contracts	10,048,525
Net Assets without donor restrictions	92,812,650
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>165,745,313</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 291,094,252</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 page 182)

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, as of July 31, 2022

Assets	
Current/Other Assets	\$ 212,095
Investments	1,009,685
Property and Equipment	<u>922,377</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,144,167</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 15,212
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	359,412
Net Assets without donor restrictions	1,703,023
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>66,520</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,144,167</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 page 182)

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION, as of September 30, 2022

Assets	
Current/Other Assets	\$ 2,853,458
Investments	2,049,696
Property and Equipment	<u>440,255</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 5,343,409</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 113,382
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	385,854
Net Assets without donor restrictions	3,022,526
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>1,821,647</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 5,343,409</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 page 182)

SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET, as of September 30, 2022

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 11,730,804
Investments	8,532,556
Property and Equipment	2,780,513
Other Assets	<u>1,342,365</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 24,386,238</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 12,738,527
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	3,449,264
Net Assets without donor restrictions	5,981,203
Net Assets with donor restrictions	<u>2,217,244</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 24,386,238</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 SBC Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the SBC 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 page 182)

**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 page 182)

Contributions by State
 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget Receipts
 Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
 October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022

Contribution Sources	2021-2022	2020-2021	% Change
Alabama	\$ 19,419,870.47	\$ 19,115,014.76	1.59%
Alaska	125,117.08	123,945.24	0.95%
Arizona	1,453,716.67	1,375,253.39	5.71%
Arkansas	9,469,862.34	9,461,353.51	0.09%
California	2,165,022.61	2,277,035.45	-4.92%
Colorado	599,931.76	727,688.78	-17.56%
Dakota	108,158.58	104,866.48	3.14%
Florida	14,870,167.59	15,184,241.21	-2.07%
Georgia	15,319,190.65	15,430,284.18	-0.72%
Hawaii Pacific	223,171.28	220,187.49	1.36%
Illinois	2,375,945.29	2,023,916.41	17.39%
Indiana	744,097.85	732,731.60	1.55%
Iowa	806,574.75	575,831.79	40.07%
Kansas-Nebraska	833,949.98	846,529.43	-1.49%
Kentucky	10,050,752.68	9,910,704.05	1.41%
Louisiana	6,655,207.32	6,430,488.50	3.49%
Maryland-Delaware	1,617,365.20	1,536,506.97	5.26%
Michigan	424,226.40	351,406.14	20.72%
Minnesota-Wisconsin	272,028.92	266,389.43	2.12%
Mississippi	13,467,585.48	11,148,905.22	20.80%
Missouri	5,642,592.77	5,876,671.32	-3.98%
Montana	180,751.02	190,176.75	-4.96%
Nevada	427,185.06	421,356.56	1.38%
New England	170,104.07	207,954.36	-18.20%
New Mexico	943,270.15	961,998.94	-1.95%
New York	229,217.50	225,480.65	1.66%
North Carolina	12,333,662.38	11,761,700.33	4.86%
Northwest	536,207.44	561,388.23	-4.49%
Ohio	2,751,312.27	2,088,471.75	31.74%
Oklahoma	10,702,892.25	10,320,739.39	3.70%
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	323,867.60	312,056.24	3.79%
Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands	18,144.46	9,704.85	86.96%
South Carolina	10,856,203.58	10,856,098.82	0.00%
Tennessee	18,322,933.57	14,190,756.48	29.12%
Texas - BGCT	9,934,221.76	9,876,346.22	0.59%
Texas - SBTC	15,233,158.52	15,620,847.90	-2.48%
Utah - Idaho	232,892.43	241,501.09	-3.56%
Virginia - BGAV	821,927.13	884,433.27	-7.07%
Virginia - SBCV	4,726,356.16	4,772,092.04	-0.96%
West Virginia	475,353.77	488,398.53	-2.67%
Wyoming	36,796.62	64,468.44	-42.92%
Subtotal	\$ 195,900,993.41	\$ 187,775,922.19	4.33%
<u>Churches & Individuals</u>	<u>\$ 4,551,615.59</u>	<u>\$ 4,495,514.09</u>	<u>1.25%</u>
Grand Total:	\$ 200,452,609.00	\$ 192,271,436.28	4.26%

2021-2022 Disbursements
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee

	Cooperative Program Allocation Budget	Percent of CP	Designated	Percent of Designated	Total Gifts	Percent of Total
International Mission Board	\$ 100,420,424	50.41%	\$ 143,476,013	69.40%	\$ 243,896,437	60.08%
North American Mission Board	45,399,354	22.79%	62,330,427	30.15%	107,729,781	26.54%
Gateway Seminary	3,740,975	1.88%	40,668	0.02%	3,781,643	0.93%
Midwestern Seminary	8,005,347	4.02%	74,419	0.04%	8,079,766	1.99%
New Orleans Seminary	6,928,740	3.48%	63,954	0.03%	6,992,694	1.72%
Southeastern Seminary	7,366,320	3.70%	82,735	0.04%	7,449,055	1.84%
Southern Seminary	10,655,318	5.34%	108,290	0.05%	10,763,608	2.66%
Southwestern Seminary	6,969,550	3.50%	87,988	0.04%	7,057,538	1.74%
Historical Library and Archives	478,098	0.24%	2,761	0.00%	480,859	0.12%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	3,286,922	1.65%	14,948	0.01%	3,301,870	0.81%
GuideStone Financial Resources	-	0.00%	59,314	0.03%	59,314	0.01%
SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating	5,956,300	2.99%	384,155	0.19%	6,340,455	1.56%
Total Cooperative Program Allocations	\$ 199,207,348	100.00%	\$ 206,725,672	100.00%	\$ 405,933,020	100.00%
SBC Executive Committee Vision 2025	1,245,261		0		1,245,261	
TOTAL	\$ 200,452,609		\$ 206,725,672		\$ 407,178,281	

**SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION**

Recommendation 1: 2023-2024 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, adopt the 2023-2024 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget in the amount of \$195,250,000 as follows:

2023-2024 SBC CP ALLOCATION BUDGET PROPOSAL

	Proposed 2023-2024 Budget <u>Allocation</u>	Proposed 2023-2024 % of Total <u>Allocation</u>
<u>World Mission Ministries</u>		
International Mission Board	\$ 98,299,500	50.41%
North American Mission Board	<u>44,440,500</u>	<u>22.79%</u>
Total: World Missions Ministries	<u>142,740,000</u>	<u>73.20%</u>
<u>Theological Education Ministries</u>		
Seminaries:		
Gateway	3,665,466	1.82%
Midwestern	8,481,555	4.35%
New Orleans	6,655,598	3.41%
Southeastern	6,813,324	3.49%
Southern	10,596,863	5.43%
Southwestern	<u>6,531,194</u>	<u>3.35%</u>
Total Seminaries	42,744,000	21.92%
Historical Library and Archives	<u>468,000</u>	<u>0.24%</u>
Total: Theological Education Ministries	<u>43,212,000</u>	<u>22.16%</u>
<u>Christian Ethics & Religious Liberty Ministries</u>		
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	<u>3,217,500</u>	<u>1.65%</u>
<u>Facilitating Ministries</u>		
SBCEC & SBC Operating Budget	<u>5,830,500</u>	<u>2.99%</u>
Total: Facilitating Ministries	<u>5,830,500</u>	<u>2.99%</u>
Total: 2023-2024 Program Allocation Budget	<u>\$ 195,000,000</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Special Priority Allocation:		
SBC Vision 2025 Initiative*	<u>\$ 250,000</u>	
Total	<u>\$ 195,250,000</u>	

*Priority will be given to Vision 2025 Strategic Action #6 with anticipation of receiving a request and recommendation from the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force

Any overage of gifts received above the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget will be distributed to the 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 2: 2023-2024 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, adopt the 2023-2024 SBC Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,305,500 as follows:

SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SBC OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY

	Proposed Budget	Budget	Actual
	<u>2023-2024****</u>	<u>2022-2023**</u>	<u>2021-2022*</u>
I. STATEMENT OF INCOME			
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,830,500	\$ 5,742,893	\$ 5,956,300
Designations	325,000	260,000	342,247
Lifeway Christian Resources	-	-	-
Interest/Dividends	300,000	540,000	(1,344,623)
Global Relations	-	-	89,237
Vision 2025****, Centennial Celebration, & SBC Prayer Ministry	250,000	200,000	1,245,261
Cost Recovery (Annual Meeting, SBC Life, etc.)	1,500,000	1,380,000	1,820,134
Other Income	<u>100,000</u>	<u>212,107</u>	<u>88,404</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 8,305,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,335,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,196,960</u>
II. SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2023-2024****</u>	<u>2022-2023**</u>	<u>2021-2022*</u>
Convention Administration Expenses			
SBC General Operations		\$ 1,014,300	\$ 1,432,304
-- Global Evangelical Relations			
SBC Committees		75,000	57,821
SBC Annual Meeting		1,000,000	2,422,664
SBC Building Management		<u>739,451</u>	<u>859,709</u>
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 2,500,500</u>	<u>\$ 2,828,751</u>	<u>\$ 4,772,498</u>
Executive Committee Operations Expenses			
Administration & Financial Operations		\$ 2,082,218	\$ 2,203,662
Strategic Leadership Development		-	211,005
Executive Committee Meetings		250,000	4,168,697
Great Commission Relations & Mobilization		1,471,029	1,313,806
Convention Communications		1,703,002	1,954,955
Other Designated Expenditures			<u>276,621</u>
SUBTOTAL	<u>\$ 5,813,850</u>	<u>\$ 5,506,249</u>	<u>\$ 10,128,746</u>
Other non-cash year-end adjustments			
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 8,305,500</u>	<u>\$ 8,335,000</u>	<u>\$ 14,901,244</u>

* Source: Actual 2021-2022 Year-End Financial Statements

** Source: SBC Operating Budget approved September 2022

*** Source: Estimates for 2023-2024 based on projected income

**** Source: Priority will be given to Vision 2025 Strategic Action #6, with the anticipation of receiving a request and recommendation from the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force.

Recommendation 3: Amendment to SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, amend SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions as follows

(Deletions are denoted with ~~strickethrough~~; additions are denoted with underline.)

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 1st ~~15th~~ but no later than twenty (20) fifteen (15) days prior to the next SBC annual meeting; the initial report of the Committee on Resolutions shall be released no later than ten

(10) days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, and the final report shall be published in the first day's *Bulletin*.

The final amended version would read as follows:

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 1st but no later than twenty (20) days prior to the next SBC annual meeting; the initial report of the Committee on Resolutions shall be released no later than ten (10) days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, and the final report shall be published in the first day's *Bulletin*,

Recommendation 4: Amendment to SBC Bylaw 7. *Bulletin* and Related Bylaws: SBC Bylaw 5. *Book of Reports*, SBC Bylaw 20. Committee on Resolutions, and SBC Bylaw 26. Procedures Regarding Publishing SBC *Bulletins*

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee recommends the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, June 13-14, 2023, adopt amendments to SBC Bylaw 7. *Bulletin* and related bylaws: SBC 5. *Book of Reports*, SBC 20. Committee on Resolutions, and SBC 26. Procedures as follows and made effective upon adjournment due to the volatility of the printing industry. Efforts will be made to continue to produce the SBC *Bulletin* in print form, however, should print form be unattainable for an overnight turnaround, the publication will be published online.

(Deletions are denoted with ~~strikethrough~~; additions are denoted with underline.)

7. *Bulletin*:

A. The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have printed published 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.

...

5. *Book of Reports*:

...

B. Recommendations of entities and committees of the Convention may not be voted upon until the recommendations have been printed published 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.

...

20. Committee on Resolutions:

...

A list of the titles of all properly submitted proposed resolutions shall be printed published 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.

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~~ Published reports of the boards, institutions, commissions, and standing committees shall be consolidated into the *Book of Reports* for distribution to messengers on their enrollment;

...

(3) All recommendations of each board, institution, commission, special committee, and standing committee shall be ~~printed~~ published 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~~ published 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.

The final amended version would read as follows:

7. Bulletin:

A. The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have published 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.

...

5. Book of Reports:

...

B. Recommendations of entities and committees of the Convention may not be voted upon until the recommendations have been published 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.

...

20. Committee on Resolutions:

...

A list of the titles of all properly submitted proposed resolutions shall be published 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.

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:

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901 Commerce Street, Suite 600, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

WILLIE McLaurin, Interim Chair
WARREN PEEK, President

*"...Serving Him together, shoulder to shoulder."
Zephaniah 3:9*

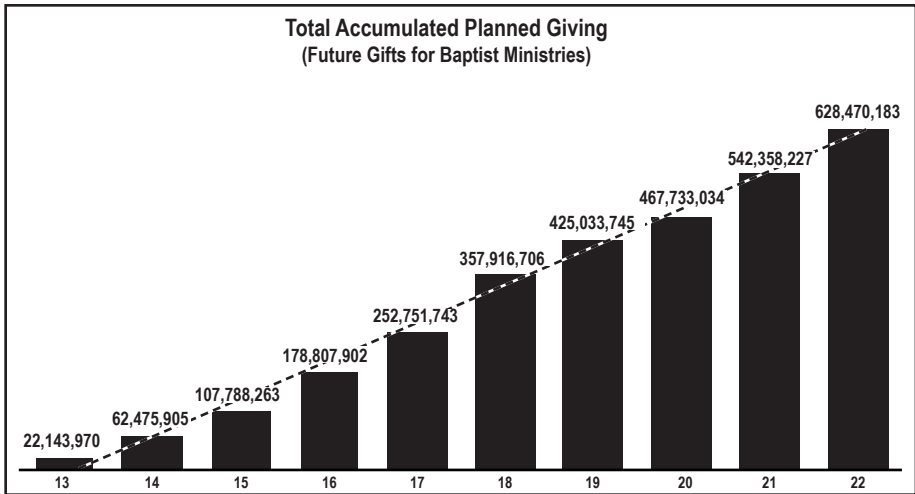
The Southern Baptist Foundation celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2022! This exciting milestone was reached only because of God's continued blessings and the partnership we have with our wonderful clients. Believers stepped out in faith over 75 years ago to establish the Foundation to help manage and distribute donations that strengthen Southern Baptist ministries and we are honored to continue what they started.

The Foundation provides 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 \$6 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 all generously giving the materials and time to build the tabernacle. Move forward in the Bible, and in Malachi 3:10-12, 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).

We understand that generosity is one of the greatest acts of worship. For believers, giving is more than a financial act. When faith and finances align, the multiplying power of generosity transforms the world. 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, 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 3,200 different individuals and families. Over \$628 million in future gifts will be generated for Baptist causes through these estate plans.



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 percent of the more than two million Southern Baptists who are currently over age 65 (about 202,000) tithed from 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 bring 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.

2022 was indeed a rollercoaster ride as inflation continued to touch almost every area of our lives. On the bright side, there have been—and continue to be—many opportunities for Kingdom impact. 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. Serving Christ together for over 75 years!

GENERAL BOARDS

One Hundred and Fifth Annual Report



5005 LBJ Freeway, Suite 2200, Dallas, Texas 75244

JOHN HOYCHICK, JR., Chair

D. HANCE DILBECK, JR., President and Chief Executive Officer

INTRODUCTION

Thus far the Lord has helped us. The words of 1 Samuel 7:12 echo through time, reminding each generation of faithful servants that the Lord has been with us. He has been with us during good times and bad, during seasons of abundance and drought, and seasons of euphoria and despair.

He has certainly had his hand on this ministry that we know and love today called GuideStone Financial Resources®. From the heart of our founder, William Lunsford, to the Southern Baptist Convention, through the past 105 years, the Lord has helped us.

2022 was a record year for Mission:Dignity, which had the largest fourth quarter on record, with more than \$4.7 million given. It marked the end of an already record year as 2022 was the largest fundraising year ever, as \$16 million was given. The Emergency Grant Fund — renamed the O.S. and Susie Hawkins Emergency Grant Fund in early 2023 — was established in 2019 to provide for the large, one-time expenses of the neediest Mission:Dignity recipients. Those one-time expenses include hearing aids, eyeglasses, dentures, medical bills and home repairs.

Eleven SBC state conventions and foundations joined with GuideStone to provide 13th Checks — equal to one extra monthly payment — to Mission:Dignity recipients in 2022. All those states and others have joined to provide 13th Checks again in 2023. In 2022, those state arrangements benefitted Mission:Dignity recipients in South Carolina, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas (Southern Baptists of Texas Convention), New Mexico, Tennessee, California and Nevada.

For 2022, Mission:Dignity assisted 2,858 retired ministers, spouses and widows living in 2,115 households nationwide. At the beginning of 2022, each recipient household received a 25% raise in monthly honorariums, a timely raise in assistance given this year of inflation.

Between geopolitical events, worldwide inflation and an unprecedented wave of monetary tightening by global central banks, markets whipsawed back and forth.

In the U.S., the Consumer Price Index (CPI) climbed steadily to a peak in June at a year-over-year rate of 9.1%, the highest since 1981. (By December, this had dropped to 6.5% year-over-year, an improvement, but still intolerably high.) In March, the Federal Reserve made the first of many moves against inflation by ending its initial quantitative easing program in 2020. Then less than a week after its last bond purchase, it raised the fed funds rate for the first time since 2018. Additional increases followed throughout the year. By the end of December, the Fed had raised the fed funds rate from 0.25% to 4.5%, a far cry from the beginning of the year estimates of a 75-basis point increase. Such a rapid increase over so short a time was unprecedented and accounted for much of the market's volatility last year. The Fed also employed a rarely used tactic and further reduced liquidity in the economy by allowing maturing bonds to roll off without replacing them with other assets. After a seemingly endless climb in 2021, the past

year in equity markets was characterized by repeated cycles of declines and rallies as investors carefully parsed every statement from the Fed, looking for signs of a pivot toward an easing of monetary policy.

The insurance line of business's commitment to "Bridge the GAP" by Guiding, Advocating and Providing has built new growth and further trust in our established relationships. We continue to provide faith-aligned tailored solutions that meet church and ministry staffs' needs and seek solutions that fit church and ministry budgets.

GuideStone's Retirement Customer Solutions department is committed to providing superior service to the ministry partners and members we are privileged to serve. This commitment is reflected in our consistently high customer service survey scores. On a scale of 0 to 5, we received an overall member satisfaction score of 4.9 in 2022. That matches the highest marks we have ever received since we began tracking this metric. These scores are based on post-interaction customer surveys sent to all individuals who contact Retirement Customer Solutions.

In October, GuideStone announced that Chu Soh, who joined the ministry in June 2020 as chief insurance officer, would become the new chief operating officer, succeeding John R. Jones, who had served at GuideStone for 35 years, 25 as chief operating officer. The transition was completed on March 1, 2023, with Jones serving as Special Assistant to the Executive Office until the end of 2023.

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, 2022.

Church Retirement Plan – At the end of 2022 there were 17,050 active churches with a total of 50,219 active participants.

403(b)(9) Retirement Plan – A total of 557 agencies and institutions provided retirement plans for their employees. A total of 38,965 employees comprise active participation in these agencies' plans.

Ministers and Chaplains Plan – The Ministers and Chaplains Plans enrolled 26 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 Three qualified plan employers serving 105 active participants.

Voluntary Retirement Plan – The Voluntary Retirement Plan records 706 participants with an account balance at the close of 2022.

Retirement Income Paid to Members

The heart of GuideStone's ministry is our recipients. Annuity benefits were paid to 22,313 participants/beneficiaries in 2022. Systematic withdrawal payments were paid to 19,879 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 67 percent 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 \$275 per month, if single, or \$375 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 \$550 per month, if single, or \$750 per month, if married.

Mission:Dignity assisted a total of 2,115 households in 2022.

A total of \$11,639,758 was paid out in financial assistance in 2022, compared to \$8,834,237 in 2021. Mission:Dignity granted \$1,565,057 in one time Emergency Grants in 2022. Christmas gift checks of \$400, 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 percent 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 2022 statistical report of the insurance plans (excludes non-Southern Baptist entities).

Life Claims – \$16,414,738

Disability Claims – \$4,042,010

Dental Claims – \$11,867,850

Medical Claims (including pharmacy) – \$240,399,510

Personal Plans:

Personal Plans Employee Term Life Plans – A total of 12,962 members actively participated on December 31, 2022, a decrease of 748 since the same time last year.

Personal Plans Disability Plans – A total of 979 members participated in the Short-Term Disability Plans, and 3,796 members participated in the Long-Term Disability Plans.

Personal Plans Medical Plans – Members covered totaled 4,754 a decrease of 400 since the same time last year.

Personal Plans Supplemental AD&D Plan – Members covered totaled 2,148.

Personal Plans Accidental Death and Dismemberment – Members covered totaled 4,732.

Personal Plans Dental – Members covered totaled 6,819.

Premium Waiver – The Personal Plans employee life plans had 182 members.

Group Plans:

Group Plans Employee Term Life Plans – A total of 30,080 members were covered on December 31, 2022, an increase of 911 since the same time last year.

Group Plans Medical Plans – A total of 20,108 members were covered.

Group Plans Dental Plan – A total of 9,813 members were covered in a dental plan.

Group Plans Disability Plan – A total of 2,097 members participated in the Short-Term Disability Plans, and 11,677 members participated in the Long-Term Disability Plans.

Group Plans Supplemental AD&D Plan – Members covered totaled 3,732.

Group Plans Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan – Members covered totaled 8,598 .
Premium Waiver – The Group Plans employee life plans had 176 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 1,900 clients with a premium volume of over \$58 million at the end of 2022.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, the Convention referred no items to GuideStone Financial Resources for consideration, action, or report.

One Hundred Seventy-Seventh Annual Report**INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD****3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23230****CHUCK POURCIAU, Chair
PAUL CHITWOOD, President****INTRODUCTION**

Thank you, Southern Baptists, for your partnership in the gospel! For 177 years, Southern Baptist churches have obeyed the Great Commission by sending missionaries to share the gospel overseas through the International Mission Board. Your faithfulness and generosity bless the nations as you continue to send and support missionaries through IMB.

Southern Baptists have never been without a witness among the nations, regardless of world wars, global pandemics, economic recessions and depressions, nor any other circumstance. Your IMB missionaries have remained on the mission fields from global urban centers to the hardest-to-reach corners of the world, and you have continued to support them with your prayers and your generous giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

Before I began serving with the IMB, I was a pastor for 18 years. Over those years, I had the privilege of serving four churches that, on average, gave 18% of their offering through the Cooperative Program — so I am especially grateful for the partnership of Southern Baptist local church leaders and members who understand and value our cooperative mission efforts.

As 2022 draws to a close, Southern Baptists have more than 3,500 adults, along with their 2,850 children, who serve around the world. Those thousands are joined by tens of thousands more who have served with the IMB either in full-time service or on a short-term mission trip, and millions more who belong to a church that gives through the Cooperative Program or the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This is the IMB.

Revelation 20 provides a stark reminder of the importance of the IMB's work. Nowhere is the outcome of End Times events stated more poignantly nor definitively than in the chapter's final verse: *And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire* (Rev. 20:15).

The world's greatest problem can be communicated in a single word: LOSTNESS. Every problem a person faces in life, except one, ends the moment you die. To be separated from God because of sin and to bear the wages/the consequences of sin, is not only physical and spiritual death, but eternal separation from God in hell.

Lostness is not only an eternal problem, but also a universal problem. This is the reality for every human being: No matter who they are, where they have been or are going, who they know, what they do, whether they live in plenty or poverty, whether they enjoy peace or endure war, it is appointed that every person will die. And because *all* have sinned, *all* fall under God's judgment.

The fact is, lostness is a greater problem in our day than ever before. IMB's research team has provided an annual update — based upon global population, the global death rate, and religious affiliation — to estimate the number of people who die daily apart from Christ. Today, that number is 157,690. More people will die lost today than on any day in human history.

Thank God, there is a solution to this, the greatest of all problems. Jesus testifies in John 3 that whoever believes in the Son of Man may have eternal life. God’s solution to the world’s greatest problem, the problem of lostness, is the gospel — it is the true story of Jesus’ death and resurrection and the good news that any who have faith in Jesus and what he did, who repent, and confess him as Lord, are saved from God’s judgment.

The local Southern Baptist church exists to glorify Christ by taking the gospel to the 7,000 people groups who remain unreached with this good news, and more than 3,000 yet to even be engaged with a gospel witness. Each Southern Baptist state convention exists because 157,690 people die lost every day. The IMB exists because Southern Baptists know the solution to the world’s greatest problem, and we have determined together to go to the very ends of the earth and share that good news. “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (Isaiah 52:7).

Thank you for sending and supporting more than 3,500 missionaries to tell those who have never heard that if they will believe and call on the name of the Lord, they will be saved.

The world has a problem. We know the solution. Let’s do all we can to ensure the world knows that solution by introducing the lost to Jesus.

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 2023 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.

2022 was a great example of the whole missionary enterprise showing how working together enables the task to move forward in spite of the lingering effects of a global pandemic. When many other mission endeavors were floundering, Southern Baptist churches rallied together and made it possible for IMB missionaries to move forward. The Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon resources, along with historic prayer, made it possible for the IMB to continue carrying out the Missionary Task around the world through this massive challenge.

Despite humanitarian crises like wars, pandemics and natural disasters, Southern Baptists send IMB missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel — people in hard-to-reach places, people in cities, and people who are dispersed and displaced around the world. IMB reports robustly on these endeavors in a publicly available report, which can be downloaded or read online at IMB.org/ASR.

In 2022, IMB’s annual statistical report included details accounting these results from 2021: 93 new people groups and places engaged with a gospel witness overseas; 524,408 people heard a gospel witness through IMB-related work; IMB workers counted 495,550 opportunities people had to respond to a clear gospel presentation; 176,795 people testified they were new believers in Jesus Christ; 107,701 people were baptized as a testimony in obedience to Christ; 182,112 people received church leadership training; and 22,744 new churches were planted through Southern Baptists’ international work.

In 2022, Southern Baptists saw specific examples of ministry among diaspora related to refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine who relocated to the United States, who were served through Send Relief, the compassion ministry collaboration of the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

Despite health challenges and border closures, we continue to see Send Relief initiatives allow our missionaries and national partners to make an incredible difference. The lives of many unreached people are being touched with the gospel. In many instances, our national partners have taken what they could have kept for themselves and have given those resources, particularly food items, to unreached people who have no one providing relief for them. This unselfish example opened doors for witness for the Great Commission and the Good News of Jesus Christ. Many people have been touched for the first time with hearing the good news that, despite the devastating troubles that are afflicting lives with both physical and spiritual problems, Christ has provided a way for forgiveness and renewed life through his death and resurrection. Praise the Lord, many who were perishing now have moved to having eternal life through faith in Christ.

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 (to the point of approval for deployment) 166 long-term missionary candidates and 167 mid-term missionary candidates for missionary service. The team trained 320 new adult missionaries and their 127 children in Field Personnel Orientation, and further trained 473 adult missionaries and their 387 children in Stateside Assignment Conferences. For the first time in several years, the missionary candidate pipeline grew beyond 1,000 candidates, which is essential for us to fulfill our goal of adding a net total of 500 new missionaries by 2025. The Children's Education and Resource Center team partnered with the Alabama WMU to host the 2022 MK Reentry Retreat for 52 "missionary kid" high school graduates. The Training Development Team created and offered numerous new online training courses for churches, missionary candidates, missionaries, and local leaders around the world. They translated resources into the languages other than English that are most-spoken in Southern Baptist churches. They also conducted Foundation for Missions training events in several locations around the country. The Theological Education Strategy Team launched a new academic online journal, *The Great Commission Baptist Journal of Missions*. This year we launched our Leadership Development Program and began work on a comprehensive leadership development process and curriculum.

Ministry Statement: Mobilize and equip Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission through praying, giving, going, and sending.

IMB's mobilization efforts were bolstered in 2022 due to the diminishing impact of COVID-19 on American culture and the continued roll-out of the company-wide Church Connections Strategy, which assigns each IMB missionary with 20 churches for intentional engagement. Overall, the organization showed 93,000 engagements with Southern Baptist leaders; three times the number engaged in a COVID-impacted 2021. At least 51% of Southern Baptist churches were engaged by an IMB staff member or field missionary with the aim to serve their church in fulfilling the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. From these engagements, 1,400 unique opportunities were identified to advance Southern Baptist entities in 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. At least 251 new multi-year church-to-field partnerships were started to better serve strategies to engage people groups within IMB's eight Affinities.

February 6, 2022, marked the annual celebration for the George Liele Church Planting, Evangelism, and Missions Day. The day was added to the SBC calendar after a motion from the floor of the 2019 SBC Annual Meeting in Birmingham, Alabama. Churches across the SBC were invited to celebrate, pray, give, and go in honor of the legacy of George Liele. IMB also published a month-long “Heroes of Faith” editorial series to share stories of African American missionaries. In 2022, the George Liele Scholarship supported four leaders from two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) campus ministries in Arkansas to take a vision trip to the Americas with the goal of forming a long-term partnership for sending students. Two teams of students are now expected to serve in the Spring and Summer of 2023.

With the addition of ethnic church mobilizers in 2020, engaging non-Anglo Southern Baptist churches and fellowships continued to be an IMB mobilization emphasis in 2022. IMB reported nearly 1,400 engagements with church leaders in meetings, preaching opportunities, and events across the country. IMB also completed monthly connections with ethnic fellowship leaders, sent an Asian New Year’s mailing, and hosted a Korean Missions Celebration in Texas. In IMB’s mobilization strategies — including events and communications — we diligently worked to increase presenting opportunities and information in multiple heart languages, including American Sign Language, Mandarin Chinese, Korean, and Spanish. Numerous videos and prayer resources were included, as well as the IMB’s premier mobilization piece for 2021-22, the Global Impact Guide. IMB also committed to translating internal communications messages into these languages as well.

To better support churches and the church connection strategy, the IMB added a West Coast Mobilization Strategist to work with key churches and campus ministries. Mobilization also grew the network of advocates who help mobilize Southern Baptist churches on behalf of the IMB. This includes new IMB trustees, WMU leaders, missionary alumni, missionary parents, donors, and state convention leaders. As an example, in partnership with Indiana Baptists, an IMB missionary alumni cohort was launched in 2022 to better connect Indiana churches to missionaries, and to mobilize church members to increase praying, giving, going, and sending. Another highlight of this effort was the Celebration of Emeriti, honoring nearly 800 emeritus missionaries who had ministered in more than 40 languages, in Orlando, Florida, in May 2022. The event included 66 new missionary retirees who collectively spent 1,750 years reaching the nations.

IMB continued promoting and providing REV 7:9, a missions movement for 18- to 25-year-olds, at key locations in Kentucky, Louisiana, Florida, and Oklahoma. In this event series, the IMB called together young adults to consider how to take a next step in obedience to reaching the nations with the gospel. Also in 2022, IMB launched “Go Impact,” an initiative for high school students to serve one- to two-week projects within the strategy of IMB personnel around the world.

In 2022, the organization changed the part-time student mobilizer program to four full-time NextGen Missions Recruiters based in the Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, and South-Central Regions. These recruiters will be tasked with the launch and execution of a full-scale recruiting effort for youth, college students, and young adults to pray, give, and go. Ultimately, the aim is to see more mid-term and long-term missions workers in the application pipeline.

Pipeline development for future missionaries continues to be a significant focus for IMB. While this is in part to aid in the missionary-assessment process, it is foremost an intentional effort to equip sending churches and see those who are called choose to go with the IMB. In 2021-22, eight church-based pipelines were brought into the IMB’s assessment portal to allow stronger integration and communication between the entities during the candidate-assessment process. For 2023, two additional pipelines are expected to launch, including one national network, and

six other prospective pipelines at Southern Baptist ministries are being evaluated. At several state convention annual meetings, the IMB held information breakout sessions on pathways and the process to apply short-term, mid-term, and long-term service.

A key area in which IMB mobilizes Southern Baptists is through the development of volunteer opportunities, systems and processes that serve both field strategy and the local church. The Church Success Center connects with hundreds of Southern Baptists each week via phone calls, email and chat looking to serve in some manner through IMB. This team can be reached at info@imb.org.

Southern Baptist churches have long sent volunteers to serve on mission through IMB. In 2022, 7,000 Southern Baptists applied to serve in 1,621 volunteer trips. Over 300 high school students served 20 projects in five affinities through “Go Impact,” IMB’s packaged opportunity for Southern Baptist youth groups. The Field Partnerships and Pathways Team gives leadership to these initiatives and can also be reached at info@imb.org.

As the IMB continued to serve state conventions and associations, we hosted seven new state Executive Directors and held a retreat for the newest Associational Mission Strategists in Richmond to share global updates and mobilization strategies. We launched additional Associational Cohorts for the purpose of equipping associational leader (AMS/DOMs) around the country to better understand the IMB; the Missionary Task; and pathways and partnerships for their churches to grow in missions involvement and support. 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.

We continue to cast vision, mobilize, and equip North American churches not only to engage people groups globally, but also to fulfill the core missionary task among diaspora peoples (international students, immigrants, and refugees) who reside in our own neighborhoods. We updated Peoplegroups.info with new census data and maps to show where people groups reside in North America. In 2022 we joined other SBC entities to develop and form the Diaspora Missions Collective. The Diaspora Collective will assist Southern Baptist churches to discover, engage and resource churches as they reach diaspora peoples. We assisted in forming a one-stop Diaspora Missions Website, DMCollective.org

A highlight of IMB’s reports in 2022 continues to be missionary Sending Celebrations. These events celebrate newly appointed missionaries, while also challenging Southern Baptists to commit to pray and to reflect on whether they may be called to go. The celebrations, available by livestream, inspire Southern Baptist churches to understand their role in sending new missionaries and to pray for the work God has prepared in advance for them among unreached people and places. Nearly 150 full-time missionary appointees were honored in the four Sending Celebrations held in 2022, including a special service conducted in conjunction with the Georgia Baptist Convention annual meeting.

IMB’s Global Research Team released a public Annual Statistical Report (IMB.org/ASR) which represented work done by IMB personnel and their mission partners in 2021. The report contained data from IMB’s eight Affinities and reports on the six components of the missionary task, centered around abiding in Christ: 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 Cor. 10:12-18). The report provided 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.

“Missionary presence” — Southern Baptist missionaries who go and invest in the lives of those around them — was at the heart of the IMB’s rebrand, revealed to the public in conjunction with the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting in Anaheim, California, and related events. More than a new logo, the brand included a strong narrative of IMB’s history and purpose that joins the entity’s existing vision and mission statements.

Because 59% of the world’s population has little to no access to the gospel, the IMB is committed to rallying and equipping mission leaders and influencers for the task of reaching the nations, together. IMB launched an initiative to include even more partners in the task of bringing the gospel to the nations in a microevent sponsored by churches, associations, and state conventions to allow for close interaction between participants and IMB missionaries and staff. The inaugural Together for the Nations event was hosted by Oklahoma Baptists in Edmond, Oklahoma, in October 2022. While this event, which included around 200 attendees, was the first of its kind, the goal is to host four or five of these regional microevents per year for the next three years.

In 2022 Cooperative Program promotion, IMB contributed stories of how God is at work on the mission field to the “52 Sundays” resource. In our promotion of the 2022 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® (LMCO), we reinforced how every dollar given by Southern Baptists supports the work of roughly 3,550 International Mission Board personnel on the mission field to reach the “multitudes” referenced in Rev. 7:9. The IMB sent LMCO direct mailers to Southern Baptist churches; 42,066 English-language LMCO direct mailers were sent, as well as 4,315 of each of the language-specific direct mailers. Additionally, 3,000 LMCO DVDs were created to be distributed through IMB’s Church Success Center. The DVDs included videos in five languages: English, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Spanish.

The IMB distributed promotional materials for the Week of Prayer for International Missions, including more than 2 million English-language prayer guides, as well as 97,695 language-specific prayer guides. Week of Prayer materials distributed also included more than 75,000 posters and over 3 million offering envelopes, covering four languages. Numerous digital downloadable resources, including graphics, PowerPoint slides, bulletin inserts, and more were available in four languages online.

The IMB also printed 48,000 English-language Global Impact Guides. This resource includes missionary stories of God’s work around the world, global highlights of what has been accomplished in the past year, and opportunities for churches and individuals to be involved in solving the world’s greatest problem — lostness. IMB also printed 8,000 language-specific global impact guides.

We developed an Advent Devotional and campaign to inspire Southern Baptists to learn more about missions, and to lead in praying for the nations during the Christmas season.

IMB saw targeted digital advertisements promoting the Loving the Lost prayer resource reach potential audiences. IMB created original media resources, distributed to encourage concerted intercession related to the Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church in November 2022. The Woman’s Missionary Union 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 among the Deaf in the Philippines; through healthcare in North Africa; to the displaced in Ukraine; despite obstacles in Central Asia; through global partners in Uganda; and among the diaspora around the globe.

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 IMB personnel by providing training, expertise, consultation, and resources to implement compassion ministries that integrate into the missionary task. Send Relief work includes responses to acute needs caused by disasters, as well as long-term chronic needs from issues such as poverty, hunger, and injustice.

For fiscal year 2022, IMB in partnership with Send Relief has impacted over 2 million people in 75 countries. Over 1 million people have received food assistance; 464,347 received healthcare support; more than 2,800 have received job skills training; and almost 47,000 people have benefited from clean water or improved sanitation. Through these efforts, more than 1,900 previously closed areas have been opened, offering the hope of the gospel to those who have not heard. Through these compassion ministries, over 44,800* came to faith in Christ and 322* churches were started.

Many parts of the globe which have great human needs are also in desperate need for the gospel, but people in these areas lack easy access to the gospel. Send Relief plays a strategic role for the IMB, not only in meeting critical physical needs, but also in opening doors in these difficult places for the spread of the gospel and church planting.

**These numbers represent work with both IMB field personnel and non-IMB partners. IMB numbers may also be included in IMB's Annual Statistical Report (IMB.org/ASR), so these results are overlapping, not in addition to that official count.*

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2022 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.

The largest challenge that we face comes from the complications of a world that is polarizing, resulting in the rise of many governments that are hostile to the gospel. This polarization demands that we look for new opportunities that the Lord is opening. The IMB is finding ways to carry out the missionary task among unreached peoples in urban areas and among increasing numbers of refugees and internally displaced people. We are exploring the metaverse for avenues to share the gospel and disciple people. Along with our national partners and global missionary partners, churches are being planted across all eight affinities.

Technology is allowing the Bible to be accessible to increasing numbers of people on the planet who don't use reading as a primary means of gaining information. Through audio versions that divide the Scripture into daily portions, people who are primarily oral learners can become familiar with God's entire Word. Assessments of those who have access to discipleship based on abiding in the Word of Christ reveal that they are truly becoming disciples that make disciples. Discipleship which has a focus on each person interacting with God's Word is setting the church free to make the gospel known in new languages and places where it has not been accessible before.

The challenges of the days ahead are filled with opportunities for the gospel to move on different tracks. The same pure gospel from God's Word that has touched those of us who have relied on print technology is now available in digital technology which moves at a far faster pace and at a reduced cost. Missionaries need new skills to carry this gospel into the 21st century among the population of 8 billion people on Earth. These challenges are coming just as new missionaries are arriving with skills that only digital natives have. Praise the Lord! He is raising up new missionaries in our Southern Baptist churches for this 21st century situation.

Ministry Statement: 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 still actively engaged in developing missionary pipelines within Southern Baptist churches, associations, and seminaries. We continue to streamline our processes and develop new training modules to advance the work of the IMB, including a training course titled *Getting to Know the IMB*, which will help Southern Baptist churches, as well as associational and state convention workers and seminary workers, understand how the IMB can serve them in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Ministry Statement: Mobilize and equip Southern Baptists in carrying out the Great Commission through praying, giving, going, and sending.

IMB's Mobilization Team continues to focus on increased engagement with Southern Baptist pastors and churches. We find that for many churches today, the IMB is one of many options considered by mission-minded churches which seek 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 in praying, giving, and going to the nations. To accomplish that, we are committed to working tenaciously to build strong relationships, enhance service levels, and promote more field-to-church interactions with the 47,000 Southern Baptist churches in the U.S.

The IMB plans to grow our presence through a new event strategy called "Together for the Nations" which will reach 15-plus markets across the U.S. over the next three years. As a part of the strategy, missions leaders and influencers can learn about the IMB, the Missionary Task, and ways to take a next step in missions support or partnership. A primary objective of the day is interaction between Southern Baptists and IMB leaders from the mission field and the home office. In 2023, events are planned in Missouri, Georgia, Virginia, Arkansas, and Arizona.

To better serve Southern Baptists, IMB plans to add a Director of Diaspora Mobilization. We also plan to expand our Diaspora team to further assist Southern Baptist churches and partners in identifying where diaspora people groups reside, and to share evangelistic and discipleship language resources to be used among diaspora people groups. Our training will expand as we connect churches and partners with field personnel to better understand these people groups and share best practices for sharing the gospel.

With our commitment to expand opportunities for Southern Baptist churches to partner in the missionary task through short-term mission trips, "Go Experience" will launch in 2023. Many churches want to be engaged on mission through IMB but need an entry point. Forty-six "Go Experience" projects in gateway cities of seven IMB affinities will provide churches with training, hands-on ministry, and next-step opportunities for their churches. These experiences will be supported logistically by IMB. For more information, please email info@imb.org.

Having identified 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 Objectives.

With a commitment to these 2025 Objectives through increased relationships with Southern Baptists, we recognize the critical importance of a deeper understanding of how each church is involved in international missions through praying, giving, going, and sending. We continue to develop comprehensive ways to collect and process information that allows IMB to better serve Southern Baptist churches and partners and celebrate how God is using Southern Baptists to reach the nations.

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.

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 serves Southern Baptists in the push toward taking the gospel to the remaining unreached and unengaged peoples of the world, field personnel will encounter more and more physical challenges such as poverty, hunger, and effects of conflict among those who need to hear the gospel. The continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic add additional challenges but also more opportunities in the years to come. Indicators point to growing hunger needs around the world. Increased needs like this bring 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 restrictions and lingering effects of the pandemic.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, the Convention referred no items to the International Mission Board for consideration, action, or report.

ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT BASED ON 2021 DATA*Global summary reflecting work in calendar year 2021, reported in 2022***Sowing**How many people heard a gospel witness? **592,408**How many people had an opportunity to respond to Christ? **495,550**How many who received a gospel witness do you believe are seekers? **174,242****Reaping**How many who heard a gospel witness became new believers? **176,795**How many believers were baptized? **107,701****Gathering**How many groups intended to become churches are meeting now? **32,888**How many new groups intending to become churches are meeting now? **8,043**How many new churches were formed? **22,744**How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation churches are meeting now? **94,258**How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation churches have ceased to meet? **640**How many baptized believers met in groups or churches? **679,052****Discipling**How many people met in on-going Bible studies? **217,564**How many people are being personally mentored? **73,739****Training**How many men have received practical pastoral training? **29,632**How many people received training to start new churches? **85,293**How many individuals received advanced theological education? **67,187**How many believers were trained in other training opportunities? **102,855**

The International Mission Board's Annual Statistical Report (ASR) contains the most accurate information available at the time of publication for the reporting period. Figures reported are for work related to IMB personnel and our close Baptist partners only, and since 2009 do not include reports from partner conventions and unions. Major movements that are newly self-sustaining and only require occasional guidance and assistance from IMB personnel have been removed from the statistics this reporting year, which results in some statistics being somewhat different from earlier reporting periods and is a cause for celebration.

After ASR publication, IMB's Global Research Department continues to process new and revised reports as field personnel provide the most accurate picture of IMB's work and influence. Thus, subsequent ASRs will reflect any corrected data and may differ from previously published reports. For current data, including the latest revisions, contact the Global Research Information Center (GRIC@imb.org.)

Lifeway

200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027

MISSIE BRANCH, Chair
BEN MANDRELL, President and CEO

Greetings from Lifeway Christian Resources. It's my honor to bring this report on the work of our organization and share what God is doing as we come alongside churches by designing trustworthy experiences that fuel ministry. Since 1891, Lifeway's focus has remained on helping local churches share the good news of Jesus Christ and make disciples everywhere.

You'll find many details in our ministry report, but I want to share a few of the highlights from this past year.

First, let me point out that Lifeway finished the 2022 fiscal year with revenue growth and a healthy bottom line. God has been faithful to preserve Lifeway through a challenging season and has helped us move into a new season of financial health and growth.

This past year, Lifeway served more than 29,000 churches and 6 million people on any given Sunday through our ongoing Bible study curriculum. It's exciting to see that churches are getting back to normal operations and rekindling ministries after many Sunday School classes and small groups were sidelined by the pandemic.

Helping churches reach the next generation remains a priority for Lifeway. This past summer Lifeway summer camps hosted 106,000 campers with more than 1,800 kids and students making first-time decisions to follow Christ. In addition, campers gave over half a million dollars in offerings to support the work of the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

Earlier this year, our team launched a new next-gen curriculum line called *Hyfi*. Our goal from the start was to design an experience that will help churches engage kids and students in their communities who are far from God, many of whom have little or no background in the faith or may have had no exposure to church.

Once again, our website lifeway.com was recognized as one of Newsweek's Best Online Shops. We are honored to be recognized as a place customers want to shop for biblical resources. You'll continue to see site improvements and new features as we simplify and improve the online journey at Lifeway.com.

Our team is responding to the growing need to provide contextualized resources for different language groups around the globe and is seeing great success specifically in India and Latin America. It's been so fulfilling to see the faces of pastors in India as they receive a brand-new study Bible in their language. The Telugu Study Bible is currently the fastest-selling Bible in India. In 2022, we launched the *Biblia Temática de Estudio*, a first-of-its-kind study Bible developed by 25 Hispanic scholars and pastors. I love how our team is helping equip church leaders around the world.

As you know, Lifeway is a ministry funded by a business model. Since 1891, when Lifeway launched as the Sunday School Board, we've never received funds from the Cooperative Program. For more than 130 years, God has allowed us to be self-supporting while continuing to serve churches.

Today, Lifeway's resources are used in more than 160 countries on six continents. We continue to evolve to serve the changing needs of the church. From Bibles, books, and Bible studies to church supplies, camps, and events, our team passionately pursues the needs of local churches, no matter where they are. As a nonprofit, each purchase you make at Lifeway helps support our ongoing work to equip churches and spread the gospel around the globe.

Thank you for your encouragement and partnership in this important mission. I hope this ministry report will reflect the ways Lifeway has locked arms with churches to bring people to Christ and raise up disciples who live on mission for the glory of God.

Gratefully,
Ben Mandrell

MINISTRY GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Assist churches in the development of church ministries.

Sunday School

As the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic began to subside in 2022, more churches returned to normal operations and rekindled ministries. Increases in orders for Sunday School curriculum were experienced in all age groups. Lifeway's publishing teams continued to work remotely as a new collaborative workspace was under construction in Brentwood, TN, with a scheduled opening in Spring 2023.

The Ministry Grid platform was once again a critical tool for churches, and it has increased in popularity as church leaders provided digital curriculum to their leaders and group members. Ministry Grid's updated interface has made the tool even more appealing to church leaders, and it has received praise for its simplicity of use.

The Gospel Project for Kids successfully began its fifth three-year cycle in Fall 2021 with significant changes to the product mix. This included expanded product offerings with a new younger preschool age-group and a new midweek resource for elementary kids.

Lifeway Kids began developing its newest line of curriculum, *Hyfi*, which will fuel a new and dynamic ministry experience for the next generation. This is the first Lifeway Preschool and Kids Ministry curriculum delivered in a completely digital format through Lifeway's custom-built, newly designed Ministry Grid curriculum builder. *Hyfi* is designed to be highly relational, engaging the whole ministry, including strategic engagement plans for families and volunteers. The resource is customizable so session components can be rearranged to fit the needs of any church's kids' ministry. *Hyfi* combines highly engaging media with Lifeway Kids' trustworthy Bible study content to create an atmosphere where kids and leaders feel like they belong and can find true identity in Jesus Christ. *Hyfi* will be available for churches to use in Fall 2023.

Future Plans — *Explore the Bible*, one of Lifeway's most popular ongoing studies, begins a new nine-year cycle in September 2023. The adult version of *Bible Studies for Life* will have a new scope and sequence beginning Fall 2023, along with a product refresh. The adult ongoing Bible studies teams have responded to input from church staff and group leaders to strengthen *Bible Studies for Life*, *Explore the Bible*, and *The Gospel Project* resources. In the Fall of 2023, the teams will introduce digital enhancements to the adult Leader Guides including QR codes for additional interviews, visuals, and articles to help group leaders go deeper in their preparation. Group members will see a simplified approach to the Daily Discipleship Guides for all three major curriculum lines, giving more focus to the critical issues found in each passage examined.

Bible Studies for Life's Young Adult resource will become the Daily Discipleship Guide, and KJV groups will have three options: Senior Adult (KJV), Daily Discipleship Guide (KJV), and Adult (KJV), which is designed exactly like the Adult (CSB) edition. Users of *Explore the Bible* will have access to additional discussion questions online, and the object lesson idea will return

to the QuickSource resource. Group leaders using *The Gospel Project* will find more variety in the teaching plans, and group members will discover a greater connection between the daily studies and the group time.

Discipleship

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 put significant energy into kids, students, women, and adult discipleship through events, Bible studies, and both in-person and technology-based training. Additionally, Lifeway has created, and continued blogs and podcasts focused on helping churches and leaders in their mission of making disciples.

To better serve and train a scattered church recovering from a global pandemic, Lifeway hosted a series of webinars to equip leaders for ministry amidst the new reality of the post-pandemic church. Topics ranged from how to ask great questions and lead engaging discussion to creating a new scorecard for groups to five principles for making disciples. These monthly webinars were available January through October of last year.

In 2021 Lifeway released its streaming platform Lifeway On Demand and we have continued to add to this platform. The launch of Lifeway On Demand represents a move toward greater accessibility to life-transforming content through a medium, streaming video, that has become the preferred means for video content. This technology makes discipleship accessible everywhere there's a smartphone and a connection to a network. Lifeway On Demand allows certain titles to be streamed using technology like Roku, Apple TV, Fire TV, Google Chromecast, etc. In this model, specific Bible study books will include access to the companion videos.

In addition, Lifeway continues to provide helpful content to disciple-makers through our *Group Answers* podcast and the recent addition of *Disciplemaking in Community with Ken Braddy*, hosted by director of Sunday school Ken Braddy. These weekly podcasts address discipleship within the group context, both on campus and off campus. Content for the Group Answers blog and the podcast is curated by and from small-group experts and practitioners. These steps have been taken as a way to be more “by the side” of small-group leaders and spiritual difference-makers. Adult blog content and the podcast can be found at lifeway.com/groups.

Lifeway Kids updated one of its most popular discipleship resources, *I'm a Christian Now*, with new downloadable 60-minute Kids and Family sessions. *Faithful Promises* is the newest release of TeamKID (Kids in Discipleship) resources. *TeamKID: Faithful Promises* will lead preschoolers and kids to discover the steadfast faithfulness of God through Old Testament promises. Through God's covenants with Adam, Noah, Moses, David, and others, kids will learn about God's graciousness in keeping His promises and connect God's faithfulness to their everyday lives.

Lifeway Students released 24 new 30-day devotionals for teens in 2022 to continue to fill the need for discipleship resources that teens can use on their own. These have been received incredibly well; future issues have been planned for monthly releases into 2025. The Lifeway Students publishing team also produced teen adaptations of some of our more popular releases in 2022 with authors such as Tony Evans, Mike and Daniel Blackaby, Kelly Minter, and Kristi McLelland.

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* that facilitate discipleship through theology, Scripture, and life application. In addition to these three ongoing lines, Lifeway Students and Lifeway Kids are developing a new line of curriculum to launch in the Fall of 2023. This past year Lifeway also released a new podcast called Lifeway Bible Studies podcast. This podcast features audio from popular Bible studies, with additional commentary and discussion questions at the end for individual or group use.

Finally, classic discipleship studies from Lifeway like *Experiencing God*, which was refreshed in 2022, *Masterlife*, and more recent studies like *Proverbs: Everlasting Wisdom for Everyday Life* from Vance Pitman, *Spiritual Gifts* by Dan Darling, *Following Jesus in the Digital Age* by Jason Thacker, *Psalms: Real Help for Real Life* by Ray Ortlund, *Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord* by Juan Sanchez, and the first two releases on Hebrews and Exodus in the new *Storyteller* series continue to provide great value in varying formats for deep discipleship experiences in the church. Lastly, in October 2022 Lifeway released *Masterlife Together*, a follow-up to the classic study *Masterlife*, from Matt and Allison Willis.

Future Plans — Future short-term study releases include *Storyteller* volumes diving into lessons gleaned from Ruth and the gospel of John, *Jesus* by Miguel Nunez, *Kingdom Politics* from Tony Evans, and a study on the theology of worship by Shane & Shane. Training will continue through various events and by other means.

Lifeway will continue making content available through Lifeway On Demand and migrating backlist titles into this new platform to better serve the church. Lifeway will also continue to seek new discipleship training opportunities, strategic partnerships, and develop Bible study resources that help move people into greater engagement with God’s Word, regardless of how or where their groups are meeting.

Leadership Development

Lifeway Leadership’s key initiatives in 2022 focused on equipping churches by using Ministry Grid for digital access to ministry training and Lifeway’s four lines of ongoing Bible study curriculum. These Bible study lines include *The Gospel Project*, *Bible Studies for Life*, *Explore the Bible*, and *YOU*.

With almost 10,000 churches on the platform, the Lifeway Leadership team sees great momentum with churches using Ministry Grid as a digital solution for discipleship, training, and development resources. With now over 20,000 leaders on average each week revenue grew on this platform 113% year over year as many new churches came to us for curriculum. Many churches use the customization features of Ministry Grid to share their own content and resources along with Ministry Grid’s 700-plus training courses. To train and equip Ministry Grid churches in best practices for using the tool, the Lifeway Leadership team hosts two weekly live demonstrations.

The Lifeway Leadership team also serves 17 churches and organizations through white label versions of Ministry Grid, which allows additional customization of the tool. Some of the notable SBC-affiliated users include Bellevue Baptist Church, Idlewild Baptist Church, and Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Lifeway Leadership continues its partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) to host 10 free digital courses on Ministry Grid, which includes more than 8,400 users. 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 track a user’s completion and fulfills step five of the Caring Well Challenge, an initiative of the ERLC and the SBC’s Sexual Abuse Advisory Group.

Lifeway Leadership has also partnered with the North American Mission Board to expand the church planting and multiplication resources offered at NewChurches.com.

Lifeway Leadership continues to see success in Leadership Pipeline coaching as an underlying philosophy and framework for leadership development. The team led Leadership Pipeline coaching virtual events for many churches and organizations in 2022 and added Pipeline for smaller churches and a Pipeline 2 event. We also offered a “60 Ready to Use Resources for Smaller Churches” for free on Ministry Grid as well to provide templates, forms, documents and

other resources smaller churches need but may not be able to produce on their own.

The team also continues to see success with the Lifeway Leadership Podcast Network, which includes *5 Leadership Questions* by Todd Adkins and Chandler Vannoy; *Unseen Leadership* by Chandler Vannoy and Mike Kelsey; *The Ron Edmondson Leadership Podcast* by Ron and Nate Edmondson; *Group Answers* by Chris Surratt and Brian Daniel; *The One Ministry Question Podcast* by Todd Adkins, Daniel Im, and Dan Iten; and *The One Thing* by Scott Sanders and Derek Hanna.

Future Plans — The Lifeway Leadership team plans to continue to add features and enhancements to Ministry Grid to provide church leaders with a digital solution for volunteer training, ongoing Bible studies, and resources for development and discipleship. This team is also leading the business strategy toward consolidating many of our digital platforms.

Worship and Music Ministry

The past year has been an incredible season of growth for Lifeway Worship, the church supplies and church music team of Lifeway Christian Resources. Here are a few of the highlights that have occurred since the 2022 Southern Baptist Convention.

It was another record year of growth for Broadman Church Supplies. Our extensive line of communion supplies continues to serve churches across the U.S. and around the globe. Lifeway's OneSource church administration program also expanded with new opportunities for SBC churches to receive special discounts on a wide variety of products and services. These opportunities include Group Texting and Church Communications Services, Church Buses, Church Signs, Prospect Services, Envelope Services, and many other solutions for churches. Lifeway Worship Music continued to provide choral and congregational music and related resources for churches of every size and musical style. We expanded our digital music content for church choirs and congregations and continued to release new playlists through all the major digital streaming providers, including iTunes Music, Spotify, Pandora, and TuneCore. Lifewayworship.com is the leading provider of Spanish language music content for churches.

Future Plans — After several delays caused by supply chain issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year, Broadman Supplies will release a new and improved prefilled communion cup with packaging that is easier to open. Later in the year, we also expect to offer improved bread options. Our prayer is that this new cup will greatly enhance the Lord's Supper experience for churches.

Christian Education

Lifeway trainers in all age groups began meeting and training church leaders in person for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic. Conferences were well-attended and church leaders were enthusiastic about the return of in-person training events. At the same time, podcasts and webinars were produced that enabled church leaders to find on-demand training in a virtual environment, training them in principles for more effective Sunday School leadership.

B&H Publishing released *Breakthrough: Creating a New Scorecard for Group Ministry Success*, authored by Lifeway's Director of Sunday School, Ken Braddy. The book focused on four essential actions that every healthy group must undertake to have balanced, effective ministry. Training on the book's contents began in Fall 2022 and will continue in 2023 and beyond.

In-person adult training events such as The Sunday School Essentials Conference, the Big Results Leadership Conference, the annual Black Church Leadership Conference, and women's ministry training events such as You Lead conferences provided training for pastors, group leaders, and church staff leaders. These conferences focused on essential practices for healthy group ministries. Some were single-day events, two-day events, and week-long events at churches and conference centers.

A 10-month webinar training series for adult group leaders featured monthly webinar events such as How to Follow Up with First-time Guests, 5 Principles for Making Disciples, How to Ask Great Questions and Lead Engaging Discussion, 10 Top Tips for Group Leaders, and more. Thousands of adults signed up and took part in this series of virtual training.

Lifeway Students engaged over 4,000 youth ministry leaders from across the country through in-person events, online cohorts, and digital resources. Through a partnership with Student Leadership University, Lifeway Students was able to co-host four Youth Pastor Summit conferences in California, Texas, Tennessee, and Florida. The Essentials Roadshows were held in 10 cities, engaging local church leaders in roundtable strategy sessions.

Lifeway Students' newest conference gathering, The Experience, gave an opportunity for meaningful preaching practice for youth pastors in several unique Nashville environments. Lifeway Students also launched its newest digital resource, Parent Partner, a subscription for monthly customizable parent ministry resources that equip ministry leaders to empower parents to disciple at home.

Lifeway Kids and Lifeway Students co-hosted the ETCH Family Ministry Conference, October 3-5, 2022, in Nashville. More than 800 children and student ministry leaders from across the nation were reminded their identities are found in the One who has called them by name and called them for a purpose. The conference theme, "Called by Name" came from Isaiah 43:1: "I have called you by your name; you are mine" (CSB). ETCH is an acronym for "equipping the church and home."

VBS Preview events resumed in person in January 2022 after being offered only virtually in January 2021. Around 2,000 individuals experienced various aspects of VBS 2022 through four events held in three locations. Two additional VBS Previews were cancelled due to winter weather conditions. Also, Lifeway trained state convention VBS teams through a virtual VBS Institute in 2022.

Future Plans – In-person conferences will become more prevalent as the pandemic continues to subside. Webinars, podcasts, learning cohorts, virtual events, and in-person conferences will continue to be developed to meet the changing needs of churches and church leaders in a post-pandemic ministry context. Lifeway will continue to be intentional in taking its training events to churches in locations across the country.

Evangelism

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 spiritual discipline. *Three Circles* by Jimmy Scroggins, a teen resource, walks through the three circles evangelism strategy to help believers discover just how simple sharing the gospel can be. Resources such as *Tell Someone* by Greg Laurie and the legacy Bible study *Share Jesus Without Fear* continue to be effective tools for evangelism.

Every issue of *Bible Studies for Life* and *Explore the Bible* include an evangelism session that is very intentional in calling the reader to place faith in Christ. Moreover, "Sharing Christ" is one of eight signposts of an effective disciple on which our *Bible Studies for Life* curriculum is built. Because of this, churches that use *Bible Studies for Life* will spend no less than six consecutive weeks discussing the pivotal discipline of evangelism every year. Our ongoing curriculum leader guides also instruct leaders to invite group members to place their faith in Christ. While *The Gospel Project* doesn't follow this same pattern, each session includes Christ crucified and resurrected as the focus and intent of the Scriptures; calling on all people to believe in Him and encouraging believers to share this good news with others.

In terms of training within the mandate to evangelize, Lifeway emphasizes evangelism in specific webinar series throughout the year. “Building a Disciplemaking Ministry,” “Breathing Life into Sunday School,” “Restarting Groups,” and “3 Roles of a Group Leader” all include a heavy focus on evangelism. Additionally, *Breakthrough: Creating a New Scorecard for Group Ministry Success*, released in the fall of 2022, focuses on the need for evangelism in and through groups as an aspect of effective group life. One quarter of the book focuses on this important obligation.

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. *Marks of a Disciple* by Dean Inerra examines six helpful measurements to test whether or not we’re growing spiritually. In addition to topics like the spiritual disciplines, generosity, and theological groundedness is a heart for evangelism. The 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. Other resources addressing evangelism in some capacity are *Experiencing God*, *Masterlife*, *Radical*, *Spiritual Gifts*, *Follow Me*, and *Gospel Above All*.

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 kid’s ministry. *The Gospel: God’s Plan for Me* Bible 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 with kids about becoming a Christian.

Another way that Lifeway Kids is helping parents evangelize their own children is through ongoing curriculum’s *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, videos, 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 gospel 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*, highlighted at lifeway.com/faith.

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-plus recreation games, and five sessions of gospel-centered content equip volunteers to explain the good news to kids in any context.

Vacation Bible School is the largest outreach to unchurched kids in a given year for 78% of churches hosting VBS, according to Lifeway Research. Statistics have shown that parents will encourage their child(ren) to participate in a VBS event at a church they don't attend if they are invited by a friend. With opportunities for evangelism, discipleship, and relationship-building throughout a week of VBS, churches can connect with their communities in fun and engaging ways. Lifeway provides churches with evangelistic VBS and Backyard Kids Club curriculum materials.

Lifeway supported churches in 2022 through Lifeway VBS *Spark Studios*, during which preschoolers and kids learned how they were “Created in Christ. Designed for God’s purpose.” Lifeway VBS is excited about the 2023 release of *Twists and Turns: Following Jesus changes the game*. Preschoolers, kids, students, and adults will learn that, even when they mess up, it’s never “game over” with Jesus.

Future Plans — Short-term publishing will continue to be developed that addresses the crucial component of evangelism in the daily life of a disciple, be it an entire study or aspects of topical studies. Our teams look for ways not only to include gospel messages in every resource we develop but also reminders of Jesus’ charge to make disciples of all the nations. Lifeway’s ongoing curriculum lines will continue to emphasize evangelism as a regular aspect of outline development.

Marriage and Family Ministry

Lifeway continues to resource churches in family ministry through the publication of quality family and devotional magazines. Included are:

- *HomeLife* — Focused on faith, family, and life, *HomeLife* is a monthly magazine with articles and fresh ideas for families, marriages, and personal development.
- *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.
- *Journey* — A devotional magazine for women with content that is substantive but not overwhelming for busy schedules. This devotional has been completely redesigned and is now available in a quarterly format with digital access available to all print users through the Lifeway Women app.
- *Stand Firm* — A devotional guide for men with daily encouragement and small group questions that fit into a man’s busy schedule. This devotional has been completely redesigned and is now available in a quarterly format.
- *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 missionaries serving through the International Mission Board.

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

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, ongoing curriculum, and short-term studies. Lifeway Global enjoyed another record year in 2022, being awarded 14 SEPA awards, and 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 India, Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia, and other countries. Our publishing ministry is primarily focused on indigenous authors, including key Hispanic communicators: Miguel Núñez, Sugel Michelén, Wendy Bello, and Pati Namnún. Key Indian authors include Stanley Mehta, Rajiv Chelladurai, Sam Verghese, Joel Gummadi, and PC Matthew. In 2022, Lifeway reached a milestone as we acquired 65th global author.

In *Biblias Holman*, we launched Thematic Study Bible, a Study Bible developed by 25 Hispanic scholars and pastors. In B&H, we continue to grow with new international authors, such as Fermin IV, a hip-hop artist who now pastors one of the largest churches in Mexico City. We also started a new original series for kids with Hispanic authors and artists.

Last year was also a solid year for the Spanish ongoing curriculum, solidifying our strategy of contextualized resources for the Spanish speaking church. Our UNIDOS series is now a top-selling resource in the USA and Latin America.

Future Plans — Lifeway Global will expand its leadership in Spanish publishing in the next years with the introduction of the Spanish CSB. This will be our flagship and proprietary translation for the foreseeable future.

2. Assist churches in ministries to college and university students.

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 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* and *Explore the Bible Daily Discipleship Guides*, *The Gospel Project* curriculum series, and *YOU Bible studies* 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 at lifeway.com/en/bible-studies/young-adults and recently include *Anxious* by Scarlet Hiltibidal, *With Us in the Wilderness* by Lauren Chandler, *Stories Jesus Told* by Daniel Fusco, *Encountering God* by Kelly Minter, *Romans 8* by Noe Garcia, *Ecclesiastes: Finding Meaning in a World of Passing Pursuits* by Barnabas Piper, *He's Where the Joy Is* by Tara Leigh Cobble, *From Beginning to Forever* by Elizabeth Woodson, a study on Philippians by Juan Sanchez, and *Spiritual Gifts* by Dan Darling. In addition to these studies, available from the Lifeway Student team are two college specific resources, *A Different College Experience* by Ben Trueblood and Brian Mills and *In My Feels* by Mackenzie Wilson and Mackenzie Durham.

National Collegiate Ministry Summit. Lifeway partnered with the Baptist Collegiate Network to host the National Collegiate Ministry Summit in May 2022 with over 500 in attendance.

Future Plans — 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 for the next year include *Urban Apologetics* by Preston Perry and releases in the *Storyteller* series.

3. Assist churches with Christian schools and homeschool ministries.

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 homeschools.

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. Assist churches with ministries to men and women.

Men's Ministry

Our culture is confused about what it means to be a man. Even notions of masculinity have, in many corners, become toxic. In this context, Lifeway released the *Kingdom Men Rising* Bible study. This release from the Lifeway adult publishing team speaks truth into a poorly defined and disoriented culture about the purpose and future of masculinity from a biblical perspective. In this Bible study, men are challenged to wrestle honestly with the unique questions and circumstances they face today. It invites men deep into their own stories to reveal the true expression of masculinity—God's intent. Over the last year this has been one of Lifeway's most popular Bible studies across all ministry areas — a good sign that Lifeway is reaching men with timely messages.

Last fall Lifeway released *Make the Call: A 40-Day Experience for Men* from former college football coach Mark Richt. This release can be adapted to either small-group or individual devotional context, or both. It has been curated for today's mobile and ever-changing lives of the men we serve. *Make the Call* has been developed to help men gain biblical wisdom for life's decisions, clarify what's most important, and grow in communion with God and community with other believers.

No More Excuses by Tony Evans continued to be popular with men and men's groups throughout 2021. This study was not only popular with adult men but has now been adapted for a student context. 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 in 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. Because of the popularity of this devotional, Lifeway Students adapted a version for students that is currently available.

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 Men continues to provide biblically trusted resources, most notably *Kingdom Man* and *No More Excuses* and six volumes of *33 The Series* with Authentic Manhood, but also studies that meet the needs of men such as *Marks of a Disciple*, *Help My Unbelief*, and *John 1-3*.

Future Plans — In 2023 Lifeway Men plans to release two new resources. One will be a traditional short-term video-based study rooted in the book of Daniel and the other resource will be a digital only men's devotional and small group guide.

In January of 2023, Lifeway Men launched a brand-new initiative that will serve as a daily devotional and small group guide for men called *Daily Anchor*. This digital only resource will connect men with God's word in a daily rhythm throughout the year and then bring small groups of men together 52 weeks a year for intentional conversations around the reading they have been doing throughout the week. Lifeway Men have partnered with pastors to develop these devotionals. It will feature authors and pastors such as Dean Inerra, Gregg Matte, Noe Garcia, Robby Gallaty, and many more. This resource will offer fresh content every quarter and by 2024 we plan to have two full years of devotional content to choose from. Groups can decide for themselves what topic, book of the Bible, or author to study next. We hope this will create a wave of disciple-making among men within the churches we serve.

Releasing in June 2023 is an eight-week study in the book of Daniel with author and pastor J.D. Greear. This resource will be an important addition to our catalog of men's resources because of its focus and its book of the Bible starting point. The book of Daniel is about how to thrive in a dark world. In these resources we hope that men facing the cultural challenges of today will connect to the ancient wisdom of Daniel and learn that the power to make a difference is found in the commitment to be different.

Women's Ministry

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.

Around 105,000 women were connected to Lifeway Women through our live and digital events. We held two simulcast events in FY22: Lifeway Women Live Simulcast in April 2022 and Going Beyond Simulcast with Priscilla Shirer in September 2022. These simulcast events reached over 80,000 women. Another 22,000 women attended one of our live events: Lifeway Women Live, Glory with Jackie Hill Perry, and Going Beyond Live with Priscilla Shirer.

Lifeway Women also trained more than 2,000 women in 2022 through our live You Lead Events and Women's Leadership Forum. The 2022 Lifeway Women Leadership Forum was held in November 2022 with both live and virtual attendees. More than 900 women participated in this training.

We had a year full of releases from the short-term Bible study team. These included: *God of Freedom: Exodus (Part 2)* by Jen Wilkin, *In View of God's Mercies* by Courtney Doctor, *The Bible in a Year* by Kandi Gallaty, *The Gospel on the Ground* by Kristi McLelland, *Isaiah* by Melissa Spoelstra, *Amos* by Jennifer Rothschild, *From Beginning to Forever* by Elizabeth Woodson, and an update and re-release of *Ruth* by Kelly Minter. We also released a new Advent study titled *The Wonder of Advent* that features video and music from Adrienne Camp.

The Lifeway Women app has had over 36,000 downloads since the launch in August 2020. This app provides free plans that correspond with our Bible Studies and allows women to form groups within the app to study together. It also includes a few paid plans that contain all the content from a Bible Study. This app also makes it easy to listen to the Marked podcast and read the latest news from Lifeway Women. Journey Devotional users also have access to their devotionals through the app.

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. A trip to Israel with Kristi McLelland and a cruise with Steven Curtis Chapman will take place in 2023.

The publishing pipeline for 2023 includes plans to publish the following women’s Bible studies: *Abide* (1, 2, & 3 John) by Jen Wilkin; *Navigating Gospel Truth* by Rebecca McLaughlin; *When You Pray*, an ensemble study featuring Kelly Minter, Jackie Hill Perry, Jen Wilkin, Jada Edwards, and Kristi McLelland; *Desperate for Hope* by Vaneetha Risner; *Devoted: 30 Days with the Women of the Bible*; *As for Me: Life Through the Lens of the Psalms* by Adrienne Camp; *Grateful: Giving Thanks to God in All Things*; *Without Wavering* by Alexandra Hoover; *Ashamed* by Scarlet Hiltibidal; and *Life Under the Sun: Ecclesiastes* by Hannah Anderson.

5. Assist churches through operation of Conference Centers and Camps.

CentriKid, Student Life, Student Life Kids, and FUGE camps hosted more than 105,000 people in 57 locations across the country in 2022. It was an exciting summer from the very first moment as our staff and church attendees arrived on location ready for the fun, relationships, and life-change that happens each year through camp ministry. In summer 2022, more than 1,800 campers placed their faith in Jesus for salvation. Additionally, kids and teenagers gave over \$540,000 in offerings to support the work of the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board.

Not only is camp ministry a great moment for the churches who attend, it also has an impact on the surrounding communities. In 2022, registrants served and shared the gospel at 539 mission sites.

Future Plans — Lifeway looks ahead to 2023, and registration is currently open! Lifeway hosts camps across the country through FUGE, CentriKid, Student Life, and Student Life Kids.

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 continues to use Ridgecrest for events including student camps, kids’ camps, and the Black Church Leadership and Family conference.

6. Assist churches through the publication of books and Bibles.

B&H Publishing Group publishes trustworthy books that impact children, teens, adults, families, churches, and God’s work around the world. In 2022, B&H made significant contributions to Christian publishing, such as the bestselling books *Fostered* and *Fighting Words* devotional.

B&H also partnered with Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MBTS) president Jason K. Allen in publication of the work *Turnaround*, which tells the story of MBTS over the past 10 years. B&H is helping assist the church in understanding complex issues through the publication of books like *Succession: Preparing Your Ministry for the Next Leader* by Bryant Wright, *Terms of Service* by Chris Martin, *Following Jesus in a Digital Age* by Jason Thacke, and *Know Thy Gamer: A Parent’s Guide to Video Games* by Drew Dixon.

Key titles published for children include *You Can Rest: 100 Devotions to Calm Your Heart and Mind* by Katy Boatman, *The Boy from the House of Bread* by Andrew Wilson and *Sounding Joy* by Ellie Holcomb

B&H is honored to partner with others throughout Lifeway and across the denomination to produce resources that address timely needs in the context of work in 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 2022,

Holman Bibles continued to see growth in CSB market share, nearly 2% gains in the last fiscal year, and continues to be recognized as the second largest Bible publisher by the ECPA. In addition to market share recognition, the ECPA also awarded the *CSB She Reads Truth Bible* the gold award for exceeding unit sales of 500,000.

Other notable 2022 releases and contributions in the CSB portfolio included the release of *CSB Student Study Bible*, *CSB Lifeway Women's Bible*, *CSB Stained-Glass Notetaking Editions* (ECPA cover award winner), *CSB Adorned Bible*, *CSB Experiencing God Bible*, and *CSB Explorer Bible 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 contexts, and individual study. In 2022, we released 17 new titles. Notable among them were *The Gospel for Disordered Lives*, coauthored by Robert Jones, Kristen Kellen, and Rob Green, and *Calvinism: A Biblical and Theological Critique*, edited by David Allen and Steven Lemke. Both books present a thorough, biblical survey of their subject, Christian counseling, and an Arminian view of soteriology, respectively, and both sold out immediately upon release.

B&H Academic also published several works of historical significance. Our Lost Sermons of C. H. Spurgeon series was completed in September 2022, fulfilling a promise that Spurgeon himself made over 100 years ago to have his earliest sermons made available in print. Retailers can now partner with us on special sales and promotions of the full seven-volume series. Additionally, Timothy George edited collections of lesser-known works by Augustine and John Calvin for our new Theological Foundations series, which has attracted strong early interest.

Two of our top releases in 2022 focused specifically on church ministry. *Jesus's Final Week* by William F. Cook III, an SBTS professor and pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, provides a careful study of Jesus's last days that can be studied individually or in groups during the advent season. *Church Communications* by Katie Allred, a Facebook outreach leader to communities of faith and a former marketing professor at the University of Mobile, outlines for pastors of churches large and small the basic principles of effective print, online, and social communication.

Future Plans — Looking ahead to 2023, B&H Academic aims to uphold our commitment to publish theologically faithful, high-quality scholarly resources that bring glory to God and serve the church. We will continue to create supplemental resources that make it easier for professors to use our books in the classroom and look forward to releasing textbooks on evangelism, ethics, K-12 pedagogy, and philosophy. Noteworthy releases on cultural engagement include *The Digital Public Square*, a partnership with the ERLC, and *Baptist Political Theology*, edited by Thomas Kidd, Paul Miller, and Andrew Walker.

7. Assist churches through the operation of Lifeway Christian Stores.

In 2022, millions of individuals and tens of thousands of churches were served through Lifeway's online store at lifeway.com. One of our goals for the year was to improve our knowledge of Lifeway customers and their needs. We launched ratings and reviews on lifeway.com, which has allowed us to learn more about what customers like and need. Our customers have rated us a 4.6 out of 5. This customer feedback system will help us improve and provide the resources customers are looking for.

Another goal for 2022 was to create a frictionless and delightful experience for our customers. We implemented a new search engine on lifeway.com last year to help customers more quickly find what they are looking for. Since then, our search conversion rate has increased by 72%. Customers are finding the products they expect to find from search results and immediately purchasing those products. In addition, we have launched a new church ordering platform and an online Bible store that allows customers to compare three Bibles at a time.

Lifeway.com continues to be recognized on Newsweek's list of Best Online Shops in the category of media (e.g., books, CD, DVD, software).

In addition to lifeway.com, Lifeway interacts with customers in a variety of channels and multiple touch points including our Customer Service Center, as well as external channels that help customers interact with our resources.

Southern Baptists have access to Lifeway material through channels such as the Amazon Marketplace, retail chains such as Walmart, Books-a-Million, and Mardel Stores, and a network of more than 500 independent Christian retailers in 45 states who serve as authorized Lifeway dealers. Through these channels, Lifeway has extended its reach to new markets and more customers.

Future Plans — Lifeway will continue to serve and provide our resources at competitive prices through our online store at lifeway.com and our Customer Service team, as well as provide Lifeway Stores at regional and national events. Customers will continue to see improvements at lifeway.com throughout 2023. Lifeway is rebuilding its website to make shopping easier and more delightful.

8. 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 make a greater impact.

In 2022, Visioneering Studios celebrated its 20-year anniversary and continues to be 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. In addition to churches, Visioneering continues to expand services to nonprofits including private Christian schools.

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 Visioneering 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 Dallas, TX.

While continuing to work with their 2021 clients, Visioneering had the privilege to begin working with over 100 churches and nonprofit organizations in 2022, including Long Hollow Baptist Church, Hulen Street Church, master planning for First Baptist Sevierville, Peavine Baptist Church, Victory Baptist Church, Watermark Community Church, and Calvary Baptist Church, among many others. In total, Visioneering worked in 25 states and 83 cities during 2022.

In 2022, Visioneering Studios kicked off the design for Lifeway's brand-new workspace in Brentwood, TN. Serving Lifeway as the architect, interior, and environmental designer, Visioneering Studios brought her full suite of services to this creative project to showcase Lifeway's vision and culture.

Visioneering Studios kicked-off over a dozen new construction projects this year while completing several new builds, including Long Hollow Baptist Church and design for New Vision Baptist Church. Like many churches, Long Hollow Church expanded its connecting space by creating engaging outdoor environments.

As a member of ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International), Visioneering Studios expanded its influence by partnering with several Christian Schools across the United States and Canada.

Future Plans— Due to Visioneering’s explosive growth, in 2023 there will be grand openings for two new expanded studio locations in Dallas and Nashville.

Also in 2023, Visioneering Studios will launch “EnviroPop,” a brand-new company dedicated to enhanced wayfinding and creating immersive branded environments. From helping guests navigate complex environments, to high-impact children’s experiences, EnviroPop will help churches, nonprofits and schools create budget-savvy “pop” to their environments.

Visioneering Studios is thrilled to continue helping churches activate their property seven days a week by leveraging unused land for commercial development. This new ministry helps the church development community while increasing revenue. With nearly 18 potential development projects in the pipeline, Visioneering Studios Real Estate is now one of the nation’s leaders that can secure a source of funding for the church’s mission without losing focus, non-profit status, or their minds.

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.

9. Assist churches in capital fundraising.

As the consulting arm of Lifeway, Auxano navigates church, ministry, and denominational leaders through innovative and collaborative processes to reach breakthrough clarity on their growth challenges. Areas of focus range from visionary planning and discipleship alignment to leadership development and generosity initiatives.

As a key “on-the-ground” resource for Lifeway, Auxano not only works directly with church teams across the country but also is able to provide Lifeway with insight into what ministry leaders are facing day to day. In doing so, Auxano is part of the Lifeway team that is building a nimble, integrated approach to address the most important discipleship and growth issues of churches as we look to the future. This includes a variety of ways to grow customer acquisition, client nurturing, and resource influence. Examples in 2022 included:

- Virtual and in-person services to a wide variety of vision clarity and capital campaign 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.
- Completion of design of a nine-part Multiplication Operating System and six-phase Multiplier’s Journey in partnership with the *Exponential* national network. Launch is anticipated for 2023.
- Continued development and deployment of cutting-edge assessments such as:
 - Engagement Survey (how people are assimilating in the church)
 - ViewPoint Survey (what congregations currently think about their church’s identity and future)
 - Mind the Gap Survey (the degree to which church discipleship approaches are actually working and how to improve them in real-time)
 - ChurchNext Survey (how people think the pandemic will affect their future church involvement)

- Campaign Assessment (how people perceive their involvement in generosity/capital campaigns).
- Facilitation of innovative national, regional, and local webinars/meetings to help leaders navigate practical challenges and increase passion for the church’s mission among all their people.
- Continued launch of innovative capital campaign and generosity consulting tools to posture our services as both proven and entrepreneurial.
- Partnerships with Visioneering, Kingdom Analytics, and MortarStone to provide clients with integrated solutions for church fundraising, architecture, and congregational giving analytics.
- Completion of the book *Mind the Gap: Leading Your Church to Agility & Effectiveness in Any Environment* by Clint Grider. This will be released Spring 2023 by B&H Publishing. In an ever-changing world, this book will help leaders become more adaptive and nimbler and maximize their effectiveness no matter what they’re faced with. It shows how churches can *know* they’re doing the most impactful things to deepen their people’s growth and multiply disciple-making in all contexts, even when challenges arise.

Future Plans— The year 2023 also will see the launch of a more deeply aligned series of discipleship resources, events, and other tools that Auxano is developing with Lifeway and B&H. The approach will give church leaders what they need when they need it to respond to challenges in realizing their vision.

10. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics

Lifeway Research released a variety of significant research studies in 2022. These included research on pastors’ greatest needs, pastor attrition, updates on COVID-19, men whose partner had an abortion, Christian young adults’ relationship with money, Americans’ openness to conversations about faith, American views on abortion, racial diversity in church, Christian attitudes toward evangelism, deconstruction, religious liberty, American views of denominations, mental illness, modern-day idols, suicide, the state of theology in America, and evangelical views on immigration.

These findings and daily insights articles were provided on LifewayResearch.com to help pastors and church leaders understand and navigate changes in today’s ministry context.

The SBC Annual Church Profile (ACP) for 2021 continued to document the impact of COVID-19 on worship and Bible study attendance among SBC congregations. The Southern Baptist Convention also had declines in the number of congregations, and membership.

The number of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention grew by 22 from 2020, but the number of church-type missions declined by 295. Average worship attendance decreased 18.75 percent and average attendance in Sunday School and small group Bible studies decreased by 22.15 percent. Reported membership declined 3 percent.

However, Southern Baptists saw a rebound in giving and baptisms compared to 2020. Congregations reported an increase in total receipts of \$304 million and a 25.61 percent increase in baptisms to 154,701.

Future Plans— Lifeway Research will release research studies in 2023 on Hispanic American Protestant churches, churchgoer views on their church’s greatest needs, tithes and offerings, women’s ministry, regular church attendance, and racial reconciliation.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, the Convention referred no items to Lifeway Christian Resources for consideration, action, or report.



4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022

ERIN S. BOUNDS, Chair

KEVIN EZELL, President

“It’s all about the gospel.” That is the most common phrase you will hear or see written at the North American Mission Board. Everything we do—evangelism, church planting, compassion ministry and chaplaincy—helps Southern Baptists take the gospel to North America.

In this report, you will see many numbers and descriptions of accomplishments and challenges, but the most important thing to keep in mind is that through our missionaries and thousands of Southern Baptist churches, lives are being changed for Christ every single day.

None of this is possible without the generosity and faithfulness Southern Baptists demonstrate through their giving. Nearly 3,000 (2,961) Southern Baptist missionaries depend on that giving for the funding and resourcing of their ministries throughout North America. In 2022, Southern Baptists gave an all-time record high of \$68.9 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, all of which funds missionaries and evangelistic resources on the field. This, combined with faithful giving through the Cooperative Program, allows NAMB to help Southern Baptists start new churches, meet needs and share Christ during times of crisis and provide evangelism resources churches are utilizing to help members be on mission with the gospel.

Here are some highlights from what God is doing:

Evangelism. Tim Dowdy became vice president of NAMB’s Evangelism Group in 2022, and he has a great heart for doing whatever it takes to help churches lead people to the Lord. Our team engages with and trains thousands of churches each year. Our GenSend team shared the gospel with thousands of students and equipped pastors and other leaders through training events. We provide free evangelism kits and other resources churches can utilize. Refresh, our pastor wellness retreat, blessed more than 1,800 pastors and their wives in 2022. At a time when so many pastors are hurting and in need of encouragement, Refresh comes alongside to lift them up and help them discover a renewed sense of calling.

Send Network. NAMB helps Southern Baptists plant churches everywhere for everyone in North America through Send Network. In 2022 Southern Baptists added 917 new congregations including 639 new church plants, 106 replants, 126 new affiliations and 46 new campuses. In November, a record number of church planters—216—attended our Send Network Orientation. Send Network also gained a new leader—Vance Pitman—in 2022. Please pray for Vance in this role and pray that God would raise up more church planters—the biggest need in our effort to help Southern Baptists start evangelistic churches.

Send Relief. Send Relief, our compassion ministry partnership with the International Mission Board, is seeing remarkable growth. While our largest responses in 2022 related to the refugee crisis in the Ukraine and Hurricane Ian in Florida, thousands more were served through this incredible ministry.

We now have 20 Send Relief Ministry Centers in North America. These centers host hundreds of mission teams each year and serve as models for churches that want to start similar ministries in their own communities. Our newly opened ministry center in Puerto Rico can house more than 100 mission team volunteers.

Through churches mobilizing and responding in 2022, there were 37,759 individuals engaged to serve 246,898 people across diverse communities in North America. Through Send Relief’s

Serve Tour alone, 9,592 volunteers served more than 34,000 people and engaged in 7,568 gospel conversations. The Serve Tour partners with churches, local associations and state conventions to serve communities in need.

Chaplaincy. NAMB endorses and trains chaplains on behalf of Southern Baptists. Currently there are 3,350 NAMB-endorsed chaplains. In 2022, several Southern Baptist chaplains deployed through the United States Military, ministering to troops deployed throughout Europe in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Others served in disaster relief and other settings.

As you read about these and many other exciting highlights, remember that NAMB is here to serve. Pastors are our number one customer. We are grateful for everything pastors do and we want to do everything we can to equip and resource them for the mission.

At NAMB, it really is *all* about the Gospel, and we are all about doing whatever it takes to help your church fulfill its Great Commission goals.

Thank you again for how you support our more than 6,300 missionaries and chaplains. And thank you for your partnership in the Gospel.

Serving Together,

Kevin Ezell
President

Erin S. Bounds
Chair

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 2023 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 missionaries is the local church.

To help churches develop leaders who may one day become church planters, NAMB has developed the Multiplication Pipeline and a Residency program. The Pipeline allows a church to intentionally raise up leaders who may one day plant a church or serve in another leadership capacity within the church. To date, 972 churches are actively exploring or implementing the Multiplication Pipeline, and they have engaged 5,168 participants in Pipeline training. Our Multiplication Pipeline is available online for any church, free of charge, through the Send Network's Training Library.

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 359 churches offering residency opportunities, and we are seeking to identify more. This is an increase beyond the 273 churches that had residencies last year.

In 2022, NAMB launched newchurches.com to resource and equip church planters and Sending Churches. The site offers free courses, e-books, podcasts, articles and other resources to help provide planters and churches with the tools they need for starting effective, sustainable new churches.

In October 2022, Send Network announced a new leadership team and new values. Send Network continues to provide a clear pathway for SBC churches to utilize in deploying God-called believers across North America. The planter 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 2022, NAMB hosted 46 assessment retreats and conducted 374 assessments.

Send Network Orientation took place with a total of 389 in attendance. During orientation, newly endorsed planters are informed of the vision and mission of Send Network and equipped to embody the network's shared values of seek first the kingdom, deepen devotion, stick together, think multiplication and engage your city. 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 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 walk alongside church planters and help 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 has implemented 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 convention 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.
- The convention partner 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.
- NAMB has Send Network partner agreements with many states and regions outside the south. Arkansas, California, Dakotas, Kansas-Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Nevada and North Carolina conventions became Send Network partner conventions in 2022.

For additional statistics, see Ministry Inquiry 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 19.

II. Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.

The North American Mission Board exists to serve pastors. From evangelism to Send Network to Send Relief, the goal is to come alongside pastors and churches to serve them in ways that will help reach their community with the hope of the gospel. In 2022, the evangelism team had the privilege of serving thousands of pastors and ministry leaders, providing resources and

training to engage and equip their churches in evangelism, while also offering opportunities for pastors and their wives to be encouraged and refueled to lead the ministries where God has called them.

Evangelism Trainings

NAMB hosted seven evangelism trainings for more than 950 pastors and ministry leaders. One of these trainings was an all-Spanish evangelism training in Houston. Our Who's Your One resources continue to be widely requested as pastors led church members to identify one person in their life who doesn't know Jesus, pray for them and seek out opportunities to share the gospel with them. As of December 2022, more than 71,000 people have placed a dot on the Who's Your One map representing the person they are praying for and sharing the gospel with.

Who's Your One resources are now available in English, Spanish, Mandarin and Korean.

Free Resources

NAMB continues to offer free evangelism resources to help pastors lead their church in evangelism, including the 3 Circles Kit, Best News Kit, Live This Evangelism Kit, and the Who's Your One Kit. Since the launch of Who's Your One, we have distributed more than 36,300 kits, more than 713,400 prayer guides and 2.29 million bookmarks to churches. In addition, NAMB also distributed more than 3,000 Spanish kits, more than 28,600 Spanish prayer guides, and more than 148,600 Spanish bookmarks.

NAMB continues to offer a free resource each quarter, typically a book, to pastors who request it. This resource provides either equipping or encouragement for pastors in evangelism and leadership.

NAMB hosted 10 retreats for pastors and wives to get away, be encouraged and refreshed in the calling God has given them to lead the church they serve. A total of 1,830 pastors and wives attended these retreats, and they shared numerous stories about how they benefitted from them.

Next Gen

NAMB continues to provide relevant next gen resources, such as a GenSend Training pathway for collegiate pastors and leaders to reach their students with the gospel and to mobilize them to live on mission from freshman year of college through post-grad. The GenSend training and many more resources can be found online at gensend.org.

In 2022, Shane Pruitt and Clayton King hosted two cohorts of the Youth Leader Coaching Network (YLCN), where more than 600 student pastors and leaders received online coaching and an in-person, two-day gathering in Alpharetta, GA. More than 900 student pastors and leaders have participated in the YLCN since it launched in 2021.

Paul Worcester launched the Collegiate Coaching Network with more than 100 collegiate pastors and leaders participating. Both the Youth Leader Coaching Network and the Collegiate Coaching Network are designed to engage and equip leaders to lead evangelistic ministries while reaching and mobilizing their students in evangelism.

NAMB emphasized the second annual SBC National Student Baptism Day on October 30, 2022. Churches across the nation gave students an opportunity to take their next steps of faith through believer's baptism. It's encouraging to see the number of students who are boldly following Jesus.

In 2022, 1,112 collegiate students participated in GenSend Break opportunities and 335 students participated in GenSend Summer opportunities. These students served in cities across the nation through church planting and compassion ministry opportunities to reach people with the hope of the gospel.

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

NAMB currently has 2,961 missionaries and 3,350 endorsed chaplains.

To grow the number of missions personnel, 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 allows a church to intentionally raise up leaders who may one day plant a church or serve in another leadership capacity within the church. Our Multiplication Pipeline is available online for any church, free of charge, through the Send Network's Training Library.

For church planters, the planter pathway ensures strong accountability from assessment to planter care. NAMB's Send Network team provides one of the most robust assessments for future 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 either the sending or the further development of their church planters.

During Send Network Orientation, 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 missions strategy for making disciples in their community. Most recently we have also 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 new church.

As housing costs in large cities continue to be a significant challenge that keeps many missionaries off the mission field, NAMB has made missionary housing available to a limited number of missionaries on a short-term basis throughout the Send Cities and some other key areas. 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 along 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.

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, and 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.

In 2022, Send Network announced new leaders and new values and resources. This included several "champions" for Hispanic church planting who will be led by Félix Cabrera. The announcement also included a newly updated, all-Spanish-language web site for Hispanic church planting missionaries. SendNetworkEspanol.com launched as a new resource. Send

Network Español takes church planters through the entire application, assessment and onboarding process in Spanish. This is a significant improvement for native Spanish-speaking planters and planter candidates. Newchurches.com provides a wealth of resources for church planters, sending churches and anyone else who is interested in learning more about church planting. NAMB will continue to add new material to both of these new resources in 2022.

IV. Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer mission opportunities for church members.

The North American Mission Board provides mission education that brings awareness of needs and how to minister to and share Christ with those in need. Send Relief's and NAMB's desire is that mission education will spark a lifelong passion and advocacy for missions. As part of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® 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 Vacation Bible School as well as assists with other entity requests for materials to enhance missions awareness and education, like CP Stories.

In addition to print, online and video resources, NAMB provides experience-based mission education. Send Relief provides numerous opportunities to experience missions firsthand through our ministry centers and ministry events. Through 20 ministry centers, Send Relief has directly worked with 788 churches across North America and Puerto Rico. Through churches mobilizing and responding in support, there were 37,759 individuals engaged to serve 246,898 people across diverse communities.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, through their partnership with Send Relief, prepared more than 861,783 meals and shared the gospel 19,642 times. Send Relief also helped catalyze churches to participate in a Backpack Day in their local communities. There were over 907 churches that registered for the event and 61,008 backpacks distributed to local SBC churches for them to use in their Backpack Day mission project.

Send Relief focus area coaching has become a key initiative that has taken off with 147 churches receiving direct coaching over the last year. We have coach ambassadors for each of the five focus areas. This is hands-on help to evaluate, ask questions and learn how a local church could replicate best practices in their community. These coaches are men and women who have worked with the vulnerable most of their adult life and can offer expert advice to churches in a customizable, culturally appropriate way. This is a resource available to any church that may be ready to take that next step. From the shallow to the deep end of the pool, they are ready to listen, be a sounding board and offer practical training.

Serve Tour

Send Relief launched an exciting new missional experience, Serve Tour, with events in cities across the United States and, in coordination with multiple state conventions, has identified communities' most pressing needs by partnering with churches, local school staff and government officials. These initiatives are driven by local churches and their extended ministry goals to generate long-term impact within their communities.

As with all Send Relief efforts, service is given with the goal and intention of sharing Christ—our ultimate hope—through the process.

The insight these churches and local experts have provided gives a unique opportunity for volunteers to have the most transformative impact possible through various community building and outreach projects. Send Relief helps coordinate by providing team trainings, prayer guides, debriefings and rallies to help encourage volunteers to take their next step on mission.

There has been a dramatic response from churches taking part and working together in comradery and fellowship to reach their cities. The measurables are encouraging and inspiring, while the things not seen can only be left to the imagination of their true eternal impact.

Through Send Relief’s Serve Tour, 9,592 volunteers served more than 34,000 people and engaged in 7,568 gospel conversations. Tour locations for 2021-2022 are listed below.

- Tulsa, Oklahoma: Oct. 15-16, 2021
- Memphis, Tennessee: Feb. 25-25, 2022
- Meridian, Mississippi: Mar. 18-19, 2022
- Baltimore, Maryland: Apr. 29-30, 2022
- Charleston, South Carolina: May 14-15, 2022
- Anaheim, California: June 11, 2022
- Jacksonville, Florida: Sep. 16-17, 2022
- Dayton, Ohio: Oct. 7-8, 2022

GenSend

NAMB also offers missions opportunities through GenSend. GenSend had 1,112 students who participated in a GenSend Break event. GenSend Summer for 2022 had 335 students in 21 locations. Our GenSend Semester program had 12 participants this year.

V. Assist churches by providing leadership development

NAMB continues to make pastors our “#1 customer.” As we encourage and equip pastors, it will have an exponential impact on their churches and communities. NAMB has several opportunities that allow pastors to engage in leadership development.

Refresh Retreats

Our newly rebranded Refresh Retreats continue to bring deep encouragement and renewal to ministry couples as they faithfully minister and share the gospel in the places God has called them. At Refresh retreats, ministry couples are instructed by leading practitioners who are ministering in churches of all sizes from around the SBC. Additionally, Tim Dowdy, NAMB’s Vice President for Evangelism and leader of Refresh, brought a renewed focus on personal worship as well as an overall emphasis on spiritual, emotional and physical wellness for ministry couples. As 2022 brought new challenges to a post-pandemic world, NAMB expanded its Refresh offerings to allow more ministry couples the opportunity to be encouraged for the journey of ministry. In 2022, NAMB hosted 10 retreats, serving more than 1,830 pastors and wives from across North America. We rejoice in stories they’ve shared regarding the benefit of these retreats and the strengthening they’ve received as they continue to make the gospel known.

Leadership Institute

NAMB’s Leadership Institute completed its first full class in 2021 and began two new classes in 2022. A total of 86 pastors were coached and trained for two years by 16 experienced pastors in cohorts consisting of 8-10 pastors per group. These coaches, as well as their peers in the cohorts, helped pastors navigate ministry issues in their local church. The Leadership Institute helped pastors grow in their leadership ability. A couple of the graduates from this first Leadership Institute class are now coaching.

In addition, 53 participants and 4 new coaches are set to begin the Leadership Institute in 2023. New pastors are applying to the Leadership Institute on a weekly basis as word continues to spread about the helpfulness of the program.

Replant

In 2022, the Replant team engaged in multiple levels of training, equipping and conferencing for pastors, replanters and convention and associational leaders. In March, the Replant team conducted its fifth Replant Practitioner Lab, training more than 260 Associational Mission Strategists (AMS) in a consultation process directed at helping them understand and provide consultation and options for renewal to churches that are in decline or near closure.

We hosted the Replant Summit in August in Alpharetta, GA, and focused on equipping replanting pastors, their spouses and leaders to engage in ministry with the focus of effectiveness and endurance for the difficult task of replanting local churches. More than 200 attended the event.

The Hub, an online source for churches in need of sermon and worship resources, was launched in March and has reached a subscriber base of 607 unique churches who are able to select resources from 12 content providing churches.

An online Replant cohort, in partnership with Practical Shepherding, provides a 40-week residency training program for 150 replanters each week and hosts an online community where participants can engage in dialogue relating to their common work of seeking to bring renewal to local churches. NAMB Replant also sponsors six residencies, with 86 participants, in the following states: New York, Oregon, North Carolina (two residencies) and Colorado.

In addition to the above events and program offerings, NAMB's Replant team members participated in training and equipping events all across North America for local associations and state conventions, reaching more than 9,000 pastors and leaders. NAMB also conducted conference training and equipping events for Hispanic and Korean Southern Baptist leaders this year.

Rural Summit – Recognizing the increasing importance of ministry in the rural context, the Replant team hosted a summit gathering in March 2022 aimed at bringing awareness of the significant work being done in rural areas and providing encouragement and equipping to leaders serving in those locations.

The Replant Cohort – Weekly training and regional cohorts are delivered through a strategic partnership with Practical Shepherding. To date more than 1,000 revitalization and replant pastors, from 48 states and 36 countries, have been equipped through a 40-week training strategy, and nearly 500 have gone on to participate in the second year of training and are forming regional gatherings for continued encouragement and resourcing.

For additional statistics and information, see Ministry Inquiry 12 and Challenge V.

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 creating avenues for sharing the gospel. State and local leaders continually seek to engage SBDR for long-term assistance in their communities. Send Relief also has a guide to assist churches in Disaster Response Ministry available on SendRelief.org as a downloadable resource.

In addition to the 94 responses during 2022, 35 of our state convention partners responded to national natural disaster events for which Send Relief provided coordination and/or response supplies. In serving communities during these times, SBDR volunteers contributed to the following statistics:

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. Across those remaining four areas, Send Relief engaged 37,759 volunteers, served 246,898 individuals, and impacted 1,752 churches, allowing more than 87,000 people to hear the gospel.

For more information and statistics read Ministry Inquires 5, 6, 14 and Challenge VI.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2022 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. 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 SBC ministry partners to assist in these efforts.

Of those prospective planters who completed NAMB's online church planter pre-assessment, 76 percent scored high enough to receive an invitation to one of NAMB's assessment retreats. Of those who attended an assessment in 2022, 73 percent were approved to move forward as a church planter. In 2022, NAMB hosted 46 assessment retreats and conducted 374 assessments of candidates.

While we continue to raise standards for prospective church planters, we also have increasing expectations for Sending Churches. We now require Sending Churches to accompany their planter to his assessment. This helps those churches further understand their role and also increases the bond between church plant and Sending Church.

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 their congregation. The Multiplication Pipeline resource and process can be implemented in a 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.

Along with the Pipeline, NAMB and Send Network began generating content for newchurches.com, which includes online courses, articles, eBooks and podcasts. Courses like the Sending Church Masterclass and the Church Planting Masterclass are designed to help churches discover and develop church planting missionaries.

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 future leaders and teams for new missional opportunities.

SBDR Summary Activity Reported

(10/1/2021 – 9/30/2022)

Professions of Faith	7,447
Gospel Presentations	22,260
Volunteer Days - SBDR	64,914
Work Hours	513,539
Total Meals Prepared	925,685

As endorsed church planter numbers increase, so will our need for more Supporting and Sending Churches. NAMB takes every opportunity to encourage each SBC church to be on mission by actively and intentionally starting and supporting new churches. We have currently identified 1,382 SBC churches as Sending Churches for plants or multiple plants. Additionally, there are currently 2,060 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 54 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 create a culture of evangelism in their church rather than just promoting a campaign. An evangelism campaign has a start and end date, but a culture of evangelism builds evangelism into the DNA of every ministry area, gathering and other aspects of the church. The NAMB evangelism team must continue serving pastors and ministry leaders in such a way that helps them develop the culture of evangelism that many have expressed a desire to see. In 2022, NAMB will launch new resources and host evangelism trainings that will walk pastors through a process for creating a culture of evangelism in their churches.

Another challenge is discouragement and burnout among pastors. NAMB will host 6 Refresh retreats in 2023 for pastors and their wives to be refreshed and encouraged in the calling God has given them to lead and serve their church.

For our next gen evangelism efforts, one of the challenges we see ahead is getting students to see that they are not the church of the tomorrow, but rather, if they know Jesus, then they are the church of today. Therefore, we need to lead them to live on mission now and influence their friends with the gospel now. The best evangelists for Generation Z are those in Generation Z who are passionate about Jesus and who have hearts broken over the spiritual lostness of their generation.

In 2023, our highest priority will be to equip, resource, network and coach collegiate and youth leaders to help them be as effective as possible to reach, disciple and mobilize Gen Z with the gospel. Gensend.org is the hub for several different resources and tools to help next gen leaders in their mission fields and context of ministry. We'll also have coaching networks and webinars for continual learning and growth opportunities for leaders.

Also, statistically speaking, less than 15 percent of all Protestant ministry leaders are under the age of 40 (Barna Research). Since the pandemic began, anecdotal evidence suggests more men and women leaving ministry leadership than entering ministry leadership. There is a concentrated effort to help our churches focus on calling out the called and discipling a whole generation of future ministry leaders through callingoutthecalled.com, which is a hub of teaching videos and mentoring guides for both leaders and students.

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

As stated in Challenge I, we need more qualified church planters 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.

This year marked the arrival of a new slate of leaders for Send Network, starting with Vance Pitman as the new president of NAMB's church planting arm. Vance brings a renewed energy and focus for our Southern Baptist family as more churches are mobilized in the mission of church planting.

Lostness is an ongoing problem facing North America as the number of those who report faith in Christ continues declining. Approximately 275 million people in North America are currently lost, and Send Network’s vision is to help Southern Baptists start enough new churches over the next 10 years to see Christianity make a one percent gain in North America.

This vision is one that, Lord willing, Southern Baptists will be able to rally around over the course of the next decade, which will inspire and encourage more missionaries onto the field for church planting.

As we continue to face the challenge of helping churches discover, develop and deploy missionaries and planters—especially into under-reached and underserved communities—NAMB continues to engage the next generation through projects like Journeyman and GenSend. These initiatives encourage 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. We continue to mobilize and engage the next generation in evangelism, developing the skills and heart for missions, evangelism and discipleship. NAMB’s Journeyman missionary program (similar to the International Mission Board’s) is a two-year, fully funded opportunity that places college graduates in Send Cities. 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 long-term mission roles.

IV. Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer mission opportunities for church members.

An ongoing challenge is making sure that what we offer meets the needs of churches and church members. NAMB receives input and reviews metrics to determine how best to adjust to meet that challenge. As NAMB seeks to enhance our missions education efforts and open up the opportunities to engage more Southern Baptists in mission work, we expect to add training and missional education resources, increase accessibility for Spanish speakers and open up avenues that help church members engage those who have endured trauma.

1. New Resources and Missional Education

Regarding new training resources, Send Relief is actively curating and producing training resources (webinars, ministry guides and video-based courses from trusted partners) for a Send Relief resource webpage, which offers materials that assist churches in understanding the principles of compassion ministry while also helping them take their next steps in engaging in one of the five focus areas of compassion ministry in their own communities. Send Relief’s resources currently offer a range of training materials from ministry guides and webinars to self-paced video courses. All of these efforts are intentionally being curated to resource and inspire churches and individuals towards “living on mission” in their own community through exhibiting compassion-based evangelism.

Regarding missions education efforts, we realize we must provide opportunities for students and adults to be engaged in missions in tangible and practical ways and raise awareness about the needs on the field and the ways they can be involved. Missions experiences are currently available or in development in 20 ministry centers across the nation. As we assist churches, our 2023 national goal is to have approximately 205 mission trips available through our ministry centers. Each trip will have opportunities for registration on SendRelief.org.

2. Spanish Accessibility

There is intentional effort being pursued to convert all Send Relief resources into Spanish. Our hope is to more deeply engage Southern Baptist Hispanic churches to help encourage and inspire compassion ministry replication across the landscape of North America.

Alongside the translation work happening now, there are multiple ministry centers engaged with Hispanic communities: Puerto Rico, Valdosta, GA, and Laredo, TX. There is significant work taking place at each of these locations, and there is a significant need for Spanish-speaking churches to come alongside the work taking place in these communities.

3. Trauma Engagement

Trauma is a central theme running through ministry to the vulnerable. Creating a new level of trauma awareness for those who are called to serve “the least of these” is a critical component in loving and caring for others. Send Relief is exploring new opportunities for how this can be done in a palpable and attainable way for those serving with Send Relief, as well as for an extended audience.

V. Assist churches by providing leadership development

Pastors have always appreciated spending time with and learning 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 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.

Refresh Retreats

In 2023, Refresh Retreats will continue to offer a place of rest and rejuvenation for ministry couples as they serve the Lord wherever He has called them. Our goal this year is to continue to make a sincere investment in those who give so much to the cause of Christ around North America. For the coming year, we will continue to host retreats in new locations to bring opportunities for encouragement for those who need it the most.

2023 Refresh Retreats

Atlanta 1	Feb. 27-Mar. 1
Atlanta 2	Mar. 1-3
Anaheim	Mar. 14-16
Asheville 1	Aug. 18-20 (Bivocational)
Asheville 2	Oct. 13-15
Chicago	Nov. 1-3

NAMB Leadership Institute

As noted in Accomplishment V, NAMB is intentional about nurturing young leaders in the SBC. To that end, NAMB established its Leadership Institute, and the first participants, who started in January 2020, finished their two-year program in Fall 2021. Looking ahead to 2023, the Leadership Institute will continue to invest in and grow pastors for greater Kingdom impact.

We receive consistent feedback that the Institute is one of the most helpful things for young pastors and their leadership development. NAMB will continue to enlist more participants and more coaches for both in-person meetings (two times a year) and virtual meetings (monthly).

Since its launch, the ministry has created a craving among pastors and leaders serving in other ministerial roles. NAMB has also explored the possibility of expanding the Institute’s reach into other ministerial roles aside from senior pastor, which is the NAMB Leadership Institute’s current focus.

The next two in-person meetings for 2023 will be at NAMB's building in Alpharetta in January and at a location to be determined in August.

Replant

In the coming year, Replant is focusing on a multi-layered approach to equip leaders for the work of church renewal. Since 2022, the demand from field partners for accessible conferencing, equipping and resourcing has more than tripled. In anticipation of continued high levels of demand, coupled with the immediate tension of decreasing resources in the context of a tightening economy, Replant is focusing on regional equipping events, expansion of online training in the form of Cohorts and strengthening our existing virtual training and resource delivery models.

Revive Events – Replant will host six regional equipping events aimed at pastors, AMS/DOM leaders and church members. Practical teaching, inspirational worship and select breakout sessions will emphasize the necessity of dependence upon God, mission in the community, vibrant worship and unity of the congregation.

Rural Summit – Recognizing the increasing importance of ministry in the rural context, the Replant team began hosting a summit gathering in 2022 aimed at raising awareness of the significant work being done in rural areas and providing encouragement and equipping to leaders serving in those locations. Another Rural Summit will take place in 2023.

The Replant Cohort – Weekly training and regional cohorts are delivered through a strategic partnership with Practical Shepherding will also continue in 2023.

Bi-Vocational Pastor Online Cohort – Through a partnership with the Bi-vocational and Small Church Leadership Network, an online learning community, NAMB will launch the Small Church Academy. The teaching and training will be accessible and available in an on-demand format, coupled with local and regional small gatherings. The content is directed toward equipping the growing number of Bi-vocational Pastors within the SBC.

AMS/DOM Online Webinars – Field partners are key in the work of assisting churches who are considering their future and options of renewal. Replant is launching quarterly webinars for our associational partners which will be aimed at sharing best practices, distribution of relevant content and the dissemination of the latest church trend data from research and reporting of churches via the Annual Church Profile.

Podcasting – Statistics reveal that information, training and equipping via podcast is having an enormous impact on the culture in North America. Replant has developed and is affiliated with leading podcasts in the area of church renewal, revitalization and replanting. The *Revitalize and Replant* podcast has relaunched with host Mark Clifton and Mark Hallock and guests, The *Replant Bootcamp* with hosts Bob Bickford and Jimbo Stewart and the *Rural Pastor Podcast* with Andy Addis and Mark Clifton each rank among the top tier in the field of church renewal.

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

One of the long-term challenges we face is that most of our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDP) kitchens rely on other, non-SBC disaster relief organizations to supply the food they prepare and serve from their mobile kitchens. In the aftermath of any disaster, it can be difficult to assess how best to distribute food supplies, and SBDP typically must wait for our ministry partners who support our mass feeding kitchens. To prevent SBDP kitchens from facing the challenge of being staffed by volunteers and sitting for days waiting for food supplies to be delivered, Send Relief has continued to explore food resources that might be purchased to fill the need for immediate feeding. This would enable Southern Baptists to respond more quickly to the needs of survivors in the aftermath of disaster.

In 2022, during the Hurricane Fiona and Ian responses, Send Relief was able to supply food resources that enabled SBDR kitchens to have gap feeding resources, but we feel that we must continue to explore other options so that SBDR feeding ministry following disasters can be sustainable into the future. Send Relief continues to work with SBDR leadership to determine the appropriate supplies needed and seeks to have long-term solutions in place by 2025.

Send Relief is working with SBDR leadership to explore how to develop more consistent long-term rebuild in the aftermath of disasters. Currently only a few state conventions have actively been engaged in rebuild. We are exploring with SBDR leadership how we could develop a more consistent model that would open doors for ministry and volunteer engagement for long-term recovery after disasters.

Send Relief is also working with SBDR leadership to develop a more consistent model for utilization of untrained church volunteers in partnership with SBDR.

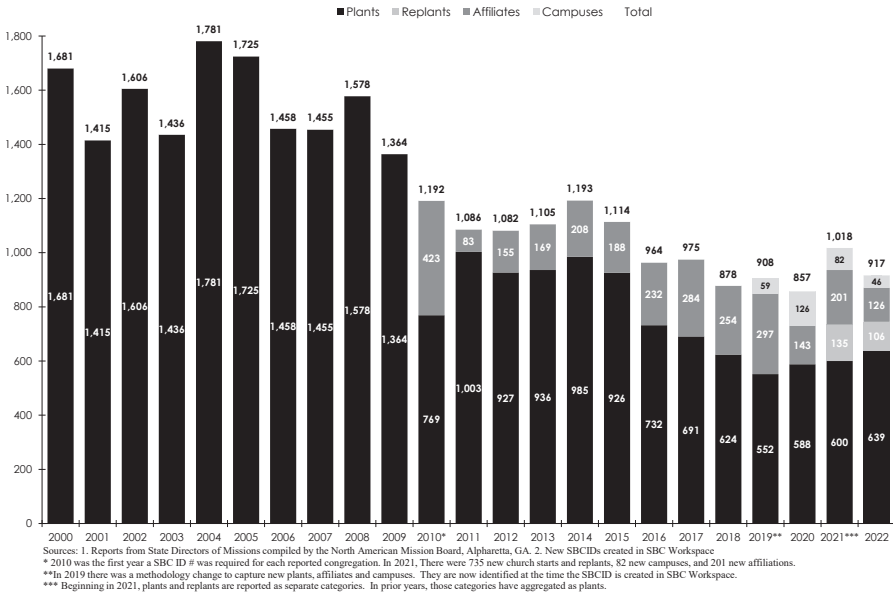
Send Relief has the opportunity in 2022 and beyond to continue expanding our compassion ministry to reach people in need outside of disaster relief. Trauma is a common issue for the vulnerable and the “least of these.” There is an intentional effort being put forth to offer training and resources both to those serving with Send Relief as well as the wider audience of churches who may have an interest in learning more.

Through our 20 ministry centers across North America, we expect to expand our reach to those in need by bringing physical and emotional help as a supplement to the eternal hope found in the gospel.

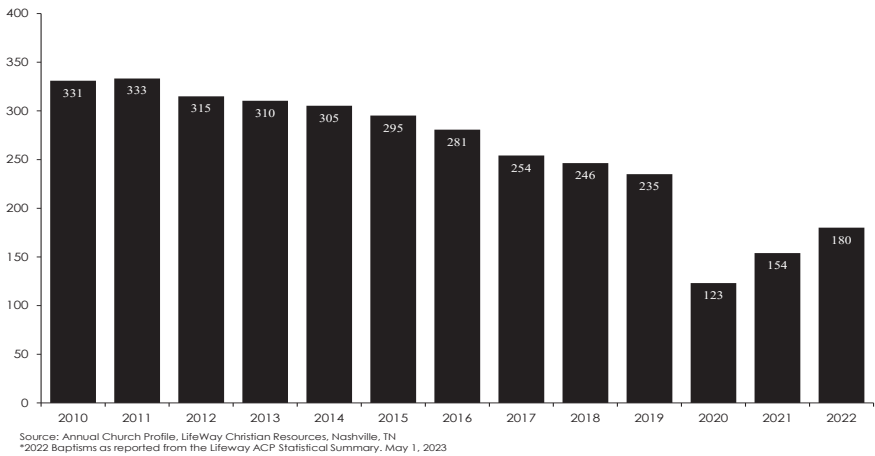
MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, the Convention referred no items to the North American Mission Board for consideration, action, or report.

Figure 1—New Congregations (Church Plants Plus New Affiliates), SBC, 2000 - 2022



**Figure 2—Baptisms Reported by SBC Churches, 2010–2022*
(In Thousands)**



* The preceding graph was prepared by the North American Mission Board based on information from the 2022 ACP Statistical Summary which was prepared by LifeWay Research, LifeWay Christian Resources.

INSTITUTIONS



GATEWAY SEMINARY

Biblical • Missional • Global

3210 E. Guasti Rd., Ontario, California 91761

J. ROBERT WHITE, Chair

JEFF IORG, President

Gateway Seminary continues to fulfill its mission of shaping leaders who expand God's kingdom around the world. The seminary community continues to demonstrate singular focus and spiritual resolve as we recover from the impact of a global pandemic and experience financial turmoil including high inflation and declining investment market values. Gateway employees continue to demonstrate missional integrity, spiritual maturity, and work attitudes which reflect their genuine devotion to Jesus Christ.

Over the past year, the seminary has experienced both remarkable progress and serious challenges as described in the following report. We are grateful for the steadfast support of Southern Baptists, their prayers, and their gifts – particularly through the Cooperative Program – which make our work possible.

Fall 2022 Enrollment Growth

Fall 2022 student headcount in core Master's/diploma programs was 933 compared to 883 in Fall 2021 (5.6% increase). This is the highest Fall headcount **in the history of our school**. Fall 2022 enrolled hours in core programs are 5,017, compared to 4,767 in Fall 2021 (5.2% increase). This is the highest number of enrolled hours since Fall 2006. Our Doctor of Ministry program enrollment was 282 which is the highest in program history.

Within this overall enrollment data is a significant change in how students are accessing education. Gateway has three delivery modalities – in-person, video access, and online. Prior to the pandemic, these delivery modalities were about 67% in-person and 33% online. Now they are about 30% in-person, 30% video access, and 40% online.

Recent Significant Gifts

We have received several significant gifts over the past year to support various aspects of seminary operations. We received \$171,000 for Student Benevolence Scholarships. These funds were specifically given to help under-enrolled students take at least one additional class to accelerate their progress toward graduation. We received a \$50,000 gift to fund scholarships in the Chinese-English Bilingual program and an additional \$23,000 in scholarships for students who plan to work in the future in the Pacific Rim. We received a special \$58,700 gift in support of our counseling program. We also agreed to a five-year funding commitment totaling \$100,000 from the International Mission Board and the California Southern Baptist Convention to support our Beyond Teams program for work in the Pacific Rim.

Three very special gifts – the Kuykendall Collection, a Torah scroll, and the Go Grant initiative are described in more detail below.

Kuykendall Bible Collection

We have recently received a major gift of a collection of historically significant versions of the Bible, beginning with volumes printed in 1495. The Terry and Michael Kuykendall Collection has about 1,400 volumes with an estimated value of about \$400,000. Dr. Michael Kuykendall recently retired after 30 years as a Professor of New Testament at Gateway. He and his brother, Terry, have been building their collection of historic Bibles and Torah scrolls for many years

and Gateway is grateful for the significant trust they have shown in donating their collection to us. We value the Bible as the authoritative, inerrant, infallible Word of God and are grateful to preserve the heritage of the Bible through the centuries.

Torah Scroll

Ken and Barbara Larson donated a Torah Scroll to Gateway Seminary through their non-profit ministry God's Ancient Library. The 150-year old Torah Scroll is 123-feet-long and was produced in Holland. It survived World War II but is no longer kosher—and therefore, not suitable for religious purposes in the synagogue. It will be used pedagogically to help students understand the transmission and use of the Old Testament throughout history and gain an immersive reading experience of God's Word on a hand-written animal skin scroll. The estimated value of the scroll is \$100,000.

Go Grants

Gateway has received a \$2 million gift to establish a Go Grant Program, which will enable every student who completes 20 credit hours in a core program at Gateway to participate in a seminary-sponsored international missions experience. This program extends to every qualified student, not just those who are called to international missions, and will be a tremendous asset in shaping a missional perspective in every future graduate.

The Go Grant Program will be featured at the Gateway Seminary booth at the SBC meeting in New Orleans in 2023. More information can be obtained at the booth.

Capital Expenditures Fund

A new development this past year was the establishment of a specific, funded plan to address future capital expenditure needs. In Fall 2020, the Board of Trustees adopted the following motion to create a Capital Reserve Fund, funded by surplus income in 2020-21.

In the written material supporting this motion and in the President's report to the Board, it was indicated the anticipated surplus might be between \$1,000,000 and \$1,500,000. This was based on our best estimates of revenues, what might accrue through use of the Payroll Protection Program, along with prudent stewardship during the 2020-21 budget year. The surplus turned out to be \$1,961,856.

The Capital Expenditures Projects Plan includes a list of capital items and their projected costs – to be done in the years ahead as needs arise. These funds have now been segregated, are now being held for capital projects, and will be available when the time is right for each project. This is a significant achievement and funds a definite plan to maintain our facilities at the highest level.

Faculty Transitions

Several faculty members have retired in 2023. These include Dr. Paul Wegner, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament; Dr. Michael Kuykendall, Professor of New Testament; Dr. Martin Chien, Associate Professor of Leadership Formation and Director of the Chinese-English Bilingual Program; and Dr. Don Dent, Baker James Cauthen Professor of Missions.

These faculty transitions have resulted in five new faculty members beginning service at Gateway. These include Dr. Daniel Gurtner, Professor of New Testament Studies; Dr. Cliff Jenkins, Associate Professor of Leadership Formation and Associate Director of the DMIN Program; Dr. Garrett Ho, Associate Professor of Leadership Formation and Associate Director of the DMIN Program; Dr. Benny Wong, Associate Professor of Leadership Formation and Director of the Chinese-English Bilingual Program; and Dr. Phil Hopkins, Professor of Missions.

Staff Transitions

The executive transitions resulting in Dr. Alex Stewart and Ray Tong serving in their respective roles have been completed and both Vice Presidents are serving effectively. The success of this process has established a pattern for executive transition which gives current employees and other constituents confidence regarding future executive changes.

Deena Carter resigned as Director of Student Success/Registrar. She moved with her husband who was commissioned as an Army Chaplain. Michael Brito was employed as Director of Student Success/Registrar. Joe B. Kim resigned as Director of Development to take a similar position with the International Mission Board. Jay Badry was employed as Director of Development. Dr. Cameron Schweitzer moved from Director of Admissions to Bay Area Regional Catalyst.

Compensation Adjustments

In 2016, as part of the relocation and implementation of a new staffing plan, the seminary adopted new job descriptions and a new compensation structure for all staff positions. We have continued to update job descriptions and compensation every time a staffing change occurs in any position.

In Spring 2022, we made a comprehensive study of the staff compensation structure and implemented several changes in the 2022-23 budget resulting in salary increases for many employees. The faculty rank/step compensation chart was also updated for the 2022-23 academic year and each step was increased \$3,000.

Bay Area Campus Strategy

One area of continuing concern has been the enrollment of the Bay Area Campus since it opened in 2016. There are multiple factors – ranging from pandemic complications to shifting educational expectations to facility usage – which are part of addressing this challenge. We have now implemented a new strategy – including a new position in our system called Regional Catalyst – to address these problems. We will continue to offer in-person instruction, live video instruction, and online programs throughout Northern California.

Part of this strategy is marketing the current Bay Area Campus facility for possible sale. While no final decision has been made about the future of the current location, we remain flexible as we offer classes in this original location while also pursuing other options in other locations across Northern California.

Hoff House Completion

The Lisa Hoff House has been completed and the first occupants arrived in August 2022. The house was fully remodeled and decorated using a combination of Lisa Hoff's items and purchased items. The car has been serviced and maintenance updated. This now provides Gateway with two missionary-in-residences (with vehicle) to host professionals-in-residence each year.

We are pleased to honor the memory of Dr. Lisa Hoff and her significant contributions to Southern Baptist missions and theological education.

Academic Scheduling Changes

Beginning in Fall 2022, we shifted from a two-semester plus J-term format to a three-term format for our academic calendar. The new terms will be Fall, Spring, and Summer. The Fall and Spring terms will each be 16 weeks and the summer term will be 12 weeks. Within these terms, there will be classes offered in multiple lengths, meeting times, and delivery modalities. The Spring term will also begin 2-3 weeks earlier than our current Spring semester which will move graduations at all campuses to earlier in May of each year.

The faculty has also implemented a more integrated course scheduling model, viewing the entire course offering schedule as a more unified plan (rather than campus-by-campus or program-by-program). These changes have produced a more streamlined schedule, with fewer overlapping or competing course offerings, and a better use of faculty resources throughout the system.

SBC Annual Meeting in Anaheim

Gateway had a robust presence at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Anaheim, California. Almost every Ontario Campus-based employee worked to support this effort – either by serving in some capacity at the convention site or hosting the additional events at the Ontario Campus. We had a record number of prospective students discovered through the booth (250) and the largest seminary luncheon in our history (500 present, limited by Marriott staffing levels, so our employees gave their seats to other constituents). Several Gateway personnel served in key areas and on various committees for the convention.

We are grateful for the positive impact SBC Anaheim had on Gateway and, more generally, on Southern Baptist ministries in California and the West.

Sexual Abuse Prevention

During the SBC annual meeting in Anaheim, the report of the Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force was adopted. We have reviewed seminary operations and curriculum to make sure we have an intentional and thorough response to the recommendations in the report. Gateway already has many policies and procedures in place related to sexual abuse, but will continue to improve in this important area.

In August 2022, President Iorg was informed by Southern Baptist Convention legal counsel about a Department of Justice investigation into the Southern Baptist Convention and its entities related to their handling of sexual abuse. The Gateway Board of Trustees Executive Committee was briefed on this matter. The Executive Committee invited the full Board of Trustees to attend this meeting and participate in the dialogue. Gateway legal counsel was also present for this meeting. Gateway, including its Board of Trustees, remains committed to full cooperation in responding to SBC legal issues.

Gateway Imperative Report

In October 2019, the Board adopted The Gateway Imperative as the strategic document to guide the seminary through 2030. The seminary consistently works to prioritize changes in response to the six key findings in the report – mission, identity, marketing, innovation, collaboration, and stewardship. The identity values in the report are used in organizational decision making – biblical convictions, missional priority, global mindset, academic excellence, student focus, and cultural diversity.

Part of the report includes seven goals which are used as a framework for strategic planning and decision-making. A full report on each of those goals is provided to the Board of Trustees annually, and summative report prepared every five years. Through this process, the seminary remains focused on its mission with full accountability 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 a teaching site in Salt Lake City, Utah and an extensive distance learning program (online and video access).

In addition, Gateway Seminary supports 48 ADVANCE contextualized leadership development centers in partnership with Southern Baptist churches, associations and state conventions. The centers offer courses in English, Spanish, Burmese, Cantonese, Korean, Thai, Lao, Karen, Mandarin, Mongolian, Nepalese, Hmong, and Vietnamese.

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 have created a new comparison chart.

ENROLLMENT

Campus	2019-20	2019-20	2020-21	2020-21	2021-22	2021-22
	Total Enrollment	Total FTE	Total Enrollment	Total FTE	Total Enrollment	Total FTE
Ontario	725	271	678	234	784	276
Arizona	84	28	73	19	81	28
Bay Area	70	18	41	9	48	12
Pacific Northwest	31	8	30	6	25	6
Rocky Mountain	53	10	38	8	47	11
Advance Ministry Training	528	86	567	98	661	170
Online Program	364	131	433	147	336	163
Video Access Program	66	46	135	129	113	109
Online/Video Combined					87	
Totals	1,921	598	1,995	650	2,182	775
Enrollment Report by Degree Program			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
<u>Prebaccalaureate</u>						
Diplomas			201	140	166	
Diplomas – Advance			482	636	814	
Special Status			121	0	0	
<u>Basic Degrees</u>						
Master of Divinity			384	400	339	
Master of Arts			346	414	434	
Special Status			124	107	112	
<u>Advance Degrees</u>						
Master of Theology			6	8	14	
Doctor of Ministry			234	272	281	
Doctor of Philosophy			23	18	22	
Totals			1,921	1,995	2,182	
Enrollment Report Summary			2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	
Total Enrollment			1,921	1,995	2,182	
Total FTE Generated			598	650	775	
SBC Fundable FTE			342	296	298	
SBC Formula FTE			400	400	400	
New Students			518	468	497	
Total Graduates			331	302	305	

MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, 14–15, 2022, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.

1. SBC Referral: To Examine the Formation of a Library Science Program (Items 83 and 127, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 83, 92)

Motion: M. Ryan Ogle, Tennessee

“That the Council of Seminary Presidents examine the formation of a Master of Library Science program apart from the American Library Association.”

Response: Gateway Seminary affirms the need for Christians to serve in library science and other academic positions, but the program and mission statements assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention to our six seminaries does not encompass graduate degrees in library science.



5001 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri 64118

LEE ROBERSON, Chair
JASON K. ALLEN, President

Greetings from Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College. Each year when preparing the President's report, I am reminded anew of God's kind providence that He continues to show this great institution. This year is particularly special to me as my family and I were able to celebrate ten years of service at Midwestern Seminary. These past ten years have been blessed ones, and I am humbled and honored to have served and to continue to serve Southern Baptists in this way.

One constant from the past ten years is that Midwestern Seminary has not strayed from its mission—for the church. This is, and continues to be, why we exist. We are striving with all our God-given might to equip pastors, ministers, and missionaries for service in Southern Baptist churches. This mission impacts everything we do, and we are unapologetically committed to remaining for the church.

This past year, we celebrated several institutional wins that I am thankful to get to share with you. In academics, we rejoiced to report our tenth consecutive year of record enrollment. Though there are likely numerous reasons for our continued growth, one important reason is our faculty. Each faculty member is strong in their conviction to adhere to God's Word, to Southern Baptist beliefs, and to train a new generation of pastors, ministers, and missionaries. This year, we have been privileged to welcome Drs. Camden Pulliam, Thomas Kidd, Jung-Hoon "Rio" Kim, and Jared Bumpers to our faculty.

Our online studies department launched our new Global Campus. The Global Campus is designed for God-called men and women serving in a unique kingdom assignment that precludes them from pursuing residential studies. Dozens of degrees are available fully online at the Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral levels. With our new Global Campus, we are thankful to be able to offer the very best preparation to our online students as we seek to equip them for ministry in the local church.

Spurgeon College has expanded this year as well. In May 2022, we introduced a new degree in graphic design. The new degree option began in the fall and serves our long-term plan of curricular expansion at the undergraduate level. We were also able to host the World Changers mission trip over the summer which allowed us to host hundreds of potential students on our campus. Additionally, we are in the process of renovating our Spurgeon College dorms with the expected final completion date to be the Fall of 2023. A final note on Spurgeon College, our athletic teams continue to grow and thrive, and we are thankful for all of our student athletes who compete well and honor Christ on the field and court.

At the Masters level, we have officially launched our new *For the Church* Cohorts. FTC Cohorts is a one-year program which equips like-minded residential seminary students through enhanced discipleship, focused study, and intentional community. The different cohorts include Fusion Masters, Women in Scholarship, Spurgeon Fellows, and Biblical Counseling. These cohorts gather weekly to discuss topics related to their subject and learn from world-class faculty and ministry leaders. I am incredibly excited to see how God will use these cohorts in the lives of our students. In our current cultural environment, our students need more mentorship, not less, and these cohorts will help bring further equipping and oversight to all areas of our student's lives.

Our fall trustee meeting was filled with celebration as we recognized 10 years of the *For the Church* mission and ten years since God called the Allen family to Midwestern Seminary. It was overwhelmingly joyful to see so many friends and family all in one place and to acknowledge together what the Lord has done these past 10 years in the life of the institution. To God alone be the glory.

Additionally, we welcomed 6 new trustees to our board and approved our new 5-year strategic plan. The plan is titled, *Until Every Church Healthy: Five Strategic Priorities for Five Consequential Years*. As an institutional community, Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College will together prioritize mission faithfulness, student success, faculty strength, a flourishing community, and intergenerational stewardship.

In Institutional Relations, God continues to bless. We hosted a 9Marks conference with featured guests Michael Lawrence, Jonathan Leeman, Zach Schlegel, Bobby Scott, and Jared Wilson. It was a remarkable time as we discussed the doctrine of conversion and how this great doctrine plays out in the life of the church. Additionally, we hosted almost 1,000 high school students on campus for our READY conference. This conference seeks to equip high school students to be able to share and defend their faith.

Furthermore, we sold-out and had our best yet *For the Church* National Conference with the theme of “For the Nations.” It was profoundly encouraging to gather in a packed chapel in order to learn how we can better fulfill the Great Commission. We were also grateful to have record-breaking attendances at both our spring and fall Preview Days. We are praying that these prospective students become actual students in the near future.

We have also been honored to host a number of notable chapel speakers and guest lectures on our campus this year. During the spring semester, Dr. Andrew Roberts lectured on “Destiny and Courage: What Made Winston Churchill Great,” and during the fall semester, we heard from guest lecturer Dr. David Bebbington on “Evangelical Preaching in North America in the Late Twentieth Century” and Derek Thomas gave our annual Spurgeon Lectures on Biblical Preaching. In our chapel services, we were thankful to hear the preaching of God’s Word from guests such as Drs. Bart Barber, Al Mohler, Willie McLaurin, Phil Newton, and Fred Luter among many others.

Finally, we have also been pleased to announce several new endowed chairs at Midwestern Seminary over the past year including the John H. Powell Endowed Chair of Pastoral Ministry, the Wayne and Berna Dean Lee Endowed Chair of Church Music and Worship Ministries, the Rich and Judy Hastings Endowed Chair of Old Testament Studies, and the John and Sharon Yeats Endowed Chair of Baptist Studies. These endowed chairs are crucial to the long-term health of Midwestern Seminary, and we are so thankful for God’s kindness in providing faithful and generous donors to bring these chairs to fruition.

As I conclude this letter, let me say that it is an honor to serve Southern Baptists. Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College exist to serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. We are incredibly grateful for the stewardship that is ours. Please continue to pray for Midwestern Seminary and Spurgeon College as we strive to equip students *For the Church* and *For the Kingdom*.

Sincerely,
Jason K. Allen
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 2023 Ministry Report of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

I. Assist churches by programs of pre baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Spurgeon College exists to educate Christians on how to lead others and impact the world *for the Kingdom*. The school will maintain its focus on biblically-based degrees which also provide skills to succeed in the marketplace. Through its residential and online degree programs, Spurgeon College offers students a rigorous academic environment, both on campus and online, designed to prepare students for their ministry and life callings.

The Spurgeon College Accelerate Program, directed by Taylor DiRoberto, saw record admissions this year, adding more students to the number who are theologically training for their future in pastoral ministry, Christian education, international church planting, and biblical counseling. In addition to new students, Accelerate alumni are growing and being effectively employed in ministry roles. Eight out of nine Spring 2022 graduates were already employed in pastoral ministry positions by Fall 2022, and the program will seek to place thirteen new alumni graduating in Spring 2023.

Within our Fusion program, Director Erik Odegard and Dr. Joe Allen, Assistant Professor of Missions, collaborated to launch the Fusion Master's cohort in Fall 2022, which functions alongside the undergraduate Fusion program. Fusion Master's students (either married or single) can earn 27 graduate credit hours on campus and 9 graduate credit hours on the mission field with IMB missionaries. Similar to the undergraduate Fusion program, Fusion Masters students are deployed to the mission field for four months in the summer after an academic year of training and structured discipleship. The Fusion Master's program completes a M.A. in Intercultural Studies which affirms students' call to missions and fulfills IMB requirements. This gives students hands-on ministry experience, as well as discipleship opportunities with staff, faculty, and Fusion undergraduate students.

A major addition to our baccalaureate offerings this year is the B.A. in Graphic Design. Tyler Rosas, who earned his M.A. in Arts and Technology from University of Texas at Dallas and M.F.A. in Visualization Science from Texas A&M University, was added to the faculty as assistant professor of graphic design in Fall 2022. With years of both church ministry experience and field expertise, Rosas is a strategic hire to grow a new program that will allow students to serve both the church and the marketplace.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

At Midwestern Seminary, the Master of Divinity (MDiv) degree is emphasized as the standard and most fitting degree to prepare for ministry. In 2021-2022, we recognized a need to be more flexible in our MDiv curriculum. The Midwestern MDiv serves as the standard academic program for our institution. At 81 credit hours, this degree includes 72 foundational-core credit hours and 9 hours of electives. To allow greater flexibility in our standard curriculum, we are allowing students to take Biblical Counseling in the Local Church or Biblical Foundations of Worship as a part of the 72-core, eliminating a course that duplicated objectives met in other courses. By taking this step, we maintain compliance with our accrediting bodies and allow students to customize their education to their interests and calling.

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 new Fusion Graduate program and Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies (MAIS) Degree, Midwestern has broadened our partnership with the IMB. The MAIS is a 36-hour Master's degree that serves as the curricular base for our Fusion-Master's program—which has a group of nine students enrolled this year. These students are placed in a cohort to participate in weekly in-person meetings with Midwestern missions faculty. Following the completion of the MAIS Foundational Core courses in the Fall and Spring terms, students will deploy to partner with IMB personnel for the Fusion-Masters Practicums phase during the summer. During the deployment, Fusion-Masters students complete the remaining 9 hours of their MAIS degree. IMB personnel will supervise these practicum courses. Through the Fusion Graduate Program, Midwestern is training ministers *For the Church* among the nations.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

Midwestern has served churches by offering professional doctoral training since 1971. Midwestern offers three professional doctoral degrees: DMin, DEdMin, and EdD. All three degrees offer advanced training for church leaders, missionaries, and educators, so that they are more effective in accomplishing the mission of reaching the world with the gospel and making disciples. Because Midwestern professional degrees are offered in modular and online formats, doctoral candidates are able to pursue doctoral studies while remaining in their current ministry context. Midwestern offers its professional doctorates in English, Korean, Spanish, Mandarin, and Romanian, so that we serve churches beyond our North American setting.

A core component of the professional doctoral degree is the creation and implementation of a ministry project on which the candidate's dissertation subsequently reports. Over the past year Midwestern students have benefited their churches through projects concentrated on preaching, discipleship, education, revitalization, and church polity, to name a few.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

Midwestern offers research doctorates in Biblical Studies (NT, OT, Biblical Theology), Theological Studies (Systematics, Ethics, Preaching), and Applied Theology (Biblical Counseling, Apologetics, Leadership, Missiology, Ecclesiology, Biblical Spirituality). There is a diverse cohort of students in these programs, some having exclusive ambitions to teach full-time in formal academic settings, while others hope to strengthen their local church service and combine this work with occasional forays into formalized theological instruction. Midwestern research doctoral degrees meet this need by requiring advanced theological education that addresses unresolved problems in the disciplines named above, while maintaining its relevance to the life of local churches.

Through a combination of on-campus, modular, and online courses, Midwestern has been able to serve its research doctoral students while it permits them to remain in their current ministry settings. The price of research doctoral studies at Midwestern is not disengagement with ongoing local church ministry, where its candidates have been serving effectively and ought to remain.

Based on each of Midwestern's Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2022 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how Midwestern is accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?

I. Assist churches by programs of pre baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Despite the current challenges to modern missions and our post-COVID world, the Fusion program continues to successfully deploy college students overseas in partnership with the IMB. In summer of 2022, Fusion deployed 51 students, engaged 109 people groups around the world, and made 1,677 gospel proclamations. Such statistics prove the effectiveness of time, energy, and donorship invested in Spurgeon College's mission training program.

Around the world, students are benefiting from the restructuring of Midwestern Seminary's online program. Our new "Global Campus" brings more hybrid classes to Spurgeon College's course offerings. Global Campus students can choose to join Kansas City classrooms via video technology thereby expanding the number of students who can access our degree programs. Undergraduates can easily start their degree early by taking hybrid classes online, or they can pursue more demanding, full-time ministry opportunities while earning their degree with the flexibility of the Global Campus.

Furthermore, the Spurgeon Knights basketball, volleyball, and soccer teams continue to be helpful discipleship avenues to prepare young men and women for successful vocational and bi-vocational ministry alike. Our student athletes are enrolled in a variety of degree programs, and their coaches push them to seek excellence and holiness in every area of their education.

One recent highlight in Spurgeon Knights sports history was the launch of our women's soccer team in Fall 2022. The women's team won their inaugural game with a score of 4-1, and co-captain Haeley Gallegos was named NCCAA Women's Soccer Player of the Week within the season's second week. There are strategic plans to grow the attractions of our women's soccer and volleyball teams alongside the ongoing success of our Communications and Graphic Design programs, which provide career choices for women desiring to serve local churches and ministries.

The Spurgeon Knights are also proud to see men's basketball improve significantly, winning more games in their recent season than ever before in program history. Not only did the Knights make records in their own program history, but also in NCCAA men's basketball DII history, scoring the most points in a game against Barclay College in Haviland, KS, winning 130-83. Despite the general challenges of recruiting athletes to Christian sports, the Knights Men's Basketball team showed a competitive edge this year and strong leadership under Coach Billy Livezey, which gives hope for more success to come.

Similar to last year, enrollment numbers are steadily increasing at Spurgeon College. The new Fusion hires from 2021 and 2022 yielded a number of recruits, and the Accelerate tracks in Business Leadership, Communications, History, and Christian Education have continued to yield more interest in the 5-year, 2-degree program. However, recruiting efforts continue to be strategized. In the near future, Spurgeon College plans to push forward by highlighting their three cohorts: Fusion, Accelerate, and Athletics. Leaning into our cohort directors and our staff's impact on students, Spurgeon College plans to both recruit and retain missionaries, pastors, leaders, and athletes *For the Kingdom*.

Spurgeon College will continue to create its programs and respond to challenges in a way that maintains its vision to be *For the Kingdom* and *For the Church*, providing opportunities for students to gain practical skills and training to serve the people of God, both locally and across the globe.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

In 2023, 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 Seminary 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. Midwestern Seminary's mission of developing and maintaining strong local churches means that we must properly educate and train members for service in each distinctive ministry within the church. These concentrations will afford our students the opportunity to develop their God-given spiritual gifts and abilities to an even fuller extent.

Finally, Midwestern Seminary will continue to innovate our academic programs to deliver quality education using the most recent video technology. The Midwestern Seminary Global Campus will continue to refine our online live courses which offer students live video lectures from residential faculty. Our Residential+ classes offer online students live video for courses with residential students seated in the room. Our Residential+ format is proving especially helpful for students taking language courses.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

The state of higher education is in flux at the current time based on two larger trends. One of them concerns the economic conditions that are affecting everyone living in the United States, which combine stagnation with inflation. The other trend is the shrinking population of prospective undergraduate and graduate students—a trend which began in 2008 and which is yielding effects on higher educational institutions at the present time. Additionally, another problem faced by institutions of higher theological education is the trend toward secularization in the United States. These factors create headwinds that all institutions like Midwestern are facing; yet they also clarify the situation in which Midwestern finds itself.

To address these challenges, Midwestern is committed to providing quality, affordable education to its students, from undergraduate studies to doctoral studies. It is essential that Midwestern deliver its doctoral degrees with undiminished quality, while keeping costs within reach of faithful SBC pastor-teachers. To this end, Midwestern has expanded in online offerings, thus making it possible to study on the advanced level while minimizing the costs incurred by travel to and from the Midwestern main campus. The ability to offer this kind of education, in these innovative formats, is an advantage that permits Midwestern to fulfill its *For the Church* mission.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

The research doctoral degrees at Midwestern deal with the same challenges as its professional doctoral degrees, with the added challenge that restrictions are now placed on the offering of asynchronous online PhD seminars. It is possible to offer some of the PhD seminars in this asynchronous format, but not all. If this situation should change based upon policy-changes among accrediting agencies like Association of Theological Schools (ATS), Midwestern will carefully consider its options in response to those opportunities.

ENROLLMENT

Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment	<u>2017-18</u>	<u>2018-19</u>	<u>2019-20</u>	<u>2020-21</u>	<u>2021-22</u>
Prebaccalaureate (MWI)	46	60	55	71	86
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	222	419	367	459	463
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	562	573	728	780	862
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MTS, MA-)	1,526	1,733	1,884	1,910	2,002
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	1,169	1,215	1,340	1,503	1,504
Total	3,525	4,000	4,374	4,723	4,917
Credit Hours					
Prebaccalaureate (MWI)	74.0	139.0	196.0	192.0	319.0
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	773.0	687.0	1,227.0	1,947.2	1,566.3
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	9,357.0	10,624.0	13,460.5	14,444.0	15,468.0
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MTS, MA-)	17,530.5	19,108.5	21,372.5	22,841.5	23,305.5
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	6,833.0	7,449.0	7,949.0	9,943.0	9,993.5
Total	34,567.5	38,007.5	44,205.0	49,367.7	50,652.3
SBC Annual Formula FTE					
Annual Total	1,264	1,395	1,615	1,615	1,674
Three-year rolling average	1,073	1,228	1,425	1,542	1,635
New Student Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment					
Prebaccalaureate (MWI)	21	39	26	51	61
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	126	352	212	386	346
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	228	244	299	330	357
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MTS, MA-)	573	682	646	686	706
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	380	346	417	455	464
Total	1,328	1,663	1,600	1,908	1,934
Graduates					
Prebaccalaureate (MWI)	1	0	3	5	6
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate [CLD graduates])	97	56	118	162	160
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MTS, MA-)	171	240	250	338	384
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	71	89	101	151	191
Total	340	385	472	656	741

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 Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.

1. SBC Referral: To Examine the Formation of a Library Science Program (Items 83 and 127, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 83, 92)

Motion: M. Ryan Ogle, Tennessee

“That the Council of Seminary Presidents examine the formation of a Master of Library Science program apart from the American Library Association.”

Response: As an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the mission and ministry assignments the Southern Baptist Convention has set forth for it. In so doing, we continually monitor the needs of our churches and students and add degree programs accordingly within the bounds of our mission and ministry assignments. While we affirm the need for Christians to serve in library science and other academic positions, we do not perceive a demand for this degree among our Southern Baptist constituency, nor do we believe that library science falls within our Southern Baptist Convention mission and ministry assignments.



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



LEAVELL
COLLEGE

3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana 70126

GARY SHOWS, Chair
JAMIE DEW, President

Greetings from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College! We are grateful for the work of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention who faithfully support the work of all of our entities. Your support of the Cooperative Program makes the work you have given us to do possible. Thank you to Southern Baptists serving every day in their communities as you give financially, send us students, and pray for us. The collective efforts of all Southern Baptists make our work in New Orleans possible.

We are glad to welcome you for the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting in New Orleans! We look forward to showing you all that God is doing through the efforts of Great Commission Baptists in the Gulf South, particularly New Orleans and south Louisiana.

While you are here for the Annual Meeting, enjoy the food, music, museums, and the unique culture and history of New Orleans. If you need recommendations on what to do, where to go, and what to eat, visit our website for plenty of information, nobts-visitnola.com.

We have had a great deal of work to do in the last year. We embarked on a multi-million-dollar renovation of the New Orleans campus. The highlight of this renovation is the newly named Fred Luter, Jr. Student Center. We believe this is the first building on an SBC seminary campus named for an African-American. As he is known as the Pastor of New Orleans, we believe it is fitting that such a hub of activity on our campus be named for Pastor Fred. We are grateful for his leadership in our city and our denomination. We are glad to honor his long legacy of faithful service to the people of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church and the City of New Orleans.

In addition to the student center, we are renovating our cafeteria and naming it Landrum Hall in memory of the seventh president of NOBTS, Landrum Leavell. This is the primary dining space for our students and a significant gathering place for the seminary family.

Recognizing the need for updated student housing, we are also renovating many of our student housing spaces to make them more comfortable and inviting living spaces for our students. Our dorms and much of our housing for married students has already seen some upgrades and will continue to undergo renovation over the next few years. These are challenging days for institutions like ours, but we believe these investments will allow us to serve our students well in the coming days.

Like similar institutions, we are fighting the headwinds of economic, demographic, and cultural shifts that make the work of recruitment that much more challenging. However, we are grateful that we are able to report growth in many of our programs and look forward to continued growth in the days ahead.

I believe there is a real challenge and opportunity before us as Southern Baptists. Many of our churches report a vacancy in the position of senior pastor and many other support positions. I believe that we need to be diligent in identifying and preparing those men who are called to the role of pastor. These men need to be well-trained and prepared and we continue to play our part, but we need the churches of the SBC to lean into seeking out the men who are called to serve as pastor.

As a missionally-minded institution, we are committed to helping the International Mission Board in their task to send out well-trained men and women to serve on the mission field – the men and women sent to them by the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. We have also partnered with the North American Mission Board to support their work in equipping the men who will serve as pastors of church plants in New Orleans and around North America.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College are doing all that we can to serve Southern Baptists well by preparing servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission. We want to send these servants back out to the churches and mission assignments to faithfully serve in the kingdom.

Our recently relaunched Global Missions Center is preparing to send out students on the first mission trips sponsored by the center to London, the Middle East, as well Central and Southeast Asia. This work is building on the legacy of others at NOBTS and Leavell College who have faithfully served in places like the Amazon River basin, the Caribbean, Ukraine, Europe, Africa, and Southeast Asia. The Global Missions Center is exploring partnerships with other IMB missionaries in locations around the globe. We are working to build ministry connections with NOBTS and Leavell College alumni fulfilling His mission around the world. We have also reinstated our PhD program in Missions. We want to be a part of training up the leaders who are contributing to the study of missiological work and aiding in the preparation of future missionaries.

Many NOBTS and Leavell College faculty, staff, and students are serving church plants in south Louisiana and New Orleans. These students are dedicated to sharing the Gospel in neighborhoods that have long needed a church that is faithful to Scripture and the transmission of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

All of the work that I have briefly highlighted, and what you will read in subsequent reports, is the result of faithful men and women who have dedicated themselves to a life of service. The prayers and financial support of Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program enables the work of these faithful servants. I am grateful that we are a Great Commission people committed to one another in Jesus Christ.

Thank you to Great Commission Baptists for their cooperative efforts.

Your Servant,
Jamie Dew
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 2023 Ministry Report of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.)

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 1,148 undergraduate students through courses for credit on the main campus, at extension centers, and by internet. This total does not count a number of certificate students enrolled in not-for-credit courses offered in church and associational settings.

Leavell College serves both traditional college students and non-traditional students. Some 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. Leavell College also

has our highest concentration of ethnic or minority students who can serve in diverse church settings, particularly African-American, Hispanic, and Korean students. Last year, Leavell College trained 465 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.

Leavell College continues to strive to make training accessible in many ways. Students can take their entire bachelor's degree online, but in addition to traditional online courses, we offer NOLA2U Flex courses which allow students to participate in live classes or view the class meeting during the week the class is taught. Many undergraduate students appreciate the flexibility of this delivery method. Since the pandemic, we have seen this delivery method grow significantly.

NOBTS developed the BA + MDiv program that allows undergraduate students at Leavell College to get a head start on their MDiv degree by taking master's classes in their senior year that count for their bachelor's degree. Many students will be able to earn their bachelor's degree and MDiv degree within five years. Students will save significant time and money with this program, and they can move to the ministry field more quickly.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

NOBTS had 1,229 master's-level students last year, 655 of those were MDiv degree students, which we consider the standard ministry preparation degree. Many students at NOBTS and other seminaries are pursuing shorter MA degrees offered online, at extension centers, and on campus. The remaining 574 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. The faculty recently revised the MDiv and MA offerings to align with the mission to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission. Students have responded favorably to the new degree, and we are excited about the training that is taking place.

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 DMin (Doctor of Ministry) and DEdMin (Doctor of Educational Ministry) at NOBTS continue to be among the strongest such programs in the nation, with 291 students enrolled last year. The DMin program continues to be one of the largest and best such programs, with 262 students enrolled. Of that number, 50 are Korean DMin students.

The NOBTS DEdMin is one of just a handful of such programs in the United States. The DEdMin has 29 students enrolled. In many churches, the DMin has become the required degree for consideration of prospective pastors. This program provides students with that credentialing,

and does so with excellence. The professional doctoral degrees at NOBTS were recently revised allowing some students with an MA degree to pursue these professional doctoral degrees. We are excited about new opportunities to equip students. Since the DMin and DEdMin 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 DMin and DEdMin 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. 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 PhD major is available through web conferencing technology or in person. Many students pursue a PhD 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, 204 students enrolled in the ThM, EdD, DMA, and PhD programs — which was a historically high enrollment. NOBTS is consistently evaluating the research doctoral degrees to be sure we are offering the appropriate curriculum. In a recent trustee meeting, three new majors were approved in Ethics, Missiology, and Philosophy of Religion. 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 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2022 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?

I. Assist churches by programs of pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

We do not yet know the long-term impact of the pandemic, but major events like this tend to have a lasting impact on educational institutions. We have seen some signs that one result of the educational responses to the pandemic is a shift towards more online education. This area has been growing for some time, but the growth seems to have accelerated.

The greatest challenge confronting most undergraduate students is the problem of affordability and student debt. In the last several years, we have seen the average student take fewer hours per semester. As a result, students have a hard time completing their degree. Some 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 pursuing their theological education. NOBTS has sought to address this in several ways. With the tuition cap, qualified students who take between twelve and eighteen hours pay the same tuition. Thus, students are able to save \$1,860 each semester if they can focus on being a full-time student. In addition, we have continued to seek to raise

scholarship funds to support student education. Even with the discounts offered, many students just do not have the time or money to take classes full-time. The end result is that students may not complete their degree at all. NOBTS continues to encourage students to take the appropriate number of credit hours to facilitate successful completion of their training.

NOBTS and Leavell College continue to explore potential partnerships for students to receive vocational training with partner schools while receiving theological education at the seminary. This past year, we approved a partnership with Louisiana Christian University to allow our undergraduate students to get a head start on a Master of Business Administration, and we will continue to look for possible partnerships that benefit our students. We anticipate equipping students for potential bivocational ministry as well as skills to help them while they are in school through these partnerships.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

The long-term impact of the pandemic remains to be seen, but it certainly will impact the graduate and undergraduate programs. We have seen some signs that one result of the educational responses to the pandemic is a shift towards more online education. This area has been growing for some time, but the growth seems to have accelerated.

As delivery methods for education have multiplied, NOBTS continues to search for the best way to make theological education available to those who are called of God to the ministry. NOBTS has offered the full MDiv degree as well as several master of arts degrees online since the accreditors allowed that possibility. We are happy to be able to provide training to those who may never be able to attend a class on campus. At the same time, we regret the loss of personal interaction this transition brings. Therefore, we have sought to supplement the experiences of online students through hybrid, intensives, and various other means. 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.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary remains committed to providing quality education for the current and future leaders of the SBC. We will continue to emphasize the MDiv degree that provides the broadest type of training. The faculty recently revised the MDiv and MA offerings to be sure we are properly equipping students. We look forward to how God will use this training for the kingdom.

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. 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. We have seen these offerings expand and expect that to continue in the near future.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

NOBTS has recently revised the admission guidelines for the professional doctoral programs. Previously, only students with an MDiv or the equivalent could begin the doctor of ministry program. In addition, prospective students were required to have at least three years of full-time service. The new guidelines allow more flexibility, and NOBTS has adapted the DMin degree to expand the prospects for this degree. Our professional doctorate programs are among the best in the country, and we want to involve as many students as possible.

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. Students who are unable to come to New Orleans for classes are able to use webcasting technology to participate in most of the professional doctoral classes enabling them to focus their energy and time in the local church setting.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

The PhD 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 recently added degree majors in Ethics, Philosophy or Religion, and Missiology, and we look forward to training students in these areas. One of the ongoing challenges for PhD students is the lack of full-time positions in academia. Many of the students at NOBTS are preparing to be pastor-theologians and may teach as an adjunct, but for those preparing to teach full-time, NOBTS works hard to prepare them for a difficult job market.

STATISTICAL TABLES

Enrollment

Basic Degrees	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Graduate Certificate	100	81	70	42	28
M.Div	878	833	735	730	688
M.A.C.E.	130	134	125	92	85
M.M.C.M.	23	18	6	9	7
D.Min.	278	275	261	250	262
D.Ed.Min.	48	46	48	37	28
Th.M.	52	59	72	67	53
Ph.D.	100	95	107	106	104
D.M.A.	15	19	21	21	21
EDD	9	9	12	11	15
M.A.M.F.C.	45	78	80	98	112
M.A.	304	379	342	305	293
MTS	52	64	63	59	68
Certificate	713	699	668	515	460
Associate	97	93	82	110	101
Baccalaureate	826	870	703	641	623
Internet	*669	*711	*668	*627	*610
Nondegree	64	51	56	75	43
Formula allowances for off campus programs	144	249	174	121	124
Total FTE Enrollment	3,734	3,803	3,451	3,168	3,072

**This amount is included in the degree programs.*

Annual Accumulative Enrollment (nonduplicating head count) 2021-2022: 3,072

Graduates	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Prebaccalaureate	205	149	55	70	84
Baccalaureate	95	154	78	127	121
Graduate	210	259	240	266	198
Doctoral	59	62	60	70	66
Total	569	624	433	533	469

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 Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.

1. SBC Referral: To Examine the Formation of a Library Science Program (Items 83 and 127, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 83, 92)

Motion: M. Ryan Ogle, Tennessee

“That the Council of Seminary Presidents examine the formation of a Master of Library Science program apart from the American Library Association.”

Response: The New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary affirms the need for Christians to serve in a variety of academic positions, including Library Science, but the program and mission statements assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention to our six seminaries does not encompass graduate degrees in library science. Programs of this sort are also well beyond the financial capacity of the institution to employ the necessary faculty for a specialized program of this nature.



P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588-1889

ARTHUR E. WERRY, Chair

DANIEL L. AKIN, President

It is my joy to bring to you an annual report of what's going on at your Great Commission Seminary on the East Coast. I realize that if the Great Commission matters to God, it ought to matter to us as well. That is why we work so hard to be a Great Commission Seminary. We do not have to wonder what we should be giving our lives to because King Jesus has already given us his commission: go and make disciples of all nations. In that context, we believe we do theological education best when it is done under the umbrella of the Great Commission. So, let me highlight some things that are going on here at Southeastern that will encourage and bless you as we continue to train more than 5,000 students for the honor and glory of the Lord Jesus.

This Spring, we hosted the return of our GO conference. This conference has been used for many years to mobilize college students for the Great Commission by providing them with pathways to fulfill the Great Commission with the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board, local churches, and partnerships with our state conventions. Our mission emphasis extends to the scholarships that we have increased this year. Now we are excited to offer full tuition scholarships to active IMB personnel to help them fulfill God's calling in their lives to GO and make disciples of all the nations. We are very thankful to continue partnering with the North American Mission Board through events held on our campus like the Renew Conference on church revitalization, which we hosted this past September, and the North American Mission Board Day which we hosted in November.

This year, our undergraduate program began a new Business Degree designed to train marketplace Great Commission Christians. It is a great degree that is going to deploy more soldiers for Christ into the marketplace to fulfill the Great Commission both at home and abroad.

We have a new emphasis in terms of our Great Commission focus with our EDD Global Leadership Degree and with our new degree in our Master of Arts Cross-Cultural Counseling Degree. Both of these were developed in consultation with and at the request of the International Mission Board.

We recently had the largest College and Seminary Preview Days on our campus in our history. We are already reaping the benefits of those two great days.

We have officially launched our Sexual Abuse Prevention class, and plans are in place to make it available very soon to churches and other groups. We want to serve our students and churches well as we work hard to eradicate this unspeakable evil.

There has never been a better time to come to Southeastern to pursue an MDiv degree. Thanks to several generous donors, residential students in a variety of specializations can now receive a full tuition scholarship as they study here on our beautiful Wake Forest campus.

Our Global Theological Initiative office continues to do amazing things. The Persian Leadership Development Initiative, which is a part of our global theological strategies, continues to thrive and grow as we approach our first graduation in June of 2023. Through our Persian Leadership Development Program, we are not just training students to be missionaries; they are already missionaries in a variety of cultures. We are revitalizing the gospel influence of churches throughout Europe, Turkey, and the Middle East. Indeed, as a strategic part of the Southeastern Global Theological Initiative office, the personal leadership development program currently offers more than 3,000 Farsi-speaking students the opportunity to study in the first ever

accredited Theological Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree programs completely taught in Farsi. Only our great God could do this!

Earlier this year, we announced the new Caskey Center for Biblical Text and Translation, which will launch on our campus this fall. The CBTT will provide critical biblical translation resources for missionaries and church leaders around the world while also providing residential research associateships for six PhD students. The CBTT is designed to undertake three major initiatives: (1) to improve the quality of major English Bible translations, (2) to provide resources for Bible translators and translator consultants worldwide, and (3) to improve the quality of the critical editions of the Hebrew Old Testament and Greek New Testament. In addition to fueling Kingdom work with accurate Bible translations and translation resources, the center will provide strategic research and translation experience for qualified residential PhD students in biblical studies.

We are in the final year of our four-year campaign, "For the Mission." Over 2,500 unique donors have contributed nearly \$18 million. Through this campaign, over \$3.5 million has been given for student financial aid, over \$3 million for academic endowment and initiatives, and sufficient funds have been donated toward the renovation of a residence hall to house our growing college population.

A big thank you to all of the churches that give to the Cooperative Program. We could not do what we do without the generosity of Southern Baptists. In addition to the support of the Cooperative Program, we have also worked to lower the cost of theological education by growing our Annual Fund. This Annual Fund is a tremendous blessing to every student studying at Southeastern, as every single dollar raised for the Southeastern Fund is one less dollar needed to be covered by student tuition dollars. The Lord has indeed been kind to our Southeastern family, and our friends have been generous beyond measure. Together, we will continue to equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission so that all may know the glory of King Jesus.

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

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022
Special Students					
Credit Only	458	888	740	1,455	1,201
Certificate/Diploma	467	552	1,008	923	937
Special Student Total	925	1,440	1,748	2,378	2,138
Prebaccalaureate & Baccalaureate					
Associate of Divinity	23	17	22	23	16
Associate of Arts	3	11	25	23	11
Bachelor of Arts/Science	475	514	568	600	544
Prebaccalaureate & Baccalaureate Totals	501	542	615	646	571
Basic Programs					
Master of Arts	703	739	842	980	955
Master of Church Music	1	-	-	-	-
Master of Theological Studies	266	204	50	210	184
Master of Divinity	1,225	1,231	1,353	1,100	951
Basic Programs Total	2,195	2,174	2,245	2,290	2,090

	2017- 2018	2018- 2019	2019- 2020	2020- 2021	2021- 2022
Advanced					
Master of Theology	67	74	71	69	67
Doctor of Ministry	271	262	250	247	230
Doctor of Education	86	90	90	89	92
Doctor of Philosophy	205	193	196	190	182
Advanced Total	<u>629</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>607</u>	<u>595</u>	<u>571</u>
Total Unduplicated Headcount	<u>4,250</u>	<u>4,775</u>	<u>5,215</u>	<u>5,909</u>	<u>5,370</u>
Cooperative Program Funded FTEs					
Full-Time Equivalent Students	2,337	2,551	2,914	2,800	2,515
<i>Unfunded FTEs</i>					
Over 70 Hours BA Deduction	(65)	(68)	(66)	(75)	(54)
Online SBC FTE Students	(555)	(655)	(792)	(855)	(714)
Adv Degree Students Past Time Allowance	(255)	(295)	(312)	(307)	(267)
Other Non-Countable SBC Students	-	-	-	(98)	(123)
Non-SBC FTE Students	(246)	(348)	(476)	(640)	(594)
<i>Total Unfunded FTEs</i>	<u>(1,121)</u>	<u>(1,366)</u>	<u>(1,646)</u>	<u>(1,975)</u>	<u>(1,752)</u>
Total Cooperative Program Funded FTEs	<u>1,216</u>	<u>1,185</u>	<u>1,268</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>763</u>
Graduates					
Prebaccalaureate & Special	46	42	30	33	56
Baccalaureate	69	46	71	107	70
Basic Programs	283	336	351	454	405
Advanced	70	84	80	87	88
Total Graduates	<u>468</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>532</u>	<u>681</u>	<u>619</u>

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following items to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.

1. SBC Referral: To Examine the Formation of a Library Science Program (Items 83 and 127, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, SBC Annual, p. 83, 92)

Motion: M. Ryan Ogle, Tennessee

"That the Council of Seminary Presidents examine the formation of a Master of Library Science program apart from the American Library Association."

Response: The Board of Trustees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) reviewed the referred motion from Ryan Ogle (TN) made at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, CA regarding the formation of a Master of Library Science program. SEBTS offers Master's programs designed for ministry preparation following the ministry assignments approved by the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The current programs focus on biblical, theological, and ministry studies. The institution has not offered Master's programs for professional credentials for marketplace positions. A Master of Library Science (MLS) degree is a specialized program focused on training men and women to administrate a library. The program is not focused on training for ministry leadership in the church, mission field, or parachurch organization. At this time, Southeastern does not believe an MLS fits within the focus of its mission under the ministry assignments given to the seminary by the SBC.

2. SBC Referral: To Investigate Mistreatment of Abuse Victims at the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Items 24 and 65, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 57, 71)

Motion: Michelle Lesley, Louisiana

"That the trustees request the SBC president to appoint a task force to oversee an internal review of leadership including an investigation of allegations of the mishandling of private correspondence from January 1, 2018 to June 15, 2022 for report to the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting."

Response: The Board of Trustees at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) reviewed the referred motion from Michelle Lesley (LA) made at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, CA regarding an investigation of the handling of abuse victims at SEBTS. The motion was not requesting action on an investigation by SEBTS, therefore, the Board is unable to respond to the specific items in the motion.

While the Board cannot respond to the specific items in the motion, the Board can respond to the spirit of the concern.

- The Board of Trustees of SEBTS believes that the administration has thoroughly investigated allegations of mistreatment of abuse victims and that it found no evidence of any SEBTS representatives being involved in such actions.
- The Board of Trustees and the administration also received confirmation from an attorney that the attorney had interacted with the individuals who were involved in the improper release of information related to a specific instance of sexual abuse. It was confirmed that SEBTS representatives had no connection to the release of this information.
- The Board of Trustees is committed to representing the SBC and to hold the seminary to the highest standards of transparency and accountability.
- The Board of Trustees denounces any actions undertaken by individuals to disparage others or mistreat an abuse victim in this or any other situation.



**THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280

JOSHUA POWELL, Chair

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. Thank you for your diligent service on behalf of Southern Baptists.

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.

In order to understand our task, all we have to do is look to our name. We are The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and proudly so. We are honored to bear the stewardship of theological education on behalf of Southern Baptist churches. Our students are educated in biblical truth and Baptist doctrine. They are prepared for a lifetime of service, mission, and ministry in the Baptist heartland, throughout the United States, and all over the world. They are driven by God's call and drawn to the fields of ministry and mission.

We are living in an age of increasing secularization, which now comes to us with threatening clouds and cultural hostility. Our task is to raise up a generation of young Christians, ready to stand for biblical truth, to stand in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to stand against the currents of the age. If you could see these students, drawn to Boyce College and Southern Seminary, you would be so greatly encouraged. They are deeply committed to Christ and they are ready take their stand for truth. They are eager for deployment to the fields of mission and ministry. They love Christ and they love Christ's church. They understand what is at stake.

Southern Seminary is strong in enrollment, spirit, and program. God has blessed us beyond measure with thousands of students and a faculty without equal. Conviction draws conviction, and this faculty of committed Baptist scholars draws the very students we now see at Southern Seminary and Boyce College.

I am often asked by leaders of seminaries outside the Southern Baptist Convention to explain the strength of our institution. I am pleased to point them to the faithfulness of Southern Baptist churches, channeled through the Cooperative Program. We praise God for the faithfulness of those churches, and we pledge equal faithfulness in the theological education of our students. We pledge to work in full cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention and fellow Southern Baptist entities in facing any challenge that may come.

These are crucial days for our denomination, but I am confident that this generation of Southern Baptists, by God's power, will be up to the task of answering God's call, raising up the next generation of preachers, missionaries, and leaders, and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Attached with this letter is the annual report of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to the Southern Baptist Convention. It is presented with pride and unspeakable gratitude.

Come see the future taking shape on the campus of Boyce College and Southern Seminary. For Southern Baptists, the welcome mat is always out.

Sincerely,
R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
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 2023 Ministry Report of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

1. 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 1,376 students in 2021-2022.

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. In 2021-2022, we recruited two new full-time faculty members who are experts in their respective fields and are excited to serve our students. Resident advisors work to cultivate biblical community within the residence halls, and 2021-2022 was the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic in which we offered a full slate of student life activities for our students. 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, provide students with opportunities to develop leadership skills and experience that will serve them and our churches in the future. Our athletic teams provide another key experience for many of our students, and in 2021-2022 our men's soccer team won the regional championship and competed in the national tournament. The Augustine Honors Collegium continues to grow and gives students in the program an opportunity for a deeper and more challenging academic experience. We revised this program's curriculum in 2021-2022, and it has proven effective in attracting some of the sharpest young minds in the SBC.

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 Worldview Intensive Year program; a Digital Media emphasis within several majors; two marketplace Seminary Track programs, Business and Communications; and the state and national accreditation renewal for our Teacher Education 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.

2. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

The central mission assignment for the seminaries is the education of pastors, which reaches back to our founding in 1859. The Master of Divinity 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 Master of Arts 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 forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and seventy-nine 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 1,000 students have already been enrolled in the program, and 95 have graduated, coming from nations including Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, 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 2,331 students for 2021-2022. 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 continue 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 2021-2022 alone, Southern Seminary professors published over 20 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.

3. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

Southern Seminary offers professional doctoral education through the Doctor of Ministry and the Doctor of Educational Ministry. For the 2021-2022 academic year, the total annual headcount for all Professional Doctoral Studies degree programs was 401 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. Our graduates continue to hold key leadership positions in our SBC local associations, state conventions, and national entities and are pastoring hundreds of established SBC churches and planting churches all over the world. We also began in 2021-2022 to recruit for two new programs: a fully online Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling and a fully online Doctor of Ministry offered totally in Spanish. Both of these programs will expand our ability to provide quality professional doctoral education around the globe.

4. 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. In recent years, Research Doctoral Studies has expanded our modular PhD programs to include Biblical Studies, Historical and Theological Studies, and most recently Philosophical and Theological Studies. 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. In addition, we revised our Master of Theology degree to make the degree more flexible and efficient for our students. For the 2021-2022 academic year the total annual headcount for all Research Doctoral Studies degree programs was 421 students. The program, however, is not merely large but of the highest quality. Our faculty and students presented over fifty papers at

the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society and continue to shape the entire evangelical academic landscape. 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.

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.

Based on each of the convention-assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2023 and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how Southern will accomplish these assignments.

1. 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 2023 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. In 2022-2023, we welcomed our largest ever on-campus Boyce student population, so serving these students well while growing our capacity and improving their educational experience are key opportunities moving forward. We also welcome our newest athletic program—a cross-country team—in the 2022-2023 academic year and are in the process of revising our Seminary Track program under new leadership. In addition, as we maintain our 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.

2. 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 Southern Baptist Convention. 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 also 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 connect online students to the campus.

3. 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. We also continue to expand our online program offering, launching two new programs in 2022-2023: a fully online Doctor of Ministry in Biblical Counseling and a fully online Doctor of Ministry offered totally in Spanish. These new fully online concentrations will further our reach and allow us to serve more churches through the training of ministers.

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 continue to improve our 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 PhD programs in Biblical Studies, Historical and Theological Studies, and most recently Philosophical and Theological Studies. 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.

Enrollment by Degree Program Converted to Full-Time Equivalent As per SBC Seminary Formula

Prebaccalaureate Programs:	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022
Diploma Theology	31	31	33	31
Diploma Missions	49	64	72	68
Boyce: Associate of Arts	31	24	28	22
Special (including Prebacc. and SWI)	119	183	239	140
Baccalaureate Programs:				
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	242	222	255	290
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	653	670	643	685

	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022
Basic Degree Programs:				
M.Div	1,400	1,516	1,505	1,475
M.A.	251	198	213	258
M.A.T.S.	127	179	176	187
M.C.M.	12	15	12	4
Special (Postbacc.)	22	28	36	
Advanced Degree Programs:				
T.h.M.	78	99	86	106
D.Min.	221	217	233	241
D.Miss.	14	14	11	9
D.Ed.Min.	190	193	197	187
Ed.D.	40	37	32	24
Ph.D.	268	270	304	325
Special	2	0	0	0
Total FTE Enrollment	3,750	3,960	4,075	4,052
Official FTE	2,311	2,762	2,762	2,102
(Nondup. HC)	5,485	5,568	6,151	5,697

Degree Program Graduates

	2018–2019	2019–2020	2020–2021	2021–2022
Degree Programs:				
Prebaccalaureate Programs:				
Diploma Theology	0	0	0	0
Diploma Missions	0	0	0	0
Worldview Studies Certificate	2	5	3	1
Seminary Wives Institute	13	16	15	10
ESL Cert.	0	2	4	6
Boyce: Associate of Arts	9	8	12	5
Baccalaureate Programs:				
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	20	37	22	28
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	57	74	80	94
Basic Degree Programs:				
M.Div	205	274	245	276
M.A.	69	60	65	59
M.A.T.S.	54	78	73	65
M.C.M.	1	5	2	2
Cert. Great Comm. Studies	0	2	1	2
Advanced Degree Programs:				
Th.M.	46	38	59	83
D.Min.	29	35	38	34
D.Ed.Min.	22	19	39	34
D.Miss.	1	2	2	1
Ed.D.	6	11	13	4
Ph.D.	34	23	27	40
Total Graduates	591	689	700	744

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following items to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.

1. SBC Referral: To Examine the Formation of a Library Science Program (Items 83 and 127, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 83, 92)

Motion: M. Ryan Ogle, Tennessee

“That the Council of Seminary Presidents examine the formation of a Master of Library Science program apart from the American Library Association.”

Response: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary affirms the need for Christians to serve in library science and other academic positions, but the program and mission statements assigned by the Southern Baptist Convention to our six seminaries does not encompass graduate degrees in library science.

2. SBC Referral: To Request The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Study Removal of Any Name Connected to Chattel Slavery (Items 37 and 65, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 59, 71)

Motion: Dwight McKissic, Texas

“That in keeping with the 1995 Resolution on Racial Reconciliation, Article XV of *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000* and the Scripture’s clear teaching on the sin of racism, it be requested that the trustees of Southern Seminary study the feasibility of removing any name associated with the seminary, including buildings, academic programs, endowed chairs or scholarships, of individuals who participated in the American system of chattel slavery.”

Response: The Board of Trustees of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary recognizes the burdens of history and our responsibility to maintain doctrinal, moral, and historical integrity. For this reason the Board in 2020 approved an historic Report on Slavery and Racism in the History of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as well as four subsequent motions that expressed lament over slavery and its legacy within the Southern Baptist Convention, established the Garland Offutt Scholars Program for Black students pursuing Baptist ministry, commemorated the history of the institution with historical accuracy, and removed the name of Gov. Joseph Emerson Brown from the Seminary’s oldest endowed chair of instruction. The principle applied in our approach is that we retain names of those who are essential to the founding of this institution because of their sacrificial service and historic leadership of the Seminary. At the same time, we have recognized the moral reckoning to which we are called by establishing a major marker on the campus which acknowledges the sin of American slavery and the contributions made to this institution by countless slaves. We do so while telling the whole story of their lives, so that students and faculty are fully aware of the models of theological conviction and sacrifice we are to emulate, as well as the models of race-based slavery and discrimination we are to abhor.



Southwestern

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2001 West Seminary Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76115-1153

P.O. Box 22040, Fort Worth, TX 76122-0040

DANNY ROBERTS, Chair

DAVID S. DOCKERY, President

Since its founding in 1908, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has been committed to equipping God called men and women for Christian ministry. Being firmly grounded on the Word of God and confessionally guided in our commitment to the *Baptist Faith and Message*, Southwestern stands on the legacy of founders and professors like B.H. Carroll, L.R. Scarborough, Roy Fish, Curtis Vaughan, and James Leo Garrett, to advance the mission of Southwestern and the greater Southern Baptist fellowship of churches.

This past year has been characterized by markers of God's providential care, blessing, and favor for the Seminary community. Southwestern has experienced a heart for renewal and a recommitment to being the grace-filled institution that is centered on Christ and focused on our students who are preparing to continue the 115-year tradition of advancing the gospel in our world filled with such need and brokenness. This commitment to global engagement is represented in the daily work of those who have committed their lives to this service. How grateful we are for the dedicated oversight of the Board of Trustees, the investment in students by our gifted faculty, and the overall support of the staff, alumni, and friends.

As we continue this mission to assist the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by preparing those for ministry, this past year, we witnessed the graduation of more than 600 students who have been sent out to serve as pastors, church leaders, missionaries, and ambassadors for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Texas and around the world. These graduates represented more than half of the states in the United States and more than two dozen countries. They included 38 students who were the first Master of Theological Studies in Mandarin recipients, 37 students who earned the first certificates in Hispanic church planting, as well as the first graduates of Texas Baptist College's new Associate of Arts degree and Southwestern's new Doctor of Education program. Watching these graduates, who have been equipped to live out their calling in a faithful manner, walk across the stage served as one example among many others which point to a hope-filled future for Southwestern Seminary and Texas Baptist College. With heartfelt gratitude to God, it is a joy to reflect on some of these significant events of recent months.

Every commencement service includes a statement in the program noting the share of the graduates' costs that was defrayed due to the support from the churches of our Convention through the Cooperative Program. What we do is made possible because of the sacrificial generosity of Southern Baptists who give faithfully through their local churches. Thank you for investing in the next generation of ministers of the Gospel. We can never express our thankfulness enough!

As critical as Cooperative Program funding is, however, additional financial support is necessary to make possible all that is done on Seminary Hill. One of the key ways support is provided is through the endowment of academic chairs to fund the employment of the very best scholars to teach our students. Recently, an anonymous donor fully funded a \$2 million endowment to establish the Malcom R. and Melba L. McDow Chair of Evangelism in the Fish School of Evangelism and Missions. Carl Bradford, assistant professor of evangelism, was named as the inaugural occupant. Bradford's installation to the chair is historically significant

as he serves as the first African-American professor to hold an endowed chair from any Southern Baptist seminary.

In October 2022, our community began to gather in the rotunda of the B.H. Carroll Memorial Building each Monday for a time of prayer as well as a gathering of students, faculty, and staff who join together for prayer before bi-weekly chapel services. Psalm 90:17 became the prayer focus for this past academic year as the campus community asked the Lord to show us favor and to bless the work of our hands.

Several interim administrative appointments were announced in recent months. These included O.S. Hawkins, president emeritus of Guidestone, as senior advisor and ambassador-at-large for Southwestern. Additionally, Matt Queen was appointed as the interim provost and vice president for academic administration. Queen serves as professor of evangelism and holds the L.R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism (“Chair of Fire”). Michele Smith, who began serving at Southwestern in March of 2022 as associate vice president for finance was named interim vice president for financial services and chief financial officer. Michael Wilder, who was named associate provost for innovative learning in June following three years serving as dean of the Jack D. Terry School of Educational Ministries, was named interim vice president for strategic initiatives and chief catalyst officer. Jack D. Terry, who has served Southwestern Seminary for over five decades in several roles including as the dean of the Terry School and as vice president emeritus for institutional advancement, was named interim vice president for institutional advancement. Chandler Snyder, who served as associate vice president for student services after completing his service with the International Mission Board in 2022, was named interim vice president for enrollment and student services.

Additionally, several academic appointments were made which include the naming of Chris Shirley, who serves as professor of educational ministries and holds the Jack D. and Barbara Terry Chair of Religious Education, as the dean of the Terry School of Educational Ministries. Terri Stovall, who serves as the dean of women, was also named interim associate dean of the Terry School. Madison Grace, associate professor of theology and the director of the Oxford Study Program, was named interim dean of the School of Theology.

Southwestern Seminary, which has sent more missionaries to serve with the International Mission Board than any other seminary in the history of theological education, furthered the institution’s commitment to equipping missionaries to serve by announcing a 100 percent scholarship for IMB missionaries this past fall. The scholarship covers the full tuition for IMB missionaries who are enrolled in the seminary’s master’s and doctoral programs. Students who have applied for missionary service to the IMB and have yet to receive appointments receive 100 percent tuition for a 36-hour Master of Theological Studies degree, which fulfills the board’s theological education requirement.

In addition to our commitment to those preparing to serve on the field, Southwestern completed renovations on “Mary’s House,” which was opened at the beginning of the 2023 year. A project of the Fish School, the World Missions Center, and with funding from the Texas WMU, the house, named for Mary Hill Davis, the first president of the Texas WMU, Mary’s House will serve as a home for missionaries-in-residence, both strengthening our relationship with the IMB and with the Texas WMU.

In recent months, enrollment numbers have been quite encouraging. With an overall increase of more than 4% in the spring semester (over the same time in 2022), the future of theological education from Seminary Hill is bright and we are hopeful about what God will continue to do in our midst and through our efforts.

We hope to welcome you to the Southwestern campus the next time you visit the Fort Worth area. We cherish your ongoing prayers and support as we seek to provide theological education,

assisting Southern Baptist Convention churches by biblically educating and equipping God-called men and women for Christian ministries, which encourage the priority of the Great Commandment and the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and which bring glory to our great God.

Faithfully,

Danny Roberts

Chairman, Board of Trustees

David S. Dockery

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 2023 Ministry Report of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.)

Cooperative Program:

- 1. 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 (Cooperative Program Promotion – Each Convention entity shall report on its efforts during the year in promoting Cooperative Program missions giving). Providing examples, please describe Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s commitment to promote the Cooperative Program.***

Southwestern Seminary is deeply grateful for the faithful support we receive through the Cooperative Program from the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, which is made possible by the sacrificial giving of faithful Southern Baptists in our congregations. 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 up to 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 CP 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.

- 2. How effective is Southwestern Baptist Theological 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 Baptist Theological 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 interim 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 the Southern Baptist mission and ministries.

3. Please articulate for Southern Baptists how Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary perceives the role of the Cooperative Program in funding theological education. What value does Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's place upon its partnership with Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program?

Southern Baptist theological education is distinctive 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 significantly diminish 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 who 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.

4. Please give examples of how Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary operates within the guidelines of the SBC Business and Financial Plan as described in Section VI, Part 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).

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.

Ethnic Participation:

5. Since 2011, SBC entities have reported on ethnic leadership and their efforts to increase ethnic participation. The original recommendation read: "The Executive Committee to request from the Southern Baptist Convention entities to submit as part of its annual 'data call' [as described in Bylaw 18. E [12] a descriptive report of participation of ethnic churches and church leaders in the life and ministry of the respective SBC entity."

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 Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's ministry—such things as senior administrative staff, other professional staff, faculty, student body, support staff, other customer facing representatives, and written and spoken language resources—demonstrating progress, if any, in ethnic participation since 2011.

Southwestern Seminary is providentially located in the Fort Worth-Dallas Metroplex – one of the most vibrant and ethnically diverse metropolitan areas of the nation. With that geographical setting – and the future hope of every "nation, tribe, people, and language" (Revelation 7:9, CSB) worshiping the Lamb – Southwestern Seminary is committed to doing all it can to serve diverse people groups across the Southern Baptist Convention by providing training and resources that meet their needs.

Southwestern Seminary provides a revised Maestría en Estudios Teológicos (Master of Theological Studies) degree, available to pastors who do not have a bachelor's degree. This

degree is a fully online, Spanish-language program that makes theological education more accessible than ever for Spanish-speaking pastors. There are 350 students currently enrolled in the Maestría en Estudios Teológicos program and more than 100 students preparing for ministry in Mandarin.

In addition to Spanish, Southwestern Seminary also offers other coursework in Korean, Mandarin, and Cantonese, including a Korean-language Doctor of Ministry degree. A vibrant international student life animates Seminary Hill, with international student fellowships for Korean, African, Chinese, and Indian students. The seminary's English Language Institute assists international students become better prepared for the rigors of academic work in English as a second language. Southwestern Seminary students also are regularly exposed to the ministry of ethnically diverse leaders, including African American, Asian American, Latino, and other through their participation in chapel worship services.

The faculty, staff, and student body of Southwestern Seminary is ethnically diverse, and multi-cultural with 41.07 percent of the student body being non-Anglo.

Caring Well Response:

6. How is Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary protecting against sexual abuse and harassment within the organization and as it trains its employees? How does Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary integrate aspects of Caring Well into its policies and practices, and engage its broad network of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary leadership.

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:

- updated admissions policies to prohibit anyone who is listed on a sex offender registry from being admitted as a student;
- evaluating curriculum and identifying opportunities to incorporate sexual abuse prevention training into relevant courses;
- 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. The Chief of Police as well as a team of sworn law enforcement supervisors and officers, who have an average experience of nearly 30 years in major metropolitan departments, provide the Seminary campus community with 24/7 patrol coverage;
- worked to establish a mutual aid relationship with the Fort Worth Police Department with the establishment of a FWPd office on the campus of Southwestern in the Police Administration Building.

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.

Question Specific to the Seminaries:

7. *What has proven to be Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's most reliable metric for indicating future accomplishments or challenges across all Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary 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 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 equipping ministers for the local church remains central to our mission and work, and thereby the number of students who will graduate and serve our Southern Baptist churches.

8. *How is Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary evaluating and responding to the growing demand for online instruction from students pursuing theological education? What challenges and opportunities have you identified for the future as it relates to online versus in-person training?*

Southwestern Seminary has made significant investments in online education. When COVID-19 forced institutions across the nation to transition to online formats, Southwestern was prepared and able to transition all course offerings online, nearly seamlessly. Since the pandemic, Southwestern continues to advance its online efforts with the establishment of the Innovative Learning office, increased multi-lingual offerings, and certificate, baccalaureate, graduate, and doctoral programs all being offered in online formats.

With the global increase in online education, Southwestern has begun to evaluate ways to maximize on campus facilities and amenities as the need for these resources change when students are online. This past semester, the many seminary faculty members and administrators volunteered to serve on institutional task teams designed and directed by Interim President, David S. Dockery. These teams include *Education and Program Innovation*, *Space Utilization*, and *Student Retention*, in addition to other strategic areas of prioritization.

9. *What role do you see undergraduate education having alongside graduate-level theological training at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary? How does the future of undergraduate education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary impact and enhance your ability to prepare God-called men and women for vocational service in Baptist churches and in other Christian ministries throughout the world?*

Texas Baptist College, the undergraduate school of Southwestern Seminary, is uniquely positioned to advance the mission of equipping God-called men and women for Christian service. In addition to robust undergraduate program offerings, TBC students are offered the opportunity to pursue graduate seminary education in a timelier manner with the 5-year undergraduate/Master of Divinity program. With this program, students can complete their undergraduate requirements and earn a Master of Divinity degree in as few as five years.

PROGRAM REPORT

I. Enrollment by Degree Program in SBC funded Full-Time Equivalents

	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017	2017– 2018	2018– 2019	2019– 2020	2020– 2021	2021– 2022
Undergraduate and Certificate Programs								
B.A.	98	81	148	179	163	152	110	106
B.S.	165	146	79	35	13	4	1	0
B.M.	N/A	23	34	33	32	27	19	13
Certificate	20	15	15	11	14	25	11	18
Diploma	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special	14	25	31	20	13	11	5	6
Basic Degree Programs								
M.A.A.B.S.	9	9	10	9	5	4	0	0
M.A.B.C.	62	63	59	53	39	39	30	17
M.A.C.C.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.C.E.	81	84	76	66	49	53	41	28
M.A.C.M.	10	11	9	8	10	8	5	2
M.A.C.S.E.	10	9	10	6	4	1	0	0
M.A.I.S.	6	8	5	8	6	4	2	2
M.A.L.M.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.M.	19	17	16	16	9	5	4	7
M.A.P.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	3	5	5
M.A.Th.	13	11	14	14	11	11	9	3
M.A.W.	4	3	6	6	4	2	1	2
M.Div.	473	424	398	353	260	281	203	152
M.M.	44	39	31	29	31	20	24	25
M.A.C.A.	3	7	6	7	5	5	3	2
M.T.S.	26	33	36	39	30	74	42	27
Advanced Degree Programs								
D.Ed.Min.	13	13	14	12	22	32	60	59
D.Min.	57	39	47	73	79	89	106	104
Ed.D.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21	23
Ph.D./D.M.A.	182	170	155	156	193	223	176	143
Th.M.	20	18	23	31	35	53	67	49
Total SBC								
FTE Enrollment	1,332	1,249	1,222	1,164	1,029	1,126	1,126¹	793
Headcount Enrollment	3,942	4,276	4,076	4,007	3,848	3,907	3,703	3,455

¹ Actual FTE for 20-21 was 945. By action of the CSP, prior year count is reflected here.

GRADUATES

	2014– 2015	2015– 2016	2016– 2017	2017– 2018	2018– 2019	2019– 2020	2020– 2021	2021– 2022
Undergraduate and Certificate Programs								
B.A.	24	20	16	21	21	35	34	31
B.S.	53	51	62	58	52	35	40	0
B.M.	N/A	1	0	1	3	7	7	3
Certificate	12	20	2	20	13	30	14	79
Diploma	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Basic Degree Programs								
M.A.A.B.S.	2	5	1	2	10	1	1	0
M.A.C.C.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.C.E.	55	34	41	49	42	38	40	24
M.A.C.M.	0	2	2	1	0	0	2	1
M.A.C.S.E.	3	3	3	2	3	5	3	0
M.A.I.S.	6	2	3	4	2	4	1	0
M.A.L.M.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.M.	10	9	9	6	5	7	3	1
M.A.M.F.C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.Th.	14	9	10	11	10	11	7	5
M.A.W.	1	0	6	2	4	6	4	2
M.Div.	137	143	112	137	123	117	111	94
M.M.	13	25	20	12	10	10	11	9
M.A.B.C.	9	17	13	25	24	18	25	12
M.T.S.	39	103	165	191	208	203	231	194
M.A.C.A.	N/A	1	0	4	3	3	3	1
M.A.Ph	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	2	1	2	3
Advanced Degree Programs								
D.Ed.Min.	6	2	4	7	3	1	9	9
D.Min.	9	10	26	17	17	24	28	16
Ph.D./D.M.A.	24	18	26	33	22	44	34	33
Th.M.	10	6	17	22	17	20	35	24
Total Graduates	430	481	539	626	594	620	645	541

MATTER REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

The Convention referred the following item to The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, for consideration, action, and report back to the next annual meeting.

1. SBC Referral: To Examine the Formation of a Library Science Program (Items 83 and 127, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2022, *SBC Annual*, p. 83, 92)

Motion: M. Ryan Ogle, Tennessee

“That the Council of Seminary Presidents examine the formation of a Master of Library Science program apart from the American Library Association.”

Response: As an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to the training and equipping God-called men and women for Christian ministry and service. In so doing, we regularly assess the needs of the churches of the Convention and our students to add degree programs accordingly and within the bounds of our mission and ministry assignments. While we affirm the need for Christians to serve in library science and other positions within academia, we do not believe a significant demand for this degree exists among our Southern Baptist constituency, nor does it fall within our primary Southern Baptist Convention mission and ministry assignments at this time.

SEMINARY COMPARATIVE DATA

I. Enrollment:

a. Total SBC Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) both funded and unfunded.

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>3 Yr. Rolling Average</u>
GS	772	636	704	704
MBTS	2,240	2,196	2,126	2,187
NOBTS	1,459	2,032	1,667	1,719
SEBTS	1,921	2,159	2,438	2,173
SBTS	4,143	3,662	4,003	3,936
SWBTS	1,821	1,791	1,930	1,847
Total	12,356	12,476	12,868	12,566

b. Actual FTEs approved by the Council of Seminary Presidents for Cooperative Program (CP) Seminary Funding Formula:

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>3 Yr. Rolling Average</u>
GS	298	296	342	400*
MBTS	1,674	1,615	1,615	1,635
NOBTS	867	1,145	1,145	1,052
SEBTS	763	1,268	1,268	1,100
SBTS	2,102	2,762	2,762	2,542
SWBTS	793	1,126	1,126	1,015
Total	6,497	8,212	8,258	7,744

* 312 is the actual average, but 400 is the minimum number of FTEs funded for CP purposes

c. CP Allocation per SBC student.

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>
	<u>Total SBC Students</u>	<u>CP Allocation</u>	<u>CP Allocation Per Student</u>
GS	772	\$ 3,753,969	\$ 4,862.65
MBTS	2,240	\$ 7,919,903	\$ 3,535.67
NOBTS	1,459	\$ 6,601,538	\$ 4,524.70
SEBTS	1,921	\$ 7,438,244	\$ 3,872.07
SBTS	4,143	\$ 10,613,176	\$ 2,561.71
SWBTS	1,821	\$ 6,995,362	\$ 3,841.49
Total	12,356	\$ 43,322,192	\$ 3,506.17

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>	<u>Total</u>
GS	424	1,758	2,182
MBTS	1,464	3,453	4,917
NOBTS	224	2,433	2,657
SEBTS	2,013	3,357	5,370
SBTS	1,339	4,402	5,741
SWBTS	658	2,797	3,455
Total	6,122	18,200	24,322

e. Basic Degrees awarded for the 2021-2022 academic year

	MDiv <u>(3 year)</u>	<u>ThM</u>	MA & other <u>2-year</u>
GS	46	4	79
MBTS	130	36	171
NOBTS	75	24	99
SEBTS	172	18	233
SBTS	276	83	126
SWBTS	94	24	252
Total	793	189	960

f. Total Tuition Revenue

	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
GS	\$ 4,552,786	\$ 4,491,150	\$ 4,556,707
MBTS	\$ 19,389,000	\$ 17,329,857	\$ 17,325,473
NOBTS	\$ 10,115,000	\$ 9,583,147	\$ 9,781,776
SEBTS	\$ 16,465,712	\$ 16,441,322	\$ 17,351,408
SBTS	\$ 25,113,070	\$ 22,347,817	\$ 22,816,633
SWBTS	\$ 10,644,367	\$ 11,322,983	\$ 12,125,047
Total	\$ 52,223,149	\$ 45,094,162	\$ 69,618,561

g. Credit Hour Costs: 2022-2023

	<u>Non SBC Students</u>	<u>SBC Student</u>
GS	\$530	\$295
MBTS	\$485	\$285
NOBTS	\$465	\$285
SEBTS	\$609	\$304
SBTS	\$494	\$286
SWBTS	\$610	\$305

h. Annual Cost per Student (For a married student on campus, tuition, fees, book, & housing)

	<u>2022-2023</u> <u>Non SBC</u>	<u>2021-2022</u> <u>SBC</u>
GS	\$ 24,380.00	\$ 19,219.00
MBTS	\$ 19,078.00	\$ 15,478.00
NOBTS	\$ 17,940.00	\$ 14,860.00
SEBTS	\$ 18,686.85	\$ 19,116.00
SBTS	\$ 23,926.00	\$ 18,934.00
SWBTS	\$ 27,140.00	\$ 21,420.00

i. Percent of total budget that relates to personnel expenses based on each seminary's E&G budget (salaries and benefits):

	<u>2022-2023</u> <u>Low</u>	<u>2022-2023</u> <u>Median</u>	<u>2022-2023</u> <u>High</u>
GS	72%	73.1%	72%
MBTS	68%	68%	68%
NOBTS	67.5%	67.5%	67.5%
SEBTS			69%
SBTS			49.02%
SWBTS	69.5%	65.66%	72.06%

j. Statement of Income for 2021-2022:

	GS*	MBTS	NOBTS	SEBTS	SBTS	SWBTS
Operating Income	\$ 292,453				\$ 48,771,923	
Tuition & Fees	\$ 3,869,873	\$ 17,329,857	\$ 9,583,147	\$ 16,465,712	\$ 22,347,817	\$ 12,414,811
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$ 605,338	\$ 2,353,599	\$ 2,998,404	\$ 5,279,115	\$ 7,546,549	\$ 6,074,224
Cooperative Program	\$ 3,791,302	\$ 7,919,903	\$ 6,924,659	\$ 7,438,244	\$ 10,613,176	\$ 6,995,362
Private Gifts	\$ 206,234	\$ 2,531,433	\$ 25,779,336	\$ 1,221,309	\$ 4,327,563	\$ 7,293,485
Endowment Income	\$ 1,470,400	\$ 2,046,279	\$ 1,843,400	\$ 280,854	\$ (918,684)	\$ 7,018,947
Investments	\$ 132,292	\$ (1,548,089)	\$ (2,773,608)		#	
Return on Beneficial Interest Trusts	\$ 2,108,411	\$ (9,396)			#	
Other Income	\$ 105,764	\$ 2,235,134	\$ 5,588,592	\$ 354,094	\$ 666,144	\$ 507,813
Total Income	\$ 12,289,614	\$ 32,858,720	\$ 49,943,930	\$ 31,039,327	\$ 35,582,365	\$ 40,304,642
% of CP to Total Income	30.80%	24.10%	14%	23.97%	29.83%	17%

* For Operating Fund Without Donor Restrictions

* Included in Endowment Income



SEMINARY EXTENSION

**A ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention:
Incorporated under the Council of Seminary Presidents
901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville, TN 37203**

**RANDAL A. WILLIAMS, Executive Director of Seminary Extension
R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR., President of the Council of Seminary Presidents**

INTRODUCTION

Seminary Extension is a ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our mission is to provide an opportunity for theological education and ministry training to individuals who cannot or will not attend a traditional institution of learning. Our students can learn from anywhere. Students are not required to enter into a program in order to take classes. In fact, most students simply take individual courses for personal spiritual development. For students that want to enroll in a program, they will be required to take a prescribed group of biblical, theological, and ministry training courses that are biblical, affordable, and immediately applicable.

Seminary Extension began its work on June 15, 1951. The Southern Baptist Convention realized that many of its pastors, leaders, and teachers did not have any formal biblical, theological, or ministry training. Seminary Extension was created to make sure that an opportunity was available even if seminary was not an option. Lee Gallman was asked to be its first director. Through each successive director, Seminary Extension has remained true to its call. We want to make biblical, theological, and ministry training available to anyone who wants to develop spiritually for service in the local church. In 2007, Randal A. Williams became Seminary Extension's seventh director. Under its 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 still recognize the value of its courses and some accept them for credit. Acceptance is generally based on the following criteria. First, Seminary Extension courses are of excellent academic quality. Courses are written by Southern Baptists, most of whom teach in our SBC seminaries. Second, Seminary Extension uses proven evaluation methods to insure the integrity of the work done by students. Third, student records are permanent, accessible, and accurate. Seminary Extension cannot guarantee that other institutions will receive transfer credit for its courses. Students should always check with the institution to which they expect to transfer course credits before they enroll in courses with Seminary Extension for that purpose.

Seminary Extension is licensed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

PROGRAM REPORT

The statistical data below shows the number of course enrollments and the total number of students enrolled during the 2021-2022 academic year.

Course Enrollments	563
Total Number of Students	330



SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

901 Commerce Street, Suite 400, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

TAFHEY HALL, Director

Governed by the Council of Seminary Presidents

August 2021 – July 2022

Yearly Highlights

- Acquired 8 document boxes of the Annie Armstrong Correspondence Research Collection (Photocopies), 1890-1906
- Accessioned 6 document boxes of State Baptist Convention Woman's Missionary Union Reports, 1906-1993
- Accessioned the 2019 SBC Ministers' Wives Luncheon Notebook
- Acquired 1 document box of the Ernest Sylvester Flynt Sermon Collection, 1927-1952; and 1 document box of the Tom Madden Sermon Outlines Collection
- Acquired 12 records center boxes of additions to the J. Barton Starr Collection, 2010-2018
- Added 3 records center boxes and 4 document boxes of material to the Everett Gill, Sr. and Jr. Collection
- Acquired 1 document box of the Hoyt Porter (SBC Missionary to Russia) Collection, 1921-1925
- Acquired 2 document boxes of the Cambodia Baptist Union Collection, 2012-2020
- Acquired 1 document box of additions (statistical files and files on Baptists in Bulgaria) to Albert Wardin, Jr.'s Baptists Around the World Collection
- Acquired 1 document box of the Paul Kim Collection
- Added 1 document box of Russell Moore ERLC President Inauguration Materials, 2013
- Acquired 1 document box of the Consultation of Concerned Baptists Collection, 1990
- Added 1 document box each to the Committee of 15 Files, 1970-1977; and the Cooperative Program Promotional Materials Collection
- Acquired the Seminary Extension Audio-Visual Collection, 1982-1991
- Completed microfilming of 9 sets of Baptist church records, and the 2020 state Baptist convention newspapers
- Completed processing 2 archive collections, the William J. Reynolds Collection and the Grady Cothen/Lloyd Elder Administrative Series Records of the Baptist Sunday School Board/Lifeway Records Collection. Re-processed and updated the finding aid to the A. H. Newman Papers
- Enhanced the appearance of the display cases in the hallway of the Library and Archives by painting the interior white and replacing the light shields inside the cases. Completed new historical display in these cases entitled, "Designed for Ministry: Southern Baptist Church Architecture, the Early Years." Added a new display case which features a monthly rotating "Baptist Church Highlight" and includes a brief history and historic photograph of a local Baptist church
- Completed digitization and online accessibility of 30 new digital resource projects
- Completed an inventory of the book collection, verifying and comparing items located on the shelves with computer entries in the SBHLA's online catalog

- Hosted the annual meetings of the Association of Librarians and Archivists at Baptist Institutions and the Tennessee Baptist Historical Society
- Added 113 annuals, 16 archive collections, 21 associational history files, 284 audio-visuals/kits, 343 books, 672 electronic resources, 10 informational files, 25 microfilm reels, 206 pamphlets, 1,531 periodicals, and 74 photographs

Research Use

The collection continues to attract scholars and students from a wide range of colleges and universities. Researchers from 23 different institutions including 2 international researchers conducted research in the collection during the past year. The collection was visited by 68 registered researchers and staff provided 1,045 patron contacts.

Acquisitions

The Archives acquired four archive collections documenting the work of Baptists from an international scope: the Hoyt Porter Collection (1921-1925), Cambodian Baptist Union Collection (2012-2020), additions to the Albert Wardin, Jr. Baptists Around the World Collection, and the Paul Kim Collection. Hoyt Porter served as an SBC missionary to Russia from 1921-1925. Most of the collection (1 document box) includes correspondence between Porter and Everett Gill, Sr., who served as an administrator with the SBC Foreign Mission Board to Europe. The Cambodian Baptist Union Collection includes newsletters, scrapbooks, and reports; additions to Albert Wardin's Baptists Around the World Collection includes statistical files and files on Baptists in Bulgaria. The Archives acquired one document box of newspaper articles, sermons, and photographs related to the life and ministry of Dr. Paul Kim, longtime SBC pastor to Asian Americans.

Two archive collections documenting the work and ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union were acquired. The Annie Armstrong Correspondence Research Collection (8 document boxes) includes photocopies of correspondence between Annie Armstrong and Southern Baptist leaders, years 1890-1906. The material was received from Dr. Keith Harper, professor of Baptist Studies at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, who acquired the copies from several Baptist archives and has used the material in his research and writing on Ms. Armstrong. SBHLA staff organized the photocopies and arranged and described the material, and generated preservation quality scans of the letters. Staff are currently working on producing the finding aid to the collection, and making the files web ready for inclusion on the Digital Resources page of the SBHLA website. When complete, this project will be a valuable resource to scholars and anyone interested in late 19th/early 20th century Southern Baptist Convention women's work. In addition to the Armstrong material, a collection of State Baptist Convention WMU annual reports was accessioned. This collection includes WMU reports from the Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia Baptist Conventions, and covers years 1906-1993. Most of the reports are from the 1910s-1950s. A few local Baptist association WMU reports are included. The reports generally include longer and more detailed narratives than those presented in the state Baptist convention annuals.

Two sermon collections, the Ernest Sylvester Flynt Collection and the Tom Madden Sermon Outlines Collection, were acquired. Flynt was born February 18, 1891, in Mt. Olive, Mississippi. He attended Clarke College (Newton, Mississippi), Mississippi College, and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned the B.S. degree. He was ordained to preach by the Clinton Baptist Church in Mississippi in the Fall of 1917. Flynt pastored churches in Mississippi and Kentucky and also served as a Mountain Missions worker in Carter, Boyd, and Lawrence Counties in Kentucky. The collection (1 document box) includes his sermons and class notes. Tom Madden, a native of Enid, Oklahoma, earned degrees from Oklahoma Baptist

University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as pastor of several churches in Tennessee, and as director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention from 1979-1989.

Additions were made to two existing archive collections, the Everett Gill, Sr. and Jr. Collection and J. Barton Starr Collection. The Everett Gill, Sr. and Jr. Collection addition (3 records center boxes and 4 document boxes) includes diaries, correspondence, scrapbooks, sermons, and subject files related to the missionary careers of both Everett Gill, Sr. and Jr. J. Barton Starr and his wife Rebekah served as Southern Baptist missionaries to Hong Kong. The addition includes personal papers, missionary files and records, correspondence, reports, and publications.

Five archive collections were acquired or added to collections documenting the work and ministry of SBC agencies or denominational activities. The Archives acquired one document box of material related to the inauguration of Russell D. Moore as president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in 2013. The Seminary Extension Audio Visual Collection was acquired. The series includes nearly 200 video cassette tapes of SE course and training materials. One document box of the Consultation of Concerned Baptists, 1990, was received from the Executive Committee. The collection includes a program, proceedings, statements, addresses, reports, and news articles. One document box of Committee of 15 files, also received from the Executive Committee, were added to the Co15 Collection. One document box of Cooperative Program promotional materials was also accessioned. The 2019 SBC Ministers' Wives Luncheon notebook was also received.

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. Preservation work was completed on 57 photograph files of Home Mission Board photographs including photographs of missionaries, pastors, churches, Mexican missions, Native American missions, the Rachel Sims mission in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Vacation Bible Schools, 1913-1960s. Microfilming of the 2020 state Baptist convention newspapers was completed resulting in the addition of 10 reels of microfilm to the collection. Microfilming of 9 sets of Baptist church records was completed resulting in the addition of 15 reels of microfilm to the collection.

Access to the Collection

Processing was completed on two records series of the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB)/Lifeway materials: the Grady Cothen/Lloyd Elder Administrative Records, and the William J. Reynolds Collection. The Cothen/Elder Records (80 records center boxes) contain correspondence, minutes and financial reports, files on Sunday School Board departments, and subject files on agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Inter-Agency Council. The collection spans years 1890-2000, with the majority of material covering the 1970s-1990s. The Reynolds Collection (1 document box) includes addresses and writings by Reynolds, lists of his published music, a resume of events in the history of the BSSB Church Music Department compiled by Reynolds, and a transcript of an interview with Hines Sims, T.L. Holcomb, and Reynolds on the early history of the Church Music Department. Reynolds served as Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Ardmore, Oklahoma (1946-1947) and First Baptist Church Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (1947-1955). He joined the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1955 as Associate Editor of Church Music. He served the Church Music Department for 25 years. From 1980-1998 Reynolds served as Professor of Church Music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He died March 28, 2009. The finding aids to these collections were also completed and are being made web ready for inclusion on the SBHLA website.

The A.H. Newman Papers were re-processed and the finding aid to the collection was updated. Albert Henry Newman (1852-1933) was a teacher and church historian. He graduated from Rochester Baptist Theological Seminary in 1875. He taught church history and other subjects for more than 50 years at both Baptist and non-Baptist institutions, and was considered one of the best informed authorities on Baptist doctrines of his day. Newman authored several books including *A History of the Baptist Churches in the United States* and *A History of Antipedobaptism*. The Newman Papers (2 document boxes) include addresses, clippings, correspondence (including family history material), lectures and lecture notes on church history, pamphlets, personal recollections, and sermons.

The SBHLA awarded 11 individuals with Lynn E. May Study Grants for the year 2021-2022, ranging from \$500-\$750 per person.

An inventory of the book collection was completed. This included verifying and comparing items located on the shelves with computer entries in the SBHLA's online catalog for the collection's rare, reference, and main (including oversize) book collections. The inventory identified a total of 38,511 books in these categories. Titles in the Lifeway Press Collection (which are not included in the online catalog but are arranged alphabetically) and Lifeway Curriculum Studies Collection (which include a local-holdings-only catalog record) add an estimated 11,750 volumes to the holdings.

Thirty new projects of any word searchable PDF files and audio visual content were added to the Digital Resources page of the SBHLA website. These projects include:

- Alabama Colored Baptist State Convention Annuals (African American), 1877-1929
- Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention Proceedings and Reports (African American), 1899-1940
- Canadian National Baptist Convention (SBC) Annuals, 1966-2000
- Nevada Baptist Convention Annuals, 1979-2017
- Ohio Baptist Convention Annuals, 1954-2012
- Penn-South Jersey Baptist Convention Annuals, 1971-2003
- Utah-Idaho Baptist Convention Annuals, 1965-2015
- Wyoming Baptist Convention Annuals, 1984-2009
- Southern Baptist Convention Audio Recordings, 1954-1974
- Pastors' Conference Audio Recordings, 1954-1966
- Southern Baptist Forum Audio Records, 1985-1990
- Spring Street USA Video Recordings, 1973-1975
- Pastors' Conference Programs, 1954-1966
- Southern Baptist Forum Programs, 1985-1990
- Southern Baptist Forum Sermons and Addresses, 1986-1990
- William Carey Taylor Letters
- R. B. C. Howell Memorial to the First Baptist Church Nashville, Tennessee, 1820-1863
- Your Foreign Missions Bulletin, 1961-1965
- Baptists United News, 1972-1986
- Christian Frontiers, 1946-1949
- Home Department Magazine and The Better Home, 1910-1946
- Quarterly Review, 1941-1959
- Search, 1981-1993
- SBC Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Convention Presidents Oral History Collection, 1974-1992
- Indexes of Graduate Theses in Baptist Theological Seminaries, 1894-1979
- Index to SBC Annuals, 1845-1984
- Light and Salt Indexes, 1978-1995

- Resumes of Significant Events in the History of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1812-1972
- Southern Baptist Periodical Index, 1985-2000
- Baptist VIEWpolls, 1969-1984

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

LORI BOVA, Chair

BRENT LEATHERWOOD, President

INTRODUCTION

For more than a century, this Commission has played a vital role in our nation's public square as it speaks from our convention of churches on the important issues of the day.

Our mission requires us to *assist* churches in applying the moral demands of the gospel, to apply Christian principles to moral and social problems and matters of public policy, and to cooperatively promote religious liberty.

In the decades we have carried out that ministry assignment, we have witnessed historic moments in our society—times when the importance of the various events was not sensed right away, and other moments that impressed upon us the sheer weight of their significance. This last year was certainly the latter.

In 2022, we saw the downfall of the *Roe* abortion regime with the *Dobbs* Supreme Court decision—a truly monumental event that shook the foundations of our nation's legal landscape. The effects of this legal opinion are continuing to play out at the federal, state, and even local levels as the question of abortion policy is no longer centered on our nation's capital.

Instead, state officials and local leaders are now debating and crafting policy that reflects the views of their constituents. Rather than engaging with a U.S. senator hundreds of miles from home, it is now far more crucial to talk with your neighbor right next door.

The ramifications of the decision are significant and, in many ways, our churches are positioned perfectly for this new era we find ourselves in. And that is why this Commission has, for years, sought to be a partner, ally, and servant of our churches in preparation for this moment.

As is always the case, our team maintained a laser focus on advocating for the dignity and sanctity of every preborn life. Whether it was through our annual Public Policy Agenda for lawmakers or the numerous resources we produce researching the effect various policies will have on preborn children, vulnerable mothers, and family formation, the ERLC has been consistent in displaying and modeling a true pro-life ethic.

In the spring of 2022, when an unauthorized draft of the opinion was leaked from the court, our team leapt into action to provide real-time analysis of the opinion and, more importantly, convene a time of prayer with various pastors and leaders around the SBC for the justices on the Court and for the real possibility that the catastrophic *Roe v. Wade* decision would actually be overturned. Thankfully, as we all now know, those prayers were answered with the June release of the *Dobbs* opinion.

Our prayers were also answered about the Psalm 139 Project. This ministry of the ERLC seeks to place life-saving ultrasound machines in pregnancy care clinics around the country that save lives, serve mothers, and share the hope of the gospel—and always doing so without utilizing a single cent of Cooperative Program funding. Throughout its history, this initiative has placed

around one to two machines per year. But two years ago, we set an ambitious goal to place 50 ultrasound machines by the 50-year mark of *Roe*.

In June, just before the SBC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, we were privileged to announce that we had secured the funding from supporters, allies, and partners—including several of our Baptist state convention friends—to meet that incredible goal. Amazingly, just days later, the Supreme Court would announce the end of *Roe*. This was a moment that had been prayed for and longed for by so many in our Baptist family for years.

But, as important of a moment as this was, your ERLC was active in all the other areas our churches have come to expect—whether it was continuing to register our strong opposition to the threats posed to religious liberty by such harmful proposals as the Equality Act and Transgender Mandate or pushing back against the advance of religious freedom challenges against pastors, people of faith, or religious institutions in various courts across the land.

In one particularly relevant case, the Supreme Court sided with the arguments made by us and our allies that religious liberty rights extend even to a death row inmate in his final hours. Why was this noteworthy? Because the individual had accepted Christ in prison through a ministry of one of our very own SBC churches in Texas.

Another aspect of our mission calls us to deal with the moral and social problems roiling our culture. 2022 presented numerous challenges on this front. Congress advanced, and the President signed into law, a misnamed piece of legislation called the Respect for Marriage Act. This discouraging proposal cements same-sex marriage into our nation's code and, perhaps more alarmingly, opens new horizons for legal challenges to emerge against religious organizations and people of faith.

Being vigilant about the effects of this law will be a top concern for us in the coming year. But, to ensure our churches were proactive in response to this, we created a gender and sexuality guide for our pastors and ministers and prepared a resource on the importance of updating church bylaws to protect our houses of worship from legal challenges.

As is apparent to everyone, our nation continues to see challenges stemming from addictions, whether it be gambling, drugs, or new ones created by emerging technologies. I am particularly proud of the work of our team in these areas because several of these concerns were brought to us by our state convention and state ethics partners as we've placed a renewed focus on engaging with leaders at that level.

Technology, while a significant blessing in many ways, is also creating new avenues that lead to cruel and exploitive behavior. Our team has continued its engagement with government leaders and digital firms in an effort to draw more attention to the great need for ethical frameworks based on biblical truths that respect human dignity and, thus, will allow humans to flourish.

For example, a new resource from one of our teammates, *Following Jesus in a Digital Age*, guides pastors and members in the pew alike on a journey through considering what technology actually is and how it is discipling us. It focuses on the ways technology can alter our understanding of truth, responsibility, and our identity. It includes a helpful six-session Bible study version of the book that provides supporting videos, as well.

Another area where assisting our churches remains front of mind is on the critical matter of combatting sexual abuse. The threat posed by this scourge for our churches cannot be understated. We are committed to working with the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force to both update our assets and create new resources that help serve our churches on what is a complex subject, but one we know must be confronted.

We are optimistic about the progress that will be made in this area in the coming months. We owe it to survivors, we are compelled by our responsibility to protect the vulnerable in our midst, and we are called by Scripture to do everything possible to combat this evil.

Just as 2022 was a year full of challenges and opportunities, we expect more of the same in 2023. Seasons and situations will change, giving way to new opportunities and challenges. And just as we experience those culturally and legally, we experience them personally, as well. That was true for me in 2022.

Because of that, I want to close with a word of personal gratitude. I am mindful of the weighty responsibility and incredible privilege it is to serve as president of this storied Baptist institution. Not because it is some position of influence, though I suppose that is true in some respects, but because it gives me the opportunity to be a servant to all of the churches and institutions that make up this Convention.

That is perfectly aligned with the heart of this Commission: to serve you. We sought to do that throughout 2022, and we look forward, with anticipation, to the opportunity to continue doing so in the seasons to come in 2023.

Joyfully in Christ,
Brent Leatherwood
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 2023 Ministry Report of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.)

I. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.

Serving Southern Baptists is at the heart of the ERLC. It is our desire to equip pastors and other church leaders with the tools they need to help their own congregations understand complex cultural issues through a biblical lens. Here are some of the ways we sought to do that in 2022:

- *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization Response*
 - In preparation for the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* U.S. Supreme Court case, our team set out to serve Southern Baptists by providing ongoing analysis and updates of what the case could mean for abortion in America. Our *Dobbs* Resource Page was made public in April 2021 and became the hub where we could easily update and serve our audience so that church leaders knew how to help their congregations pray for this case and care for women and children in their own communities.
 - Our advocacy in this space has led to unique partnerships with leaders who are committed to establishing a culture of life. As an example, Mississippi Attorney General Lynn Fitch, who was at the center of the *Dobbs* case, recorded a video message for our churches about how their advocacy for life makes a difference in the public square.
- Light Magazine content
 - Human Dignity Around the World (Winter 2021-2022): We chose to make this issue of Light about human dignity around the globe because of the clear assault it is under on a daily basis. We are calling Christians to wake up to what others are facing—and how we might be participating in it—so that we can uncover the works of darkness, repent where needed, and walk as children of the light, in part, by advocating for the sanctity of every single life (Eph. 5:10-11). As we do, we show the world a truer picture of who

the God of the universe is and remove stumbling blocks to the gospel being proclaimed and heard.

- Salt and Light (Summer 2022): This issue served as a measure of encouragement and a reminder of our call as Christians to seek the welfare and flourishing of those around us through the way we live, speak, and advocate. We hope this edition helped Christians understand why biblical principals are vital to a flourishing life and how we should to act in a way consistent with those biblical principles in the public square, including our interactions with elected officials, policy matters, and voting decisions.
- Sexual Ethics event
 - Sexual abuse is the greatest current challenge to our convention and it is a scourge that must be confronted. Proper sexual ethics helps to prevent sexual abuse.
 - Every day, we're faced with new challenges as our society bombards us with content, entertainment, and messages that challenge a faithful understanding of the biblical sexual ethic. It's easy to feel overwhelmed as we walk through what seems like uncharted territory. But no matter what we face in our ever-shifting culture, God's design for human sexuality has never changed. Through it all, the redemptive message of the gospel still calls us to a more beautiful picture of sexuality than the world could ever imagine, one rooted in how God made us uniquely as men and women in his very image.
 - In June 2022, we hosted an online event called "Discipling Your Church for a World in Crisis" in which SBC experts on this topic to discuss how to communicate the biblical sexual ethic in our highly secularized context.

II. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.

In a similar manner as our sending agencies who provide ways for Southern Baptists to engage the mission field both here at home and across the globe, the ERLC brings a missions mindset to the work we do in the public square. Just like our missionaries are sent to chaotic nations or our church planters establish churches in the midst of chaotic contexts, we feel it is both our responsibility and a mighty privilege to be a kingdom voice and carry forth the Good News of the gospel into an increasingly hostile culture. The following items are some of the key ways we assisted churches by communicating our moral and ethical concerns in the public arena:

- SCOTUS: *Dobbs* and *Ramirez*
 - In preparation for the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* Supreme Court case, our team set out to serve Southern Baptists by providing ongoing analysis and updates of what the case could mean for abortion in America. Our *Dobbs* Resource Page was made public in April 2021 and became the hub where we could easily update and serve our audience so that church leaders knew how to help their congregations pray for this case and care for women and children in their own communities.
 - In preparation for the *Ramirez v. Collier* case out of Texas, our team created a landing page with information on the case's importance to upholding religious liberty. This page was the hub for our resources explaining the case, its religious liberty implications, and the advocacy conducted by the ERLC on behalf of our churches, specifically through the amicus brief which we submitted to the court.

- Advocacy for the pro life riders in appropriations bills, spending in Congress
 - The 117th Congress, because of its makeup, created challenges for our public policy advocacy. Nevertheless, we were pleased that our efforts, along with others, ensured that the traditional pro-life riders—such as the Hyde Amendment and Weldon Amendment—were included in the final 2022-2023 fiscal year spending bill. While our opponents would love to see taxpayer funding go directly to pay for abortions, we are resolved to continue our efforts to keep Americans from violating their consciences and funding the taking of innocent preborn lives.
- Equality Act
 - In February 2021, the House passed The Equality Act—a bill that would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes under federal civil rights law. The bill would curtail religious freedom protections, hinder the work of healthcare professionals and faith-based hospitals, undermine civil rights protections for women and girls, and ultimately steamroll the consciences of millions of Americans. A top priority in our Congressional engagement in 2022 remained, once again, our opposition to the Equality Act, the single most destructive proposal for religious liberty ever considered by Congress.
 - At the same time there were other challenges, including the misnamed Respect for Marriage Act (RFMA). This harmful legislation was opposed by the ERLC and many of our partner and ally organizations across the country. Not only because it enshrined same-sex marriage into the federal code, it also opened up new avenues for legal challenges against faith based organizations, and people who continue to be guided by a biblical view of marriage. Ultimately, this legislation passed Congress and was signed into law by President Biden. It is still too early to know the ultimate effects of this law, but the ERLC will remain vigilant about monitoring it on behalf of our convention.
- “Disciplining Your Church for a World in Sexual Crisis”
 - The ERLC recognizes that the wider culture is constantly communicating a message of sexuality that runs counter to the Bible’s clear teaching. To help pastors address the questions they might face about gender, sexuality, and purity, the ERLC hosted an online webinar with various experts: Andrew Walker, professor at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Dean In Serra, pastor of City Church in Tallahassee, Fla.; and Katie McCoy, director of women’s ministry for Texas Baptists.
- Uyghur persecution at the hands of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
 - The ERLC continued to call for action countering China’s genocidal campaign against the Uyghur people, a primarily Muslim group. The effort included a letter and a webinar urging NBC to report on the human rights abuses in its coverage of the Winter Olympics and letters calling for presidential and congressional actions in support of the Uyghurs.
 - In 2021, the messengers of the SBC passed a “Resolution On The Uyghur Genocide.” The ERLC has built upon and used that statement of commitment to propel our advocacy in the nation’s capital on the issue. In meeting after meeting, whether with the White House, State Department, or members of Congress, we have continually urged our nation’s leaders to confront China about the horrors of the Uyghur genocide and the great harm that the CCP does to human dignity.

- Additionally, the ERLC provided a number of resources on this topic to equip churches to advocate for religious liberty protections for Uyghurs. These included a webinar in light of the 2022 Winter Olympics held in China: “Oppression & The Olympics: A Discussion of China’s Human Rights Atrocities Ahead of the Winter Games” (see section III for more information). Additionally, we provided updates and analysis on various human rights reports such as the United Nations report released last August which detailed “serious human rights violations.”
- **Conscience Protections:** An area that is increasingly rising to the top of our concerns is the need for stronger conscience protections throughout our laws, but particularly in the area of healthcare. The transgender mandate continues to be an executive policy that threatens to override the conscience of Christians and other healthcare workers who do not agree with the changing definitions of sexuality and gender within our society. Preventing this harmful proposal from being implemented, be it through direct appeals to the administration or litigation that challenges it in the courts, will continue to be a leading concern for this Commission.

III. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.

While our team was in an interim season in 2022, they were able to produce several excellent resources and events to assist churches as they served their local communities for the gospel. In addition, a major focus of 2022 was fortifying relationships in the SBC and therefore a more concerted effort was made to connect with our state conventions. Below are some of the ways in which we did this:

- **Online events**
 - “Oppression & The Olympics: A Discussion of China’s Human Rights Atrocities Ahead of the Winter Games”: While the eyes of the world always turn to the Olympics, the 2022 games were being watched even more closely due to China’s repeated human rights violations and the ongoing genocide against the Uyghurs. This event raised the profile of the ongoing genocide of the Uyghurs in China and helped our audience understand the nature of the CCP’s disturbing actions and how Christians can pray for the persecuted church and other vulnerable groups in China. The ERLC has consistently advocated on behalf of the Uyghurs and condemned the CCP’s unconscionable human rights abuses against them and other ethnic minorities since 2019. The SBC was the first denomination to label the CCP’s heinous actions as a genocide of the Uyghur people, and the ERLC continues that advocacy.
 - “Pursuing Unity”: A discussion of racial reconciliation efforts and the SBC was the focus of this online event in February 2022. The evil of racism has long plagued humanity. Yet Jesus, through the power of the gospel, shows us a better way—a way to find true reconciliation and unity. But that isn’t without its challenges. This online event allowed participants to think through questions like: What does racial reconciliation look like on a daily basis—in our homes, our churches, and our communities? What are some practical ways we can pursue unity—not just in our theology, but also in our actions? Just as the *Imago Dei*, the image of God placed in every person and providing them with inherent value, influences our work to save the preborn and care for the vulnerable, it also drives our work to advance unity and racial reconciliation.
 - “Discipling Your Church for a World in Sexual Crisis”: Every day, we’re faced with new challenges as our society bombards us with content, entertainment, and messages that challenge a faithful understanding of the biblical sexual ethic. It’s easy to feel overwhelmed as we walk through what seems like uncharted territory. This online

event helped Christians realize that no matter what we face in our ever-shifting culture, God's design for human sexuality has never changed. Through it all, the redemptive message of the gospel still calls us to a more beautiful picture of sexuality than the world could ever imagine, one rooted in how God made us uniquely as men and women in His very image.

- “How Christians Can Serve Refugees”: Over the past several years, the world has seen a significant increase in the number of refugees, most notably in Europe as a result of the war in Ukraine and in the Middle East as a result of the U.S. departure from Afghanistan. This online event asked Christians how they can help, what responsibility do we have to care for and serve refugees, and how can we get involved in practical ways in our local communities.
- Baptist State Conventions: We've also placed a renewed interest in partnership with Baptist state conventions as a way to make sure that we are attuned to the needs of churches in their local context.
 - State Convention Annual Meetings: Several staff members attended nine different annual meetings over the course of the fall and the newly elected ERLC president, Brent Leatherwood, was honored to speak at three of them. These conventions proved to be an excellent time for ERLC staff to listen to the needs of pastors and ministry leaders at the state level.
 - Informal listening tour: Throughout the fall of 2022, Brent Leatherwood reached out to Baptist state executives and asked them to put him in contact with several pastors in their state that he could call and learn how the ERLC can better serve them in this new season of the organization.
- Online and Print Resources: We published several new resources in 2022 that were available as free downloads or printed books.
 - “The ERLC & The Cooperative Program: 75 Years of Southern Baptist Advocacy in the Public Square”: This past year marked the 75th anniversary of the ERLC becoming an entity of the Cooperative Program. To mark the occasion, the ERLC produced a booklet which examines the history of the organization and the advocacy of the ERLC (previously known as the Christian Life Commission) on issues of core concern to Southern Baptists. This resource is meant to encourage Southern Baptists and to highlight the long history of their faithful presence in the public arena.
 - “A Theological Framework for Sex and Gender”: The ERLC published this new resource in the fall of 2022. The guide is intended to assist pastors and other ministry leaders in responding biblically to questions regarding issues such as gender dysphoria or discomfort, same-sex unions and what it means to be male or female. The guide contains a section of theological fundamentals regarding sexuality and gender, as well as offering advice on how a church's bylaws should be updated to provide protection for its ministries. This resource was available for download at ERLC.com as a printable asset for use in any church.
 - “The Importance of Bylaws”: The ERLC worked with Alliance Defending Freedom to create a guide for churches to update their bylaws in light of challenges related to sexual orientation and gender identity lawsuits. This short resource features the five areas where churches can provide clear frameworks outlining their faith and religious convictions to protect themselves so that they can continue in ministry that is faithful to God's Word and brings about gospel transformation.

- “A Resource for Southern Baptists on Religious Liberty”: Religious liberty has been threatened lately by those who would seek to undermine it as antithetical to the influence of religion in the public square, as well as those who see it as a threat to principled pluralism. The ERLC created this resource to be a guide for a framework of Baptist principles on religious liberty drawn from *The Baptist Faith & Message*. Additionally, the framework provides links to other resources that pastors and leaders could recommend to their congregations on the topic.
- Psalm 139 Project: A number of our ultrasound placements by the Psalm 139 Project in 2022 were alongside Baptist state conventions in North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas. These partnerships have proved to be tremendous opportunities since state conventions better understand local needs. Dedications for these events have been remarkable as local pastors, association leaders, state convention representatives, as well as ERLC staff often attend. These partnerships provide a wonderful picture of cooperation in action.

IV. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.

To be a Baptist is to care about religious liberty. The ERLC takes seriously the charge given to it by the commission to resource and defend this foundational freedom. To that end, we have worked over the last year to defend religious liberty in the public square, but also to provide resources to help our churches promote and explain this distinctly Baptist characteristic to their members. Over the past year, we have emphasized the foundations of religious liberty and how it flows from our history as Baptists, our theology as Christians, and our constitutional freedoms as Americans. The following items are some of the key ways we assisted churches by promoting religious liberty to our churches:

- Religious Liberty Sunday video: Each year Southern Baptists take time to acknowledge the Baptist distinctive of religious liberty. In 2022, the ERLC released a video for churches to use that helps their congregants understand why this is such a foundational and important matter for Baptists.
- International Religious Liberty: The ERLC hosted a webinar highlighting the human rights violations committed by China against the Uyghur population ahead of the 2022 Olympics. The webinar included experts who offered guidance for how individuals could be advocates for religious minorities' conscience rights.
- Religious Liberty Framework: Because of controversies and questions about religious liberty, the ERLC produced “A resource for Southern Baptists on religious liberty,” providing a framework for how to think about religious liberty as a Baptist. Guided by principles drawn from Scripture and *The Baptist Faith and Message*, the document outlines various principles which all Baptists can affirm, as well as addresses the recent conversation about the relationship of religious liberty to liberal democracy.

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon from 2022 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.

The future success of this Commission will be dependent on how rooted we are to our churches. Have we developed effective relationships with them? Do they fully understand the unique institutional role we play within the Convention and the distinct voice we have in the public square?

That is why, over the last year, we have placed a major focus on fortifying relationships at all levels of the SBC, from local churches to sister entities, to ensure we have robust partnerships. This is key for our work, because it is from the experience of working alongside and assisting our churches that we are able to more effectively speak into the public square. Moreover, it helps us understand the issues facing our churches.

For example, we can all see the devaluing of life across our society and the effects it is having on all spheres of life. If we are going to establish a true culture of life, it will begin with our churches leading and teaching about the inherent dignity of every individual. To that end, we have created a new curriculum for our churches. This curriculum, created in partnership with Stand for Life, will walk church members (from children to adults) through a study of the theology of the image of God and its importance to pro-life advocacy. This is the first stage of a curriculum meant to address core components of cultivating a holistic pro-life worldview in our churches.

At the same time, more and more pastors and ministers are asking for tools to help navigate the problems presented by digital life. By the end of 2022, our Digital Public Square initiative, led by Jason Thacker, created multiple resources on this front. Resources produced include “Following Jesus in a Digital Age”—both the book and Bible study—and the “Student’s Guide to Social Media.” As we move forward into a new season of the ERLC and as new AI technologies emerge, we anticipate that this will be a continued focus of our work in applying the ethical demands of the gospel to a new digital world.

One final area of importance to the work of the ERLC is assisting churches to combat the threat of sexual abuse. We are committed to working with the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force appointed by SBC President Bart Barber. Also, we plan to update and enhance the Caring Well materials in light of new challenges and guidance from the SBC messengers. The ERLC will also work to create resources for churches to use in the lead up to Caring Well Sunday (September 24, 2023) to equip them to care well for abuse survivors.

II. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.

With the Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, abortion policy was shifted back to the states. Though the ERLC continues to push for protection of the unborn at the federal level, including pro-life riders in the federal budget as well as pro-life legislation, it is clear that state policy will be ever more important. At present, there are 14 states which have prohibited or severely restricted abortion, restricted to various degrees in 11 states, and permitted after viability (22 weeks) in 25 states. This patchwork of state level policy means that the pro-life movement must adapt to the new landscape and implement a strategy which is focused on the local realities. In states where abortion is prohibited, this means ensuring that every mother is supported to such a degree that she would never consider abortion. For those states where it is limited or permitted, it means working to see abortion abolished and made unthinkable.

The ERLC is also watching the *303 Creative v. Elenis* case which will likely have a decision later this year from the Supreme Court. Since 2016, Lorie Smith, founder of the web design firm 303 Creative, has been in the process of challenging a Colorado law that violates her First Amendment rights. It is the same law that was used to target Jack Phillips and which led to the *2018 Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* case. In that case, the court ruled favorably for Jack Phillips on narrow grounds but failed to address the underlying conflict between anti-discrimination laws and free speech rights. The ERLC is urging the court to rule in favor of 303 Creative and will be preparing Christians and churches to respond to this important decision next year.

Other areas of emphasis for the organization will align with previous emphases on religious liberty, the sanctity of human life, family and marriage, and human dignity. Points of concern are continuing to oppose the Equality Act, limiting the efforts to expand gambling, and ending the proliferation of chemical abortions. With the FDA's new regulations, this latter point will be of particular importance to limit the spread of abortion. The ERLC is also working to encourage policies that are in line with Southern Baptist commitments. These include advocating for policies to support and strengthening adoption, pro-family policies in the post-*Roe* world, as well as a permanent solution for Dreamers.

III. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.

The ERLC has recently relaunched our yearly convenings of state ethics and policy leaders. These have proved to be a natural way to both build relationships and glean information about what churches are facing in their local contexts. Several resource concepts have come out of these meetings, as we seek to better serve local churches and state leaders. Additionally, these relationships have been crucial to ensuring that we are tapping into those individuals closest to the implementation of the new state level policies and communicating back to the wider SBC the results.

Coming out of those meetings with state level leaders, we have provided more resources for leaders seeking to oppose the expansion of gambling within their states. Additionally, we have worked to provide resources on the topic of drug depression and the rising rates of addictions (primarily opioids) that have been a scourge in communities. We anticipate that these will continue to be issues that are important to local congregations and the ERLC intends to provide resources and materials that can help churches serve those around them.

Finally, as stated previously, the turn towards local policy following the *Dobbs* decision will be a new point of emphasis for the pro-life movement, of which churches and their ministries are the front lines. The ERLC is already working on strategies and frameworks to offer guidance to local communities on how to create a culture of life. Baptist churches are uniquely capable of meeting those new challenges and providing the resources and support to make abortion unthinkable and ensuring that every life is recognized as worthy and possessing intrinsic dignity.

IV. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.

The protection of religious liberty, here at home and across the globe, will always be a driving force for your ERLC. Religious liberty is a central tenet of Baptist identity as well as American life. The ERLC acknowledges that there are numerous challenges, from various corners, to this first liberty. However, we are also encouraged by judicial rulings that have made the principle as secure as it has been in generations. However, this is not a time to sit back and rest, but rather to build an even stronger foundation and commitment to this Baptist distinctive.

The ERLC will continue to provide resources for churches, such as the bulletin inserts and videos for Religious Liberty Sunday, the numerous articles and documents on our website, and webinars for more focused teaching.

We anticipate that in the coming year we will work to strengthen our churches' commitment by providing opportunities to see the historic, theological, and legislative foundations of religious liberty. In particular, we want to emphasize the role that religious liberty plays in a democracy committed to principled pluralism. The ERLC seeks to ensure that those who are working in the public square, from artists to healthcare workers and public servants, are not relegated to secondary status or discriminated against by those who either do not understand or are opposed to a biblical worldview. This entails showing how this Baptist principle has implications for all facets of life.

MATTERS REFERRED BY THE CONVENTION

During the Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Anaheim, California, June 14–15, 2022, the Convention referred no items to The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission for consideration, action, or report.

AUXILIARY

WMU[®] God's mission.
Our passion.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION[®]
100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, Alabama 35242

CONNIE DIXON, President

SANDRA WISDOM-MARTIN, Executive Director/Treasurer

It is my joy to bring greetings and this report on behalf of Woman's Missionary Union[®]. You would expect the organization's ambassador to paint upbeat and uplifting pictures that communicate organizational health and celebrate significant successes. Yet most of us know 2022 was an incredibly hard year—for a myriad of reasons layered on top of previous extremely difficult trips around the sun that have left us all a bit bewildered and dazed.

Our 2022 sales were 37 percent below pre-COVID numbers even as inflation and skyrocketing costs seem to hold us hostage. Stock market losses hampered our ability to maintain current levels of engagement (in some cases), let alone significantly expand our ministry footprint. Most employers are struggling to balance the needs of their organization or business with the current remote work culture as well as staggering skilled labor shortages. The list of challenges could go on and on.

But God . . .

God rescues, relieves, recovers, restores, redeems, reclaims, and rebuilds. In spite of—or maybe even because of—our current ministry climate, I can tell you I am truly excited about what was accomplished for His kingdom in 2022 through the ministry of WMU[®]. We remain focused on making disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

We rejoice at God's work through the generosity of Southern Baptists, who gave \$203.7 million to the 2021–22 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering[®]—the largest offering in the history of the International Mission Board. Each and every day, we enjoy God's abundant grace toward us. The historic record receipts of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering mean more will have the opportunity to hear and respond to this message of grace. How grateful I am to Southern Baptists for their incredible generosity. The Great Commission is indeed imprinted on our hearts. Now we pray diligently for a rich harvest for the sake of the gospel.

We join with the North American Mission Board in celebrating that Southern Baptists gave a record \$68.9 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering[®] in 2022, breaking the giving record for a second year in a row. For 134 years, WMU has been passionate about praying for and supporting our North American missionaries. We celebrate this historic milestone knowing it will mean lives are transformed by the gospel to the glory of God.

The wonder of God's plan is that it continues to unfold throughout eternity and He invites us to join Him. As Christian believers, our mission is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. And as you will read on the following pages, WMU is committed to partner with you to live out the Great Commission.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel. Thank you for your commitment to persevere. As I hear your stories and visit your associations and churches, your strong resolve in the face of overwhelming obstacles encourages me. Your generosity inspires me. Keep living authentic

faith in Christ evidenced by your words and actions. Remain secure in God's love and continue to serve with great purpose. Keep your heart set on the kingdom.

Laborers Together,
Sandy Wisdom-Martin
Executive Director-Treasurer
WMU, SBC

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of WMU is making disciples of Jesus who live on mission. 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. WMU's avenues for missions involvement include missions discipleship, leadership development, and compassion ministries; through these three areas collectively, WMU had ministry touchpoints this year in nearly 50 countries.

REPORT OF MINISTRIES

MISSIONS DISCIPLESHIP

Missions in the Church

Ongoing missions discipleship through WMU develops believers who understand God's mission in the world, leading to engaged Christians who are passionate about sharing the love of Christ with others. From preschoolers through adults, WMU helps inform, inspire, and involve members of WMU age-level groups in missions. In 2022, we created and distributed 9 subscription items, including periodicals and resources kits. WMU published more than 1 million words through channels such as publications, products, resources, blog posts, and more. These resources are designed to teach people of all ages about the work of missionaries throughout the world and to develop disciples who 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 ActionSM for boys and girls in grades 1–6;
- Acteens® for girls in grades 7–12;
- Challengers® for boys in grades 7–12;
- Youth on MissionSM for boys and girls in grades 7–12;
- myMISSIONSM for collegiate and young women;
- Women on Mission® for women; and
- Adults on MissionSM for men and women.

We often hear inspiring accounts of how children are leading the way! Children love to share God's love. And children love to learn by doing. Through missions discipleship, children learn to share His love in multiple ways, from collecting school supplies for back-to-school backpacks to distributing water at sports events, from taking a meal to a homebound community member to sharing a smile or a prayer with someone who needs it.

For example, members of Royal Ambassadors (RA) and Girls in Action (GA) at Eastwood Baptist Church in Monroeville, Alabama collected donations for patients' goody bags for Pilots for Christ for Children's Missions DayTM. GAs at Honea Path First Baptist Church in Honea Path, South Carolina visited a retirement home and delivered cards to residents. RAs and GAs of Dogwood Grove Baptist Church in Montevallo, Alabama held a Bike-A-Thon and raised

more than \$1,300 to send to their Christmas in August® missionary. Thousands of children participate in special projects such as Children’s Missions Day and Christmas in August as well as ongoing missions discipleship.

Mission Boards

In 2021-22, WMU helped raise \$203.7 million—the highest total in the offering’s 133-year history—for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Since initiating the first offering in 1888, WMU has helped raise more than \$5.2 billion through this effort. The offering represents more than half of the International Mission Board’s total annual support. Every penny given to the offering goes directly to support missionaries, including housing, training, education, health care, and more.

In 2022, WMU helped raise \$68.9 million for missions work in North America through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Since 1907, when official reporting began for the home missions offering started by WMU, receipts total more than \$2 billion through 2022. All of the funds raised through this offering go directly to the North American Mission Board to support field personnel and supplies nearly half of their total annual revenue.

WMU also administers the ministry of missionary housing for Southern Baptist missionaries while they are on stateside assignment. We maintain a database of more than 600 houses made available by churches, associations, and individuals and make this information available to missionaries on a secure website.

In 2022, more than 50 missionary kids (MKs) traveled from various areas around the world to gather for the MK Re-Entry Retreat hosted by Alabama WMU. This retreat is for children of international missionaries who are entering college in the United States for the first time, and it provides a setting for MKs to process the transition to college and life in the US. National WMU makes a grant to host this annual retreat in partnership with a state WMU. Mississippi WMU will host the event in August 2023. Additionally, national WMU and the WMU Foundation awarded more than \$90,000 in scholarships to children of Southern Baptist missionaries.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

From online, on-demand courses to print and web resources to in-person training, WMU offers a variety of opportunities for discovering and expanding one’s leadership skills and spiritual gifts. One of these approaches is leadership development through Christian Women’s Leadership Center (CWLC). 2022 offered a unique opportunity to revision CWLC. A strategic plan was outlined for the fourth quarter of 2022 into 2023. The first action step was to move nine leadership certificate classes from quarterly to on-demand all the time.

WMU also continued to offer minicourses related to WMU Compassion Ministries and a church’s response to ministry needs such as mental health, refugees, human trafficking, and poverty, as well as courses related to Christian Women’s Job Corps®/Christian Men’s Job Corps® training. See ChristianLeaderLearning.com for the full catalog of courses.

Sponsored by the Christian Women’s Leadership Center, WMU produced 6 episodes in 2022 of our *On the Journey Conversations* podcast hosted by Sandy Wisdom-Martin. The podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and Google Podcasts and features conversations with an extensive array of thought leaders who provide personalized perspectives of what it means to follow Christ.

In addition, WMU offers free content on wmu.com for leaders of preschoolers, children, students, and adults, in addition to other audiences.

COMPASSION MINISTRIES

Project HELP: Mental Health

Project HELPSM is an initiative of WMU that identifies a critical issue, seeks to raise the level of awareness of that issue, and provides practical approaches anyone can implement to open the door for meeting needs and sharing the gospel. This year, we introduced resources to address the issue of mental health, including an online course entitled *Mental Health: The Church's Response*, training in Mental Health First Aid, a book entitled *Joyful Sorrow*, articles, blogs posts and more.

As Christians, we are called to encourage those around us with the love of Christ, walk alongside them through difficult seasons, and help them know the Lord is near. Learn more and discover resources at wmu.com/mentalhealth.

Pure Water, Pure Love

Pure Water, Pure LoveSM supplies missionaries with water filters as well as provides clean water for people who are served by missionaries and Baptist partners. In addition to providing water filters and replacements to International Mission Board personnel and missions teams, WMU awarded 8 grants totaling \$78,650 to supply clean water resources in Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, and Uganda; and to meet emergency water needs in Jackson, Mississippi. While drinking water has been compromised in the area for years, the recent crisis was precipitated by floods and failing water systems. The WMU endowment committee approved emergency grants to provide three tractor trailer loads of bottled water.

Christian Women's Job Corps/Christian Men's Job Corps

Though this ministry, thousands of participants gained life and job skills in a Christian context through approximately 120 registered CWJC[®] and CMJCSM sites across the United States, as well as CWJC sites in Mexico and South Africa. CWJC/CMJC sites offer classes, resources, mentoring, Bible study, and more as participants gain self-confidence, purpose, direction, and hope for the future.

WMU launched a new website at christianjobcorps.com and hosted six national certification trainings for CWJC/CMJC leaders. WMU piloted Mental Health First Aid training with CWJC/CMJC leaders first. Five webinars were sponsored throughout the year as continuing education for site leaders.

WorldCrafts

Since 1996, WMU has worked to develop sustainable, fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world through WorldCraftsSM. This ministry now works with nearly 40 artisan groups in about 20 countries, and brought 14 new WorldCrafts products to market in 2022.

Our artisan groups seek to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their workers; many artisan groups assist women who have escaped human trafficking by providing a safe haven, counseling, and an opportunity to earn an income with dignity.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

WMU hosted the annual Baptist Nursing FellowshipSM (BNF[®]) Summit in October 2022 at the WMU building in Birmingham, Alabama. Participants were challenged to stand FIRM by being faithful, intentional, relentless, and missional.

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 2022 to conduct the business of the organization. These meetings took place January 7 and June 3 via video conference call.

SBC and WMU Annual Meetings

In Anaheim prior to the SBC Annual Meeting, participants boarded buses for an experience called Embark: WMU's Rolling Missions Adventure and traveled around the greater Los Angeles area to visit churches and area ministries. The event launched at Gateway Seminary, where attendees toured the facilities, met faculty and staff, heard their stories, and prayed for them. During the meeting, Connie Dixon of First Baptist Church, Elida, New Mexico, was reelected to serve another year as national WMU president, and Shirley McDonald of Greens Creek Baptist Church in Dublin, Texas, was reelected as national WMU recording secretary. At the conclusion, participants were transported to different ministry sites.

The second of the two-day adventure began at a local pier praying for missionaries and missions leaders. Visiting other mission points continued throughout the day.

WMU also had a presence at multiple venues of the 2022 SBC Annual Meeting. WMU's report to the SBC focused on gospel conversations. National WMU President Connie Dixon said, "Our prayer is that every touchpoint of WMU—every ministry—will lead to conversations that transform lives. We teach the missional disciplines of prayer, giving sacrificially, learning about God's work in the world, doing missions—but we want everything to lead to opportunities to tell others about Jesus."

WMU also coordinated the Youth on Mission experience, the missions component of the SBC day camp, and a missions discipleship panel discussion featured on the Cooperative Program stage in the SBC exhibit hall.

Funding

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 missional resources and from investments and charitable contributions. WMU continues to actively promote giving to the two missions offerings and through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

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. Dorey, 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.
 - (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.
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. No person may simultaneously be a candidate for two offices.
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

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' 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
 - (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.

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- 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 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.

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 reasonable 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 42 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.

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*.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

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*.

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

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*.

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.

THE ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION _____

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*.

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

MISSION

The SBC Executive Committee seeks to serve churches as they 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 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*.

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.

Amended June 15, 2021. See *SBC Annual 2021*, pp. 62-64.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

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

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.

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

200 Powell Place, Suite 100, Brentwood, TN 37027

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 40:16; 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.

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.

