

**2023 Mississippi Baptist
Convention Second Day
Bulletin**



As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.

1 Peter 4.10 (ESV)

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

187th Annual Meeting
October 24-25, 2023 • FBC Jackson

SECOND DAY
October 25, 2023

Report of the Committee on Nominations

MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

IMPACT Mississippi
1 Peter 4.10

First Session – Tuesday Morning

- (1) The Combined Baptist University Choirs and Orchestra led in a Call to Worship singing *Thou Oh Lord*.
- (2) President Lloyd Sweatt, Pastor of Meadowood BC, Amory, called the 187th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to order by the sounding of the gavel.
- (3) President Sweatt recognized Gee Ogletree who will serve as the Convention Parliamentarian.
- (4) Sam Taylor, Senior Pastor, FBC, Petal, voiced the prayer.
- (5) Chip Stevens, Senior Pastor, FBC, Jackson, welcomed the convention messengers to FBC, Jackson.
- (6) President Lloyd Sweatt organized the 187th Convention. Michael Weeks, Recording Secretary and Pastor of Pleasant Hill BC, Olive Branch, made the **MOTION** "That the duly elected 508 messengers from the churches who had registered by 8:35 a.m. and those yet to be registered shall constitute the Body of the 187th Annual Convention for the transaction of the business thereof." **MOTION SECONDED and PASSED.**
- (7) Kristopher Smith, Chair of the Committee on Order of Business and Worship Pastor of Carterville BC, Petal,

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION 100-MEMBER BOARD

* Indicates At Large Members
Underlined if a new term or new member filling unexpired term
Term Expires 2024 – (5 At Large Members*)

Attala	Rev. James Young	Sallis
Calhoun	Rev. Roger Reeder	Derma
Carroll	Rev. David Bartlett	Greenwood
Cov/Jeff Davis	Dr. Roland McMillan	Prentiss
George Co	Dr. Paul Brasher *	Lucedale
George-Greene	Dr. Tommy Mitchell	Lucedale
George-Greene	Rev. Perry Robbins	Leakesville
Golden Triangle(Clay)	<u>Dr. Joe Wiggins</u>	West Point
Holmes	Mr. Bill Barrett	Lexington
Jasper	Rev. Ed King	Bay Springs
Jones	Rev. Billy Dowdy	Laurel
Lamar County	Rev. Terry Phillips	Sumrall
Lawrence	<u>Rev. Matt Robinson</u>	Oak Vale
Lee	Dr. Keith Cochran	Tupelo
Lee	Rev. Matt Powell *	Tupelo
Lincoln	Rev. Wayne Mook	Wesson
X-Tended Mens (DeSoto)	Rev. Dean Stewart*	Olive Branch
Mid-Delta (Leflore)	<u>Rev. Collin Montgomery</u>	Greenwood
Mississippi (Amite)	Ms. Michelle VanNorman	Liberty
Monroe	Rev. Jimmy McFatter	Amory
Montgomery	Rev. Ben Hill	Stewart
North Central (Grenada)	Rev. Eugene Heimbach	Grenada
North Delta (Quitman)	Rev. Jon Hood	Marks
North Delta (Tunica)	Mr. Charles Hailey	Tunica
Pearl River	Mr. Mike Tyson	Picayune
Perry	Rev. Josh Dunn	Richton
Pine Belt	Rev. Neil Harvison	Hattiesburg
Rankin	<u>Rev. Donnie Stuart *</u>	Pelahatchie
Washington	Rev. Eddie Jones *	Greenville
Washington Co	Dr. Jack Manor	Hollandale
Winston	Rev. Mark Mayo	Louisville
X-Tended Msns (Tate)	Rev. Tim Smith	Coldwater

Term Expires 2025 – (7 At Large Members*)

Adams	Rev. Carl Smith	Washington
Alcorn	Dr. Nathan VanHorn	Corinth
Benton-Tippah	<u>Rev. Fred McGuffin</u>	Hickory Flat
Choctaw	Mrs. Allegra Brigham*	Ackerman
Choctaw	Dr. Danny Irvin	Ackerman
CMN (Marshall)	Mr. Mike Hamblin	Byhalia
Golden Triangle (Oktibbeha)	Dr. Grant Arinder	Starkville
Issaquena	Mr. Jimmy C. Newman	Valley Park
Itawamba	Rev. Randy Spencer	Tremont
CMN (Lafayette)	Rev. Don Gann *	Oxford
Pine Belt (Forrest)	Rev. Steven Platt *	Hattiesburg
Lincoln	Rev. Greg Warnock *	Brookhaven
Marion	Rev. Zachary Smith	Sandy Hook
Metro (Hinds)	Rev. Greg Divinity *	Jackson
North Delta	Rev. Danny Smith *	Tunica

Newton	Dr. Corey Fontan	Union
North Central (Tallahatchie)	Rev. Gary Bunch	Tillatoba
North Delta (Coahoma)	Rev. Joel Stroud	Lyon
Prentiss	Rev. Jason Reed	Booneville
Rankin	Dr. John Cofer	Flowood
Scott	Rev. Gary Wyatt	Morton
Sharkey	Mr. Penley Sorrels	Delta City
Simpson County	Dr. Jim Taylor	Magee
Tishomingo County	Rev. Barry Holcomb	Belmont
Union (Jefferson)	Mr. Carey Buckles	Smithdale
Walthall	Rev. Justin Knight	Tyertown
Wayne	Rev. Michael Stevenson	State Line
Webster	Rev. Travis Gray	Eupora
XMN (DeSoto)	Rev. Brian Hood*	Hernando
Yazoo	Rev. Luke Edwards	Yazoo City

Term Expires 2026 – (6 At Large Members*)

Benton-Tippah	Rev. Stanley Phillips	Ripley
Chickasaw	Rev. Patrick Collins	Houka
Clarke	<u>Dr. Gene Neal</u>	Quitman
Copiah	Rev. Chris Teasley	Crystal Springs
Covington-Jeff Davis	Rev. Brooks Porter	Collins
Franklin	Rev. Leon Wallace	Meadville
Golden Triangle(Lowndes)	Rev. Mel Howton	Columbus
Golden Triangle (Noxubee)	Rev. Sean Greer	Macon
Golden Triangle (Oktibbeha)	Dr. Andy Brown *	Starkville
Gulf Coast (Hancock)	Rev. Derek Fortenberry	Bay St. Louis
Gulf Coast (Hancock)	<u>Dr. Barry Ginn*</u>	Bay St. Louis
Gulf Coast (Harrison)	Mr. Lucky Langston	Gulfport
Gulf Coast (Stone)	Mr. Dana Parsons	Wiggins
Humphreys	Mr. Ronnie Ferrell	Isola
Jackson	<u>Dr. Michael Barnett</u>	Ocean Springs
Kemper	Mr. Larry Waller	Scooba
Collaborative (Lafayette)	Mr. Bob Jackson	Oxford
Lauderdale	<u>Dr. John Temple</u>	Meridian
Leake County	Rev. Stephen Evans	Walnut Grove
Metro (Hinds)	Dr. Andy Fullington	Jackson
Metro (Hinds)	Mrs. Camea McDaniel *	Jackson
Metro (Madison)	<u>Dr. Jon Daniels</u>	Flora
Mid-Delta (Bolivar)	Rev. Andrew Harper	Cleveland
Mid-Delta (Sunflower)	Rev. Jimmy Pender	Indianola
Mississippi (Wilkinson)	Dr. George Bannister	Woodville
Monroe	Dr. Allen Simpson *	Amory
Neshoba County	Rev. Curt Pace	Philadelphia
New Choctaw	Rev. Charles Henry *	Philadelphia
Panola	Rev. Keith Bolen	Batesville
Pearl River	Rev. Justin Anderson *	Picayune
Pike	Rev. Tim Daniels	Magnolia
Pontotoc County	Dr. David Hamilton	Pontotoc
Smith County	Rev. Keith Ramage	Raleigh
Union (Claiborne)	Mr. Ronnie Hymun	Port Gibson
Union County	Dr. Andrew Chesteen	New Albany
Warren	Rev. Bill Wright	Vicksburg
X-Tended Mens (DeSoto)	Rev. Eddie Barlow	Southaven
Yalobusha	Rev. Elbert McKnight	Coffeeville

**OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
2024-2026**

* Beginning a new term.
Underlined if not on board last year.
** Completing an unexpired term.

BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION

Term Expires 2024
Mrs. Judy Huddleston _____ New Albany
Rev. Ryan Reed _____ Bruce
Rev. Louis Zinc _____ Oxford

Term Expires 2025
Rev. Austin Bahm _____ Hattiesburg
Dr. Brian Rushing _____ Meridian
Rev. Neil Tullos _____ Wiggins

Term Expires 2026
Rev. Lee Faler * _____ Collins
Rev. Reid Stevens * _____ Forest
Rev. Jason Webb _____ Magee

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION, INC.**

Term Expires 2024
Rev. Phillip Gandy _____ Waynesboro
Mr. Fred M. Harrell, Jr. _____ Brandon
Dr. Wayne Marshall _____ Clinton
Dr. Valerie Morgan _____ Indianola
Rev. Dan Robertson _____ Starkville

Term Expires 2025
Mrs. Jane Earnest _____ Brandon
Mrs. Robin Knapp ** _____ Gulfport
Dr. Russell Mord _____ Crawford
Mrs. Lynn Wagner _____ Hickory
Rev. David Westmoreland _____ Vaiden

Term Expires 2026
Dr. Bruce Cappelman _____ Brandon
Rev. Jerry East * _____ Oxford
Rev. Chris Layton * _____ Brookhaven
Mrs. Diane Thompson _____ Corinth

EDUCATION COMMISSION

Term Expires 2024
Mr. Trent Baldwin _____ Ridgeland
Dr. Jeff Doremus _____ Brookhaven
Dr. Ken Hester _____ Pontotoc
Rev. Derrick Wilson _____ Meridian

Term Expires 2025
Dr. Willie Greer _____ Meridian
Ms. Pam Harrison _____ Meridian
Rev. Brian McKee _____ Summit
Dr. Ben Skipper _____ Petal

Term Expires 2026
Mr. Jeremy Nicholas _____ Starkville
Dr. Tom Prather * _____ Clinton
Dr. Billy Stewart _____ Jackson

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Term Expires 2024
Mrs. Johanne Bryant _____ Kosciusko
Mrs. Cathy Moss _____ Natchez
Rev. Truman Scarborough _____ Grenada

Term Expires 2025
Rev. Don Hicks _____ Brandon
Rev. Mark McArthur _____ Columbia
Rev. Dionne Williams _____ Gulfport

Term Expires 2026
Dr. Rory Lee * _____ Clinton
Dr. John Maxey * _____ Marion

Rev. JR Ray _____ Pontotoc

THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

Term Expires 2024
Mr. Jay Michael Drake _____ Pickens
Mrs. Chyri Grubbs _____ Madison
Mrs. Jan Polk _____ Hattiesburg
Dr. Victor Walsh _____ Summit
Rev. Larry Young _____ Pace

Term Expires 2025
Rev. Wayne Edwards _____ Meridian
Mrs. Ann Huber _____ Cleveland
Mr. Chris Jones _____ Madison
Dr. Steven Smith _____ Waynesboro
Mr. Percy Thornton _____ Clinton

Term Expires 2026
Rev. Steve Jordan * _____ Kosciusko
Mr. James "Jimmy" Johnson * _____ Brandon
Mr. Dale Jackson * _____ New Albany
Mr. Larry Glass * _____ Flowood
Dr. Jim Hurt * _____ Starkville

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Term Expires 2024
Mr. Robert Don Baker _____ Amory
Mr. Jim Ford _____ Columbus
Mr. Jerome (Jerry) Hoeniges _____ Brookhaven

Term Expires 2025
Mr. Ricky Ferguson _____ Randolph
Mr. David Gladden _____ Cleveland
Mr. Shawn Harris _____ Hattiesburg
Mrs. Robin Sanderson _____ Columbia
Mr. Kearney Travis _____ Hattiesburg

Term Expires 2026
Mr. Jonathan Adcock * _____ Madison
Mr. Paul Breazeale * _____ Jackson
Mr. Lee Gill * _____ Hattiesburg
Mr. Eddie Joe * _____ Madison
Mr. Steve Narbo * _____ Madison
Mrs. Brittney Pickering * _____ Laurel

**BAPTIST MEMORIAL
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, INC.**

Term Expires 2024
Mr. Ward Bloodworth _____ Hernando
Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Fitts _____ Oxford
Dr. John Stanford _____ Ripley

Term Expires 2025
Mr. Sherwin Haynie _____ Abbeville
Mr. Allen Puckett, II _____ Columbus

Term Expires 2026
Mr. Ronnie Sleeper * _____ Corinth
Mr. William Rhodes Thompson * _____ Hernando
Mr. Gary Wilkinson * _____ Lauderdale

BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Term Expires 2024
Dr. Randy Bostick _____ Corinth
Mr. Mike Clayborne _____ Tupelo
Dr. Leora Duce-Byrd _____ Ripley
Mrs. LuAnne Travis Ford _____ Booneville
Mrs. Joy Hurt Hill _____ New Albany
Dr. Tommy Vinson _____ Collierville, TN

Term Expires 2025
Mr. BJ Canup _____ Tremont
Mr. Walter Grace _____ New Albany
Ms. Linda Gholston _____ Baldwin
Mrs. Norma Ruth Lee _____ Madison
Rev. James Lewis _____ Southaven
Mr. Mike Staten _____ New Albany

Term Expires 2026
Mr. Bob Glover * _____ Ripley
Mr. Harold Wayne Hankins * _____ Ripley
Mr. Greg Pirkle * _____ Belden
Mrs. Melissa Scott * _____ New Albany
Mr. Tommy Tapp * _____ Amory
Dr. Carl White * _____ Clinton

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

Term Expires 2024
Rev. Barry Corbett _____ Brandon
Ms. Tina Fulcher _____ Madison
Congressman Gregg Harper _____ Pearl
Ms. Jane Hederman _____ Jackson
Dr. Jeff Holland _____ Vicksburg
Judge Tom Lee _____ Forest
Mr. Paul Moak _____ Ridgeland
Mr. Ronnie Smith _____ Franklin, TN
Dr. Robert Watson _____ Ridgeland

Term Expires 2025
Mr. Ralph Barnes _____ Canton
Dr. Ronnie Fahey _____ Madison
Mr. Roy Fountain _____ Forest
Mr. Oscar Miskelly _____ Flowood
Rev. Hugh Plunkett _____ Tylertown
Mr. Bill Sones _____ Brookhaven
Mr. Art Stevens _____ Ridgeland
Mr. Tony Stringer _____ Tylertown
Mr. Bob Waller ** _____ Jackson

Term Expires 2026
Ms. Amanda Alexander-Taylor * _____ Madison
Rev. Brian Crawford * _____ Vicksburg
Dr. Eddie Donahoe * _____ Indianola
Ms. La'Verne Edney * _____ Jackson
Dr. David Eldridge * _____ Birmingham, AL
Dr. Susan Fortenberry * _____ Clinton
Mr. Wally Henry * _____ Pontotoc
Mr. Tony Huffman * _____ Flowood
Dr. Marjorie Lenoir * _____ Canton
Dr. Dwayne Pickett * _____ Crystal Springs
Dr. Chip Stevens * _____ Flowood
Mr. Gary Watts * _____ Madison

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

Term Expires 2024
Mr. Odean Busby _____ Flowood
Mrs. Nell Henderson _____ Sumrall
Dr. Dan Hull _____ Gulfport
Dr. Raymon Leake _____ Meridian
Dr. Eric Lindstrom _____ Laurel
Mrs. Brenda Ross _____ Hattiesburg
Dr. LaKue Stephens _____ Long Beach

Term Expires 2025
Mr. Ted Bower _____ Hattiesburg
Rev. Leander Bridges _____ Ellisville
Mr. Stan Burton ** _____ Ellisville
Mrs. Joey Fail Garner _____ Ridgeland
Dr. Gary Gordon _____ Bay Springs
Mr. Brett Jones _____ Columbia
Dr. William K. Ray _____ Hattiesburg
Mr. Jack Simmons _____ Hattiesburg
Mr. Brett Valentine _____ Sumrall

Term Expires 2026
Dr. Brian R. Dix * _____ Pass Christian
Hon. Charles Pickering, Sr. * _____ Taylorville
Dr. Robert Donnell * _____ Hattiesburg
Mr. Phil Hanberry * _____ Hattiesburg
Mr. Gary Shows * _____ Hattiesburg
Mr. Alan Sudduth * _____ Pascagoula
Dr. Brent Parker * _____ Vancleave

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made the MOTION "That the printed
order of business and any adjustments
to be made constitute the program for

the 187th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention." MOTION PASSED. Other members serving on the Order of Business Committee are: Breck Ladd, Senior Pastor, FBC, Madison; David Oliver, Worship Pastor, Crossgates BC, Brandon; Tommy Mitchell, Senior Pastor, Agricola BC, Lucedale; Grant Stegall, Associate Pastor, DeSoto Hills BC, Southaven; and Brian Rushing, Associational Missions Strategist, Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Gulfport. (8) President Lloyd Sweatt announced the Tellers and Credentials Committees as follows:

The Tellers Committee – Mark Mayo, Murphy Creek BC, Louisville; Brent Barker, Emmanuel BC, Grenada; Zack Carter, Central Grove BC, Aberdeen; Justin Haynes, Bigbee BC, Amory; Mel Howton, New Salem BC, Columbus; David Jay, County Line BC, Union; Caleb Monaghan, Northcrest BC, Meridian; Timothy "Bobo" Phillipson, Scott County Baptist Association, Forest; Dean Stewart, LaBelle Haven BC, Olive Branch; and Jason West, Hamilton BC, Hamilton. **The Credentials Committee** – Allen Simpson, Chair and Senior Pastor, FBC, Amory; Michael Barnett, Pastor, FBC, Ocean Springs; John Maxey, AMS, Lauderdale BA, Marion; Jim Phillips, Senior Pastor, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; and Stanley Phillips, Pastor, FBC, Ripley.

(9) President Sweatt called for resolutions to be presented. Carl White, Messenger, Pineview BC, Clinton, presented a "Resolution of Gratitude for the Work and Accomplishments of William H. Perkins as Editor of The Baptist Record." Don Gann, Messenger, FBC, Oxford presented a "Resolution in Support of Mississippi Laws Regarding Pastor Sexual Abuse."

(10) Jimmy Stewart, Chairman of the Committee on Committees and Senior Pastor of FBC, Gulfport, introduced the committee members: Scott Hanberry, Pastor, Hardy Street BC, Hattiesburg; Hal Selby, Senior Pastor, Adaton BC, Starkville; Bill Hurt, Senior Pastor, Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus; and Lowell Walker, Jr, Pastor, Mt Sinai BC, Tupelo; and made a **MOTION** to adopt the

report as printed in the First Day Bulletin. **MOTION PASSED.**

(11) Jason Carson, Minister of Music, Meadowood BC, Amory, and Praise Team led in Congregational Worship – *Psalm 150, Doxology, Praise Him, Praise Him, and Revive Us Again.*

(12) Danny Smith, President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Pastor, FBC, Tunica, was recognized to give the Convention Board Report. He was joined by Debbie Battle, American Sign Language Interpreter and Member, Liberty BC, Flowood.

(13) President Sweatt called for nominations for president of the Convention to serve in 2024. Russell Mord, AMS, Golden Triangle BA, Columbus, nominated Bill Hurt, Senior Pastor, Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus, as President. Brian Hood, Lead Pastor, Community Point Baptist Church, Hernando, seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. No other nominations were made. Michael Weeks, recording secretary, cast the single ballot "All for one and one for all."

(14) President Sweatt called on Doug Gunn, Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and member of FBC Jackson, to make a presentation.

Amendment Process for the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Constitution and The Plan of Organization and Action

Article VIII, Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Convention by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present subject to the following four stipulations:

- (1) Notice in writing setting forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment shall have been given at the annual meeting of the Convention of the immediately preceding year;
- (2) Such proposed amendment shall be published in the Annual and in **The Baptist Record**, and referred to the standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for study and recommendations;
- (3) Such amendment shall be adopted before the last day of the annual meeting;

(4) A quorum of the messengers shall be present at the time the vote is taken.

Article XXII, Amendments

This Plan of Organization and Action may be amended in the same way as the Constitution proper (see Constitution, Article VIII, Amendments).

Proposed Amendments:

THE CONSTITUTION

Article VII, Powers

Section 1. The Convention shall have power and authority to own, aid, support, and control schools, colleges/universities, hospitals, residential child care agencies,...

THE PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTION

Article I, The Convention Board

Section 4. ... The Convention Board is authorized to receive gifts, accept donations, borrow money, execute notes, and make any and all other necessary financial arrangements ~~in~~ on behalf of the Convention; ...

Article VII, Trustees of Colleges/Universities, Hospitals, Child Care Agency

Section 1. Each college/university, hospital, or child care agency owned and supported by the Convention shall be operated and controlled by a board of trustees of at least fifteen but not more than thirty members elected by the Convention for terms of three years in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.

Article IX, The Education Commission

Section 2. The Education Commission serves as a liaison between the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist institutions of higher learning. In particular, the ~~The~~ Education Commission shall:

- (1) Cultivate the interest and financial assistance of Mississippi Baptists on behalf of Christian higher education;
- (2) Seek to strengthen the colleges/universities of Mississippi Baptists and unify the efforts of these institutions ~~in~~ the Convention program of to fulfill the

Great Commission through Christian higher education;

(3) Receive, study, evaluate and offer necessary recommendations on annual reports, audits and recommendations of the educational institutions and the Board of Ministerial Education;

(4) Inaugurate, promote and direct any program of study, survey, research or evaluation of the institutions as may be deemed necessary to the welfare and health of the institution or the Convention;

(5) (3) Make recommendations observations, through the Convention Board to the Convention, concerning all cooperative efforts in the field of Christian higher education; for the promotion and/or enhancement of the Convention's educational institutions;

(6) (4) Recommend to the Convention Board institutional apportionments or methods for determining these from the funds set aside by the Convention for Christian higher education;

(7) Be the channel through the Convention Board to the Convention for all matters relating to the total program of the Convention's educational institutions, including new or additional programs or projects, involving additional financial assistance from the Convention.

Article XVI, New Enterprises

Section 1. No new objects or enterprises involving the expenditure of money shall be projected by any institution or agency of the Convention until such object or enterprise is approved by the Convention. Announcement of the purpose to seek such approval shall be made through columns of **The Baptist Record** at least 30 days before the meeting of the Convention in which such request is to be made.

Section 2. Construction on no new object involving the expenditure of money shall be begun until sufficient means is in hand for the completion of such project, the sole exception being that large projects planned to be completed in units may be begun when means are in hand for the completion of first units; each subsequent unit may then be begun when means are in hand for the completion of it.

(Update remaining Roman Numerals in the Plan of Action and Organization, accordingly)

Article XIX XVIII, Reports

Section 2. The report of the Convention Board shall be divided into four three parts as follows:

(1) Administration, including a resume of the principal activities of the year, **The Baptist Record** report, the treasurer's report, and the principal **promotional ministry/program** activities of the year.

(2) The audit summary required in Article XVIII XVII, above.

(3) Missions in Mississippi, including Sunday School, Discipleship & Family Ministry, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, Student Work, Evangelism, Missions Extension & Associational Administration, Church Minister Relations & Annuity, Church Music, Church Administration Pastoral Ministries, and any and all other activities promoted by the Convention Board in Mississippi.

(4) Missions outside Mississippi, including current activities of the North American and International Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Section 4. The report of the Education Commission shall include the reports of the schools and colleges and universities, the report of the Ministerial Board,...

Proposed amendments for presentation current year 2023, discussion and vote during the 2024 Convention:

Article V, Convention Institutions, Commissions, Boards and Other Units of Work

The institutions sponsored and supported by the Convention shall be as follows: **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:** Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi; Blue Mountain College Christian University, Blue Mountain, Mississippi; William Carey College University, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; the School of Allied Health Programs of the Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi. **HOSPITALS:** The Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi; and in cooperation with the

Arkansas and Tennessee Baptist Conventions, the The Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee, in cooperation with the Arkansas and Tennessee Baptist Conventions. **CHILD CARE AGENCY:** The Baptist Children's Village, Jackson, Mississippi. ...

Article XX XIX, The Convention Annual
Section 2. One copy of the annual of the Mississippi Baptist Convention shall be mailed provided to each pastor of cooperating church in the state as soon as practicable. ~~after publication.~~

(15) A quorum was present when the vote was taken. President Sweatt called for a vote. The MOTION passed.

(16) Marty Evans, Messenger, Mt. Pisgah BC, Enid, asked if printed minutes would be available. It was confirmed that printed minutes would be available.

(17) President Sweatt noted that the two changes that were presented this Convention will be discussed and voted on in 2024.

(18) The Combined Choirs and Orchestra led in Worship through Music – *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me.*

(19) Sam Ivy, Director, Collegiate Ministries, MBCB, gave a report of 100 Years of BSU Ministry in Mississippi.

(20) A summer missions video highlight was presented.

(21) Meadowood Worship Team led the congregation in singing *Hallelujah What a Savior* with *My Savior's Love* and *Victory in Jesus.*

(22) The Combined Choirs led in Worship through Music – *I See Grace* and *Amazing Grace.*

(23) Chip Stevens, Senior Pastor, FBC, Jackson, was introduced to give the Bible Treasures. The theme of his message was "God is the Exceedingly Great Reward – Part 1" from Genesis 12.1-4; 15.1-3.

(24) Justin Anderson, Senior Pastor, Pine Grove BC, Picayune, read 1 Samuel 3.1-11.

(25) Rita Sweatt, Mary Megan Parker, Molly Steed, and Shelby Sweatt led in Worship in Song – *Hymn of Heaven.*

(26) Lloyd Sweatt gave the President's Address entitled "Challenge to Those Called" from Mark 9.30-35.

(27) Mark Gurley, Minister of Missions, Meadowood BC, Amory, led the benediction.

Second Session – Tuesday Afternoon

(28) The Mississippi Singing Churchmen under the direction of Slater Murphy, presented a Choral Praise and a Concert of Praise: *Thou Oh Lord, Be Thou My Vision, I Will Not Be Shaken, and And Can it Be.*

(29) Bill Hurt, First Vice President and Senior Pastor of Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus, called the Second Session to order.

(30) Rita Sweatt, Member, Meadowood BC, Amory, led the prayer.

(31) Bradley White, Worship Pastor, FBC, Summit, read Jeremiah 1.4-10.

(32) Chip Stevens brought Bible Treasures, "God is the Exceedingly Great Reward – Part 2," from Exodus 18.

(33) The Mississippi Singing Churchmen presented a Concert of Praise: *Favorite Song of All and Hymn of Heaven.*

(34) President Lloyd Sweatt presided over the Business Session. The number of registered messengers was 728.

(35) President Sweatt recognized Greg Warnock, Chair of the Budget Committee, and Pastor of FBC, Brookhaven, to present the proposed 2024 Cooperative Program Budget in the amount of \$30,890,325. Other members serving on the committee are: Eddie Barlow, Pastor, Boulevard BC, Southaven; Mike Barnett, Senior Pastor, FBC Ocean Springs; Brian Hood, Lead Pastor, Community Point Baptist Church, Hernando; Jon Hood, Pastor, FBC Marks; Mel Howton, Pastor, New Salem, Columbus; Roland McMillan, Pastor, Prentiss BC, Prentiss; Michael Stevenson, Pastor, FBC Stateline, State Line; and Leon Wallace, Pastor, Siloam BC, Meadville. The proposed 2024 Cooperative Program Budget presented was a .70% percentage increase from the 2023 Budget. The discussion and vote will be taken in the Wednesday morning Business Session.

(36) President Sweatt called for nominations for First Vice President. Scott Hanberry, Pastor, Hardy Street BC, Hattiesburg, was nominated by Shane Freeman, Messenger and Pastor, Macedonia BC, Petal. Randy Sims,

Messenger, Temple BC, Hattiesburg, and AMS, Pine Belt BA, seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Michael Weeks, recording secretary, cast the single ballot "All for one and one for all."

(37) President Sweatt called for nominations for the Recording Secretary. There was a MOTION and SECOND from the floor to nominate Michael Weeks, Pastor, Pleasant Hill BC, Olive Branch. No other nominations were made. Will McNeese, Associate Recording Secretary, cast the single ballot, "One for all and all for one."

(38) President Sweatt called for nominations for Associate Recording Secretary. There was a MOTION and SECOND from the floor to nominate Will McNeese, Pastor, FBC, Polkville. There were no other nominations and Michael Weeks, Recording Secretary, was asked to cast the single ballot, "One for all and all for one."

(39) President Sweatt called for the presentation of Resolutions. Joel Stroud, Messenger and Pastor, Lyon BC, Lyon, presented a "Resolution Regarding Hamas' October 7th Attack on Israel."

(40) President Sweatt called for miscellaneous business. There was none.

(41) A summer missions video highlight was presented.

(42) Mark Mathis, Pastor of Worship and Media, FBC, New Albany, led the congregation in singing *Who Can Satisfy My Soul Like You and Mercy.*

(43) President Sweatt called the Convention back into business session and asked for nominations for Second Vice President. Gary Wyatt, Member, North Morton BC, Morton, was nominated for Second Vice President by Don Gann, Messenger and Senior Pastor, FBC, Oxford. Seconded from the floor. David Haynes, Senior Pastor, Trinity BC, Fulton, was nominated by David Hamilton, Messenger and Senior Pastor, West Heights BC, Pontotoc. Ronald Meeks, Messenger and Member, FBC, Corinth, seconded the nomination. The President called on the Recording Secretary to give instructions about the ballot vote.

(44) President Sweatt called for miscellaneous business. There was none.

(45) Rev. Brad Eubank, Chair of the Sexual Abuse Response Team, and Senior Pastor, Petal FBC, was recognized to give the Sexual Abuse Response Team report. Rev. Eubank introduced members of the Response Team: Melanie Benson, Member, East End BC, Caledonia; Don Gann, Senior Pastor, FBC Oxford; Laura Gee, Interim Preschool/Children's Ministry Coordinator, FBC Vicksburg; Jim Phillips, Senior Pastor, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; Wade Phillips, Senior Pastor, Northcrest BC, Meridian; Will Wall, Senior Pastor, FBC, Meridian; and Lydia Warren, Member, Crossgates BC, Brandon. Advisory positions: Angie Boydston, Preschool/Children's Consultant, MBCB; John Damon, Member, Broadmoor BC, Madison; and Joyce Hall, Member, Broadmoor BC, Madison. Messengers received a brochure and booklet entitled Pathway to Abuse Response and Prevention. Materials can be found at www.mbc.org/sart.

(46) FBC New Albany led in a Music Feature: *Ain't No Grave, Total Praise, and I Believe.*

(47) Andrew Chesteen, Senior Pastor, FBC, New Albany, delivered the Convention Sermon, "Our Compassionate Christ" from Luke 7.11-17.

(48) 41. President Lloyd Sweatt called on the Dr. Michael Weeks, Recording Secretary to announce the results of the election for 2nd Vice President. Dr. Sweatt announced that David Haynes was elected.

(49) Tom Sumrall, Pastor Emeritus, FBC, New Albany, led in the benediction prayer.

**REPORT OF THE
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**
The Resolutions Committee
recommends that the following
Resolutions be approved:

**NO. 1 RESOLUTION OF
APPRECIATION**

WHEREAS, the 187th Annual Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the recipients of the kind hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, we the messengers of the 187th Annual Session have been blessed, encouraged and challenged by the fellowship, worship, reports and have had the opportunity to conduct business as planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions, and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Convention officers and committees:

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED that with hearts filled with gratitude we express appreciation to:

Dr. Chip Stevens, Senior Pastor, and members of First Baptist Church of Jackson,

The speakers, singers and instrumentalists who led us in worship during the convention,

Dr. Lloyd Sweatt, our Convention President, who has led as president with a marvelous Christ-like spirit and has been an outstanding ambassador across Mississippi and far beyond,

And to all of the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully.

**NO. 2 RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE
FOR THE WORK AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WILLIAM H.
PERKINS AS EDITOR OF THE BAPTIST
RECORD**

WHEREAS, William Perkins was elected Editor of The Baptist Record by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on June 18, 1996, and;

WHEREAS, William Perkins is retiring from The Baptist Record on October 31, 2023 after nearly 31 ½ years of service, and;

WHEREAS, He served for four years as the Associate Editor of The Baptist Record, instituting several new features, including the Bible-based "Bibliocipher" and the "Life Answers" counseling column, and;

WHEREAS, He was baptized at age 12 at First Baptist Church, Belzoni, was a Royal Ambassador; he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout along with the God and Country Award and Order of the Arrow, and;

WHEREAS, Since age 12, he felt called into print journalism, graduating with a double major in Journalism and English from the University of Mississippi, then served as a general assignment reporter/photographer at the Daily Sentinel-Star in Grenada, receiving several awards from the Mississippi Press Association, and ;

WHEREAS, He worked as press secretary and photographer for Mississippi Governor William F. Winter, and then as the public information officer for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency before joining The Baptist Record, and;

WHEREAS, upon being named Editor, he led in a redesign of The Baptist Record, and in reestablishing The

Record as the news journal for all Mississippi Baptists, and;

WHEREAS, He has served 27 ½ years as Editor making him one of the longest serving editors in The Baptist Record;

WHEREAS, During his tenure, he wrote over 1300 editorials, wrote or edited over a thousand news articles and feature stories. He wrote with clarity and consistency on matters of concern to Mississippi Baptists, such as denominational issues, the pro-life movement and, most importantly, evangelism, while always advocating for the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He also consistently opened the pages of The Record to its readership by publishing thousands of Letters to the Editor and inviting many guest editorials, and;

WHEREAS, William Perkins has kept the local church close to his heart, accepting invitations from churches and associations across the state to speak about the world of the Convention and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and as a member of First Baptist Church, Jackson, he served as a Sunday School teacher and preschool volunteer. He helped plant First Baptist Church Jackson/Madison Campus in Gluckstadt, now Grace Crossing Baptist Church, where he served as a Sunday School teacher and a deacon, and;

WHEREAS, William Perkins has been a faithful family man, married 38 years to the former Marla Karen Davenport of Hattiesburg. Together, they raised two children, Brynne, a pediatric registered nurse and Will, a recent law school graduate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the 187th Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, gathered at First Baptist Church, Jackson on October 24-25,

2023, do hereby express our sincere gratitude to William H. Perks for over three decades of faithful service as the Associate Editor and then Editor of The Baptist Record;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank our God for bringing such an exceptionally prepared and capable leader to guide in the important tasks of advocating for and sharing the news of our Convention and of the Kingdom of God;

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we congratulate William H. Perkins for successfully keeping the pledge he made to Mississippi Baptists in his first editorial on July 18, 1996:

“I pledge to be an advocate of no cause, except the cause of Christ.”

Well done, good and faithful servant of the Lord!

NO. 3 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MISSISSIPPI LAWS REGARDING PASTOR SEXUAL ABUSE

WHEREAS, Sexual abuse is an abomination before God and an affront to the teachings of Scripture (Psalm 11:5; Proverbs 6:16-20; Mark 7:20-34; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 1:15-17); and

WHEREAS, Sexual abuse grieves Christ and contradicts the heart of the gospel (Mark 12:31; 1 Corinthians 6:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27); and

WHEREAS, Sexual abuse violates the demands of Scripture for the holy living of God’s people (1 Corinthians 6:18-19; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Timothy 1:8-11); and

WHEREAS, Sexual abuse is an affront to the Imago Dei, dishonoring and

degrading human dignity, especially in those most vulnerable among us (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6; Psalm 8:3-5); and

WHEREAS, Pastors, ministers, staff, or counselors are in a position of trust, which is broken when the one in authority engages in a coercive sexual act with the victim, even with a misguided sense of consent, because the position of authority, trust and power held by the pastoral leader creates an unhealthy opportunity for abuse; and

WHEREAS, Those in pastoral ministry are entrusted with the responsibility, under the authority of Christ, to serve, shepherd, and guard those whom the Lord entrusts to their care (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9); and

WHEREAS, Sexual abuse perpetrated by pastoral leaders or church members is a violation of the sacred trust for pastoral leaders and all believers to care for and minister to people (Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 28:13; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9); and

WHEREAS, Scripture makes clear that teachers will receive a stricter judgment, and therefore overseers must be above reproach, keeping watch over their souls as those who will give an account (James 3:1, Hebrews 13:17); and

WHEREAS, Sexual abuse causes grievous harm to those who are entrusted to the church’s care and protection (Proverbs 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 22:3-5; Micah 6:8; 1 John 3:16-18); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message, Article XV, condemns “all forms of sexual immorality” and states, “We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, [and] the abused”; and

WHEREAS, Churches and individuals within our churches should be encouraged to report all cases of abuse to the appropriate authorities, and should be protected from civil liability in doing so. This obligation to report is particularly compelling when the abuser continues to have the opportunity for abuse with minors or other vulnerable individuals, and immunity should fully extend to such situations; and

RESOLVED, That the messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, October 24-25, 2023 affirm the Bible’s teaching to seek justice for those who have been harmed, protect the vulnerable, and honor the dignity and worth of survivors of sexual abuse (Genesis 1:26, Psalm 82:2-4, Isaiah 1:17, Micah 6:8); and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage the enactment and implementation of laws and actions that protect and support the innocent victims within our churches while removing the fear of civil liability from those who report instances of abuse in the church setting.

NO. 4 RESOLUTION REGARDING HAMAS’ OCTOBER 7TH ATTACK ON ISRAEL

WHEREAS, God chose Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the nation of Israel as His special treasure above all the nations on earth;

WHEREAS, God drove out the inhabitants of the land of Canaan and gave it to the Jewish people for an everlasting possession;

WHEREAS, God disciplined His people with captivity to Babylon in 586 BC

and ultimately with dispersion among all the nations of the world by the Romans in AD 70;

WHEREAS, At the end of the 19th century, God began to fulfill His ancient promises to gather His people from the ends of the earth, and in 1948 He restored their national identity;

WHEREAS, The nation of Israel has endured continual attacks from Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups in neighboring countries;

WHEREAS, On October 7 Israel suffered the most horrific terrorist attack in the 75 years since her rebirth into the family of nations;

WHEREAS, God promised to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse them;

WHEREAS, He who touches Israel touches the apple of God's eye; and Scripture commands us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem;

WHEREAS, the unprovoked and barbaric attack on innocent men, women, children and babies coupled with the rising tide of antisemitism in the US and the world summon God's people to prayer;

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting at First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi October 24-25, 2023 requests its affiliated churches to ...

PRAY for the protection of Israel and the success of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in their war against Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

PRAY for the release of all hostages and the protection of innocent

civilians in Gaza and other affected areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be encouraged to ...

PRAY regularly for the light of the gospel to penetrate the darkness of the Middle East, for the salvation of the Jewish people, and for a great harvest of souls from the Muslim world.

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