

MBCB Executive Committee meets, appoints Herring new Director of Financial Services

*By Megan Young
Associate Editor*

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) met on Aug. 27 and unanimously approved Ashley Sullivan Herring as the new Director of Financial Services. She will replace Paul A. Pinson who was recently promoted to the role of Human Resources Officer. Herring will start her new position Sept. 23.



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Barri A. Shirley, MBCB Chief Operating Officer, expressed gratitude to Dr. Shawn Parker, MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer, and to the Executive Committee members for their approval and affirmation of Herring for this position.

“The Lord has once again faithfully answered our prayers during the interview process,” said Shirley. “Ashley Herring is one of the most intelligent CPA’s I know, and Mississippi Baptists are blessed to have her serve in this capacity. We truly believe she is joining the MBCB staff in obedience to God’s calling on her life and it will be an honor to serve with her.”

When asked why she wanted to transition into a ministry role at MBCB instead of continuing her current career path, Herring simply replied, “I’d rather make more disciples than make more money.”

Herring and her husband, Philip, are members of First Church, Madison, where she serves as a volunteer with children and high school girls. She also teaches Sunday School and volunteers in the ESL ministry.

2025 Proposed Cooperative Program Budget

Dr. Michael Barnett presented the Budget Committee’s recommendation for the 2025 Proposed Cooperative Program (CP) budget to the Executive Committee. The proposal, which can be viewed in full below, holds the budget total at \$30,890,325, a 0% change from the current year.

Although the overall 2025 Proposed CP Budget total will remain

the same, allocations within it have been slightly altered. The most notable changes include:

- An increase in the amount to be given to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) from 39.25% to 39.50%, reflecting confidence in the SBC under the leadership of newly elected SBC Executive Committee president Dr. Jeff Iorg and a desire to continue providing strong support for missions and ministries across North America and around the world.
- A decrease in the amount to be given to Church Retirement and Protection from 1.68% to 1.38%, reflecting less church participation in that particular program.
- A decrease in the amount to be given to Associational Missions from .46% to 0%, reflecting a change in funding from the CP budget to the Margaret Lackey State Offering.
- A repositioning and expansion of Men's Ministry assignments to respective ministry areas in an effort to better serve the local church.

The 2025 Proposed CP Budget was approved unanimously.

Executive Director-Treasurer's Report

Dr. Shawn Parker, MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer, emphasized the value of the Cooperative Program and the importance of CP education in Mississippi churches. In conjunction with the upcoming 100th anniversary of CP in 2025, he introduced a new CP Training Kit designed and produced by MBCB.

The kits include one-week and four-week training videos, leader guides, study guides, and other CP resources. They were given to the Executive Committee and 100 Member Board and will be made available, one per church, beginning October 29-30

during the Mississippi Baptist Convention. The remainder will be mailed to individual churches following the convention. The CP Training Kit is also available online by clicking [here](#).

Other business

Dr. Allen Simpson was approved as the new Cooperative Program Promotion chair. He will replace Dr. Joe Wiggins in this role.

Mississippi Baptist Convention

2025 Proposed Cooperative Program Budget

	2024 Budget	2025 Budget	Percent of Total	Dollar Change	Percent Change
Southern Baptist Convention					
International Mission Board	6,111,929	6,150,869	19.91%	38,940	0.64%
North American Mission Board	2,763,170	2,780,772	9.00%	17,602	0.64%
Theological Education	2,686,779	2,703,887	8.75%	17,108	0.64%
SBC Operating	362,529	364,845	1.18%	2,316	0.64%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	200,046	201,343	0.65%	1,297	0.64%
Total	12,124,453	12,201,716	39.50%	77,263	0.64%
Church Retirement and Protection					
Total	500,000	425,000	1.38%	(75,000)	(15.00%)
Mississippi Agencies and Institutions					
Associational Missions	141,000	-	0.00%	(141,000)	(100.00%)
Baptist Children's Village	758,306	758,306	2.45%	-	0.00%
Board of Ministerial Education	380,500	380,500	1.23%	-	0.00%
Christian Action Commission	320,162	320,162	1.04%	-	0.00%
Christian Education	5,135,978	5,687,316	18.41%	551,338	10.73%
Christian Education Capital Needs	650,000	-	0.00%	(650,000)	(100.00%)
Historical Commission	120,839	120,839	0.39%	-	0.00%
Mississippi Baptist Foundation	392,150	392,150	1.27%	-	0.00%
Total	7,898,935	7,659,273	24.79%	(239,662)	(3.03%)
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board					
Baptist Record	319,209	275,213	0.89%	(43,996)	(13.78%)
Business Services	419,547	435,275	1.41%	15,728	3.75%
Church Planting / Revitalization	395,032	406,121	1.31%	11,089	2.81%
Collegiate Ministry	2,402,115	2,431,897	7.87%	29,782	1.24%
Communication Services	491,052	442,824	1.43%	(48,228)	(9.82%)
Computer Information Services	247,246	259,917	0.84%	12,671	5.12%
Convention & Convention Committees	118,400	125,850	0.41%	7,450	6.29%
Disaster Relief	315,198	318,375	1.03%	3,177	1.01%
Discipleship / Sunday School	761,676	1,035,754	3.35%	274,078	35.98%
Evangelism	360,034	396,710	1.28%	36,676	10.19%
Executive Administration	501,176	503,205	1.63%	2,029	0.40%
Financial Services	446,282	361,207	1.17%	(85,075)	(19.06%)
Human Resources	-	304,772	0.99%	304,772	-
Leadership	360,021	369,906	1.20%	9,885	2.75%
Men's Ministry	429,965	-	0.00%	(429,965)	(100.00%)
Missions Mobilization	427,806	438,269	1.42%	10,463	2.45%
Multicultural Ministries	230,293	236,974	0.77%	6,681	2.90%
Stewardship / Prayer Ministry	255,174	261,588	0.85%	6,414	2.51%
Strategy	351,438	387,951	1.26%	36,513	10.39%
Women's Ministry / Woman's Missionary Union	523,543	549,007	1.78%	25,464	4.86%
Worship	384,163	435,954	1.41%	51,791	13.48%
Capital Needs	627,567	627,567	2.03%	-	0.00%
Total	10,366,937	10,604,336	34.33%	237,399	2.29%
Total Cooperative Program Budget					
	30,890,325	30,890,325	100.00%	-	0.00%

2024 Challenge: 50% IMB; 25% IMPACT Mississippi; 25% Disaster Relief

2025 Challenge: 50% IMB; 25% Christian Education; 25% Mississippi Ministries