



BR BIBLICAL RECORDER

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TALKCP: NEW ONLINE FORUM FOR SBC GOSPEL WORK

By **DIANA CHANDLER** | Baptist Press

A new online forum to discuss the work and support of Southern Baptist missions and ministries fueled by the Cooperative Program (CP) has been launched at *TalkCP.com*.

Designed to meet the needs of the next generation of Southern Baptists, the site features blogposts from notable Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entity heads, pastors and other leaders as well as archived interviews conducted on the CP platform and stage at the 2016 SBC annual meeting in St. Louis.

Ashley Clayton, vice president for CP and stewardship for the SBC Executive Committee, describes the site as a meeting place for the SBC family that allows an open and public conversation about Southern Baptists advancing the gospel.

“In the past, it seems we were constantly trying to defend the Cooperative Program, or sell something that people were not certain about. TalkCP allows the Cooperative Program to speak for itself,” Clayton said. “It’s similar in concept to what [Charles] Spurgeon said, ‘... defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Unchain, and it will defend itself!’ TalkCP does just that.”

The CP is a unified plan of giving that allows Southern Baptist churches to give a percentage of their undesig-

nated receipts to support Southern Baptist missions and ministries.

TalkCP will feature regular and guest bloggers, and is especially designed to attract members of the Southern Baptist Young Leaders Network of young pastors, seminary students, church planters, missionaries and others committed to the SBC’s core values. Downloadable, educational videos are among *TalkCP.com*’s free resources.

“In the last four or five years under Dr. [Frank] Page’s leadership, we have tried to expand the conversation about the Cooperative Program,” Clayton said. “We have highlighted the conversation at the SBC annual meetings each year with panel discussions and interviews in the Exhibit Hall at the Cooperative Program stage and platform. We have sponsored pastor listening sessions across the convention where the intent is to listen to what pastors and church leaders are saying. TalkCP is a digital and online expression of this same type forum, an open and unedited dialogue.”

In addition to Page, commentators featured on the site are entity leaders Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board; and David Platt, president of the International Mission Board.

TalkCP.com was launched June 13 during the SBC annual meeting. See pages 7-9 for more about CP. **BR**



Associational Conference reorganization benefits new missionaries

By **LIZ TABLAZON** | BR staff writer

Change can be uncomfortable and time-consuming, but more often than not, it’s exactly what a group needs. When the leaders of the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference began the process of changing the structure of the leadership team and conference event, they didn’t realize just how advantageous the reorganization would be to local associations and churches throughout the state.

Dougald McLaurin, president of the North Carolina Associational Missions Conference, said the need for modification was evident when there were about 30 leadership positions but only 40-50 people regularly attending meetings. The former bylaws were well-intentioned, because they ensured representation from each region of the state, but the rules became too cumbersome, said McLaurin.

“We had to have a representative from the west, Piedmont and eastern [regions],” he said. “We had to have three vice presidents, a rotation system, every

See Benefits page 16

Literacy missions ‘opens doors,’ says ESL teacher

By **SETH BROWN** | BR Content Editor

When two people who do not speak the same language attempt to communicate, they quickly come face-to-face with a language barrier that stands between them.

Kathy Boyd, director of literacy for the Mt. Zion Baptist Association (MZBA), sees the verbal challenge

as an opportunity instead of an obstacle. She’s using her ability to teach English as a gateway to reach immigrants in central North Carolina.

“This ministry has opened up so many doors,” said Boyd in a phone interview with the *Biblical Recorder*. She explained how the outreach program has grown in just over a decade from an English as a second language (ESL) class to now include adult reading and writing

(ARW) and tutoring children and youth (TCY). The program also provides training for non-English speaking immigrants in the process of becoming United States citizens.

“The purpose is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through each one of these ministries,” Boyd said.

She described literacy missions as an accessible way

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Acts 1:8 gives no percentages

After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to the early disciples and gave them an assignment that still belongs to all followers of our Lord in every generation, until He comes again. So, we are still working on Acts 1:8. Jesus framed His Great Commission with these words, “*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth*” (Acts 1:8, NKJV).

We often draw the distinction between the four areas of mission Jesus listed: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the “end of the earth.” Some like to point out the high value of reaching one of those four groups above the other three. But that’s just not in this text. In fact, there are three other items that are not in Acts 1:8.

First, I do not see where any believer is excluded from reaching certain geographical areas. The regions are simply listed by our Lord, and we are commanded to be witnesses to all of them. We can do that. None of us can physically travel everywhere, but through prayer and channels of giving like the Cooperative Program (CP), we can go everywhere.

We should notice that “the mission field” is all four, not just the last one, as we often erroneously and habitually say. Lostness is everywhere. The witness of the gospel is desperately needed in all four fields.

Second, I do not see a priority list here. Jesus described the mission field in geographical sequence with no judgment on the value of each area. So, this scripture text offers no basis to say our resources must be devoted to one area

at the expense of another.

I realize wisdom demands that we make the best use of our time and material resources in order to impact lostness everywhere. Mission strategists underscore the value of investing our Great Commission energies in places of receptivity and need. I have no problem with that. Score another point for Southern Baptists’ Cooperative Program and special mission offerings. These giving channels facilitate all mission fields. The location is not the priority; the gospel is.

Third, I do not read where Jesus told us what percentage of our time, energy and resources must be given to each of the four regions. Some like to focus on those discussions. I’m a “bottom line” kind of guy, so I see the bottom line of Jesus’ assignment is not to prompt arguments on what percentage we invest in each area. The goal is to get on with reaching all people everywhere.

The autonomy of local churches and our voluntary partnership through the Cooperative Program allows every church the freedom to determine the percentage that matches its biblical convictions.

It is problematic that many of our church members do not know how CP works. Two steps could remedy that. First, provide them with the Biblical Recorder so they can regularly read personal stories from the mission field – the Jerusalem mission field, the Judea mission field, the Samaria mission field and the end of the earth (international) mission field.

Next, show them the CP centerfold on pages 10-11 in this issue. This graphic shows how and where CP gifts are being regularly invested in all mission



K. ALLAN BLUME
Editor

fields and how our six excellent seminaries are training our people to go to every mission field.

We illustrate how \$1,000 is distributed when North Carolina Baptist churches support missions through CP. I believe you will find this helpful to everyone in your church family.

October has several important themes in Baptist life. It is Cooperative Program Month and we want our readers to know the great value of the giving plan that has allowed Southern Baptists to make a profound impact on lostness worldwide.

Also, this is the month we give special offerings to global hunger. The front cover of the Sept. 24 issue of the *Biblical Recorder* featured this great need. Many of our mission agencies use your global hunger gifts to share the gospel. This is a significant offering.

Please remember October is also Pastor Appreciation Month. Honor your pastor and all of the ministers who serve the Lord as they faithfully shepherd the flock of God.

This month features a concentrated focus on prayer for our convention, our nation and much more. We gave our readers information about “Pray for 30 Days” on page 7 of the Sept. 24 issue. Pray!

Finally, Franklin Graham will close his 50-state Decision America Tour with a rally in Raleigh on Oct. 13 at noon. I hope many North Carolina Baptists will attend the rally and unite with other believers to make a profound statement about our convictions. Graham will challenge us and call us to prayer. Please come to the Raleigh event on the Capitol South Side at 1 East Morgan Street. **BR**

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K. Allan Blume, Editor/President
editor@brnow.org

Seth Brown, Content Editor
(919) 459-5697; seth@brnow.org

Dianna L. Cagle, Production Editor
(919) 459-5698; dianna@brnow.org

Alison McKinney
Business and Advertising Manager
(919) 459-5691
alison@brnow.org

Liz Tablazon
Circulation Manager
(919) 459-5693
liz@brnow.org

Kelly Hunter
Graphic Designer

Laura Crowther
Editorial Aide

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(919) 847-2127
Fax (919) 467-6180
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Engaging the lost through church revitalization

The foundational unit of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) is our local North Carolina Baptist churches. We rejoice in the fact that some of our well established churches remain vibrant and continue to reach and disciple Christ followers, and several of our newer churches and church plants are also reporting church growth and strength in their baptism numbers. However, a sad reality is that too many churches in our state convention, across the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and in other denominations are closing their doors each year.

LifeWay reports from the statistics contained in the 2014 Annual Church Profile (ACP) that in N.C. 52.1 percent of SBC churches are plateaued and 28.2 percent are declining. An SBC entity has stated that across our nation 80 percent of churches are plateaued or declining. An unidentified source indicates that only 6 percent of churches are keeping up with the population growth in North America.

There are a variety of reasons for this. Some churches are in communities that have seen dramatic population

decline or demographic shifts, including many from underserved populations or unreached and unengaged people groups. We cannot deny the fact that many churches are declining and dying because they are not strongly motivated to reach lost people living all around them or they do not believe that they have any potential for growth and they do not know what they can do in order to become a vibrant and thriving church again.

In contrast, there is some good news to follow. As a result of the needs presented in the information above, our convention launched the Church Health and Revitalization Team. It is a part of the Evangelism and Discipleship Group and the leader of this new team is Brian Upshaw.

The consultants who make up this team serve on a contractual basis with BSC. They are active or retired pastors and church leaders who have a proven track record of leading healthy, growing churches here in North Carolina.

This team, in its inaugural year, has been assisting churches in the revitalization process including many that are located in the pockets of lostness in this state

as identified by the BSC's Strategic Focus Team. Some churches are beginning to experience hope because they are pursuing a fresh work of God within their fellowship and beginning to develop new vision for their future.

Already, the Church Health and Revitalization Team has connected with 487 pastors, laymen and associational leaders, representing 207 churches and Baptist associations to assist with revitalization efforts toward the mission.

Our new team has developed a three-phase process to bring churches from "survival mode" to a place where they are actively engaging in missions. These three phases are "the man, the ministry and the mission," and they help move a church forward to become healthy and to make disciples.

At BSC, we believe dying churches do not reflect God's heart – however, that is not to say that mere survival is this team's goal. The true goal is to have these dying churches return to the mission to impact lostness through disciple-making. Making disciples is what God commanded us to do in the Great Commission, and we at the convention believe that He will truly be glorified if disciple-making is the heart of our churches' mission.

Visit revitalize@ncbaptist.org. **BR**



MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD JR.
BSC executive
director-treasurer

HB2 – next steps

(NOTE FROM AUTHOR – The following is an editorial that I shared with members of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's Board of Directors. It reflects my opinions and should not be viewed as a statement that reflects the official position of the board, the sentiments of every board member, the views of all N.C. Baptists, or an official position by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.)

Debate continues to swirl around House Bill 2, also known as HB2. The economic impacts of HB2 are but one of the many facets of the debate. As is so often the case in our society, economic impacts are often emphasized above all others. It doesn't seem to matter if the economy actually realizes a negative impact or if the fear of a negative impact is projected. The results are often the same: Calls for change come when the bottom line is affected.

But what is the bottom line for Christians in light of HB2?

How deeply concerned should North Carolina Baptists be about the economic impacts of HB2? A recent article on *WRAL.com* estimates that HB2 has resulted in a loss of over \$505 million through cancelled concerts, conventions, athletic events and stated expansion of jobs. It's unclear how many employers have chosen not to expand their operations in our state and have simply not reported these decisions to the media.

This is an enormous amount of money

that has been lost in our state. However, the 2015 gross domestic product for North Carolina, as reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce, was in excess of \$510 billion. This places the negative impact of HB2 upon the economy of our state at 0.1 percent.

Few of us know anyone for whom \$505 million is not an enormous sum of money. So let's use numbers that many of us can better understand. For a person earning \$50,000 a year, a loss of 0.1 percent of their income is equal to \$50. This is an amount of money that many of us can understand. But is the economic bottom line something that should drive our decision making in life?

Christians know in their hearts and in their heads that the answer to this question is "no." But until recently, few Christians have really paid a financial cost for their convictions in this country. In recent years though, Christians who are employed in any number of businesses that engage in the wedding industry have found it nearly impossible to make business decisions based upon their religious convictions without losing business or even landing in court.

Now, HB2 finds itself part of a larger debate in our country, and that debate transcends the economy.

The stated purpose of HB2 has been, from the beginning, to address the actions of the Charlotte City Council when that body passed its anti-discrimination act, commonly referred to as the "bath-

room bill." The N.C. General Assembly, called into special session to consider legislation aimed at overriding the Charlotte City Council, passed what we now know as HB2.

The actions of the Charlotte City Council and the N.C. General Assembly both resulted in outcries of fear that negative economic impact was imminent across the state. However, the issue of HB2 quickly became a national issue. Two agencies of the federal government, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Justice Department, each inserted themselves into the HB2 debate.

The Department of Education raised the specter of further economic impact by threatening the loss of federal funding to N.C. public schools and universities. The U.S. Justice Department later filed a lawsuit against the state of North Carolina regarding HB2.

Because the matters addressed in HB2 have risen to a national level of debate, there is some thought that North Carolina is now ground zero in the debate of gender and sexuality.

As a result, those who hold this position stress the necessity to continue

See HB2 page 12



BRIAN DAVIS
Guest Column

TAR HEEL VOICES

Sing the 'Word of God'

It must be said by someone and therefore I will say it. The essence of worship in Christian churches has never been music of any style, contemporary or otherwise. Rather, until very recently in the history of the church, the preaching of the Word of God and the people's response to that Word have been central to the experience of worship. While music is very important in our worship experience, and a delight, it must not be the primary focus of Christian worship. Rather, when in use, it has always functioned as another means by which the Word of God is declared. It is no wonder then that some of the early authors of the great hymns of the church were pastors such as John Newton and John Wesley. An example of such hymnody is Wesley's "And Can It Be?" Therefore, I will say

it, though some may consider it heresy. It is the preaching of the Word that is CENTRAL to worship. It is the preacher who is the "Worship Leader," not "the Music Pastor." This is why the apostle Paul so carefully defined the place that music has in worship in Ephesians 5:18b-21 and Colossians 3:16. He wrote that those who lead the music are obligated to choose hymns and spiritual songs that present God's Word to the people ("Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly"). Thus, "touchy-feely," sentimental Christian radio "hit parade" compositions, not centered on the Word of God, should be avoided. When we sing in church, let us sing the Word of God!

Ned L. Mathews, professor emeritus
of pastoral ministries, Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

BSC Board meeting spotlights lostness in N.C.

By **CHAD AUSTIN** | BSC Communications
& **K. ALLAN BLUME** | BR Editor

In a report to the board Zac Lyons, the newly named consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) office of Great Commission Partnerships, said, "My hope, my desire as I lead the office of Great Commission Partnerships is to equip pastors and to equip leaders in the church to equip every member to become a disciple maker of all nations."

Pointing to Acts 17:26-27, Lyons said God has determined when and where the nations exist in the world and God controls the movements of the nations so they will "feel their way to Him like a blind man."

Since God has brought so many immigrants to North Carolina, "We have to equip our people to use their vocation for the spread of the gospel among the nations living around us," Lyons said. He fears many Baptists may have closed our eyes to the open doors for sharing the gospel around us.

"Begin to look in the eyes of the people you have influence with," said Lyons. "We must realize that the nations are here so they might find their way to our God. ... We must go out of our way to discover who these people are."

The mission statement of the office of Great Commission Partnerships was reviewed for the board members. It reads, "To assist churches in their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission in least reached places and among unreached people groups through

1. Peoples Next Door NC,
2. North American partnerships, and
3. international partnerships with biblical missions strategies."

"There are large enclaves of unreached people groups in North America and there are large enclaves of unreached people groups in North Carolina," Lyons explained. "My vision is to laser focus on lostness, running after lostness, not to say there is not lostness everywhere, but I would like for us to prioritize the greatest density of lostness over lesser density of lostness."

During the meeting, the BSC's board of directors approved a proposed budget for 2017 totaling \$30.375 million and several other measures during its September meeting that will be voted on by messengers attending the BSC annual meeting in November.

The \$30.375 million Cooperative Program (CP) budget proposal that was unanimously approved by the board represents a nearly 3 percent increase over the 2016 budget of \$29.5 million.

The proposal calls for a 40.5 percent allocation – which would equal approximately \$12.3 million – to missions and ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention through CP, an increase of .5 percent over 2016. All institutions and agencies of the BSC, as well as various ministry groups of the state convention, would also receive funding increases under the proposal.

In recommending the budget proposal to the board, Tony Honeycutt, chair of the BSC's Budget Special Committee, said the committee sought to make budget allocations in accordance with the convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." He told the board the increases were based on upward trends in giving by N.C. Baptist churches.

"In 2015, we exceeded the budget numbers for the first time in a decade," Honeycutt said.

"We are also expected to exceed the budget for 2016. So we say, 'Thank you, God,' for North Carolina Baptist's generosity that they are giving [through] the Cooperative Program."

Through Aug. 31, CP receipts from N.C. Baptist churches totaled nearly \$18.9 million, which is about 2 percent ahead of giving totals from the same time period last year. Receipts for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering are also up 11 percent and 3 percent, respectively, so far in 2016.

The board also approved a recommended goal of \$2.1 million for the 2017 North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO), which supports BSC church planting efforts as well as the 17 different ministries of N.C. Baptist Men, also known as Baptists on Mission.

As of Aug. 31, NCMO giving from churches totaled slightly less than \$565,000, however, the majority of NCMO funds are given in September and October during the annual NCMO promotion and emphasis.

Messengers from N.C. Baptist churches attending this year's BSC annual meeting – scheduled for Nov 14-15 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro – will vote on the 2017 CP budget and the NCMO giving goal. Messengers who have questions related to the budget may attend a special listening session scheduled Nov. 15 at 7:30 a.m.

The board also gave unanimous approval to other motions that will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting.

They include amendments to BSC's bylaws to better align the board's organizational and meeting structure with the state convention's disciple-making strategy, and to update language in the bylaws that is outdated or inconsistent.

John Mark Harrison, pastor of Apex Baptist Church, recommended on behalf of the Board of Directors' Meetings Evaluation Task Force that the Articles and Bylaws Committee propose amendments to the BSC's bylaws that would:

Establish a new Convention Relations Committee within the board structure that would relate to entities for whom the convention elects trustees and allocates Cooperative Program funds.

Move the references to the current Christian Social Services Special Committee into the new Convention Relations Committee.

Include references to the *Biblical Recorder* and North Carolina Baptist Foundation within the new Convention Relations Committee based upon input from the leadership of those organizations.

Remove the Christian Social Services Special Committee and the Christian Higher Education Special Committee from the current board structure.

The recommended changes were based on proposals made to the board and discussed at their May meeting. The proposals were the result of work completed by the task force that was led by Harrison and included current and former board members, current and former board officers, current convention officers and BSC liaisons.

"We realized that the board of directors was one of the last parts of our convention that had not been aligned with our strategy of impacting lostness through disciple-making," Harrison said. "That was our purpose. How could we align the board functions and structures to our strategy?"

The board unanimously approved the motion as presented by Harrison. Because the September meeting is the final board meeting of the year, the Articles and Bylaws Committee will bring proposed amendments regarding these matters to the board for consideration in 2017.

John Compton, chair of the Articles and Bylaws Committee, also presented four proposed amendments to the BSC's bylaws. The motions:

● Update the bylaws to allow greater flexibility in scheduling the board's regular meetings in January, May and September of each year without the necessity of further bylaw amendments.

● Eliminate limitations placed upon employees, directors and trustees of the BSC's five affiliated educational institu-

tions from serving in various convention positions.

Compton said these restrictions were in place in the past to prevent potential conflicts of interest. Compton noted, however, that those potential conflicts no longer exist because the affiliated educational institutions no longer receive funding from the BSC, and the BSC no longer elects any directors or trustees for the institutions.

● Clarify the roles of members elected to the convention's Committee on Convention Meetings to allow for greater flexibility by the committee chair to assign committee members to specific tasks during the annual meeting.

● Address several miscellaneous matters that update, correct or bring consistency to various sections of the bylaws.

The board unanimously approved the four motions, which will be presented to messengers at the annual meeting in November.

Messengers will also have an opportunity to ask questions about the proposed bylaw changes at a listening session at annual meeting scheduled for Nov. 15 at 7:30 a.m.

In other business, the Executive Committee approved a personnel request by Richard Brunson, executive director of N.C. Baptist Men, to reclassify a contract worker position at the Red Springs mission camp into a full-time, support staff role. The position would continue to be funded through gifts received through NCMO and would not require Cooperative Program funding.

The board also approved a recommendation made by board President Brian Kinlaw for Seth Norris, pastor of Perkinsville Baptist Church in Boone, and Joe Thigpen, a lay person at Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, to serve as at-large members of the Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee. Norris will serve a one-year term beginning in 2017, and Thigpen will serve a two-year term from 2017-2018.

The board approved an amendment to the Fruitland Baptist Bible College constitution that changes the number required meetings by Fruitland's Board of Directors from four meetings to three meetings each year.

Board members who complete their terms of service in 2016 were recognized. They are: Gordon Benton, Kelly Bullard, Bob Garbett, Grant Geisler, Bobby Henderson, Tony Honeycutt, Barry Lawrence, Larry Lyon, Lou Jean Manning, Eddie Mauldin, Randy Melton, Dwayne Milioni, Carson Moseley, Buddy Pigg, David Powell, David Putnam, Andy Royals, Bud Russell, Scott Setzer, Tim Wheeler and Steve Williams. **BR**



ZAC LYONS

BSC annual meeting schedule

Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC) will gather Nov. 14-15 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Visit ncannualmeeting.org or BRnow.org for more information.

Monday evening, Nov. 14

- 2:00 p.m.** Exhibits and registration open
6:15 Call to worship – Western Avenue Baptist Church worship ministry
6:30 Call to order – Timmy D. Blair Sr.
 Invocation – Alfredo Valencia
 Pledges – Cullen Faircloth
 Committee on Convention meetings – Brenda Hicks
 Committee on Nominations – Noah Crowe
 Historical Committee – Don Wright
7:05 Greetings
 N.C. Baptist Men Partnerships
 Office of Great Commission Partnerships
7:15 Woman's Missionary Union North Carolina – Amy Pardue Boone
7:30 Worship
 Theme video
 Prayer focus – Chris Schofield
 Music – Western Avenue Baptist Church worship ministry
8:05 Introduction of president
 Prayer – Kenn Hucks
 Music – Tate Jones & Marthieah Weaver
8:15 President's address – Timmy D. Blair Sr.
 Benediction – Bonita Wilson

Tuesday morning, Nov. 15

- 7:30 a.m.** Listening sessions
 2017 budget proposal
 Proposed bylaw amendments
8:00 Exhibits and registration open (Exhibits close at 6 p.m.)
8:30 Call to worship – Russell & Kristi
8:45 Call to order – Timmy D. Blair Sr.
8:50 Worship
 Theme – J.D. Greear
 Prayer focus – Chris Schofield
 Music – Russell & Kristi
9:15 Board of Directors report – Brian Kinlaw
 Impacting Lostness through Disciple-Making – Milton A. Hollifield Jr.
9:50 Music – Russell & Kristi
10:00 N.C. Baptist Foundation – Clay Warf
10:15 Miscellaneous business
10:30 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials – Phillips McRae
10:40 Election of officers (fixed order of business) – president
10:45 Board of Directors report – Brian Kinlaw
 Articles and Bylaws – John Compton
11:00 Executive Committee of the SBC – Frank Page
11:15 Institution & Agency reports
Biblical Recorder – K. Allan Blume
 North Carolina Baptist Hospital – Gary Gunderson, Leland Kerr
 Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina/ North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry – Michael C. Blackwell
11:35 Benediction

Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 15

- 1:30 p.m.** Call to order – Timmy D. Blair Sr.
1:35 Greeting – LifeWay Christian Resources
1:40 Worship
 Theme and prayer focus – Chris Schofield
 Music – Kenny Lamm
1:55 Election of officers
 – first & second vice presidents
2:05 North Carolina Baptist Men
 – Richard Brunson
2:20 Music – Kenny Lamm
2:25 Board of Directors report (fixed order of business) – Brian Kinlaw
 Proposed 2017 budget for CP and NCMO – Tony Honeycutt
2:55 Breakout sessions promotion – Lynn Sasser
3:00 Benediction – Ruth Courts Warner
3:15 Breakout session one
4:15 Breakout session two

Tuesday evening, Nov. 15

- 6:30 p.m.** Call to worship – Summit Worship
6:45 Call to order – Timmy D. Blair Sr.
 Invocation
6:50 Greetings – International Mission Board/ North American Mission Board
7:00 Presentation of officers
7:05 Evaluation
7:15 Impact worship service
 Worship leaders – J.D. Greear & Summit Worship
 Convention sermon – David Platt
 Benediction – Jeff Long

Convention offers numerous sessions for extra training

Breakout sessions will be held in the Koury Convention Center during the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSC) annual meeting Tues., Nov. 15 from 3:15-4 p.m. and/or 4:15-5 p.m. Sessions are free.

● **Becoming a Missional Church** – Zac Lyons, consultant, BSC Great Commission Partnerships; Room: Oak C; 3:15-4 p.m.: Discover how to build a culture of global mission into your church. Our hope is that you will walk away understanding how to lead your church in pursuing lostness here in North Carolina, pursuing least-reached places in North America and pursuing unreached peoples around the world.

● **Discipling a Congregation Through Preaching** – Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Room: Colony B; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: The preaching event is the most frequent, focused and comprehensive time that pastors have with their congregations on a regular basis. Consequently, maximizing that opportunity for congregational discipleship is huge. This session will explore ways for pastors and other teachers to use their pulpit ministries to foster disciple-making

and shape their flocks into Christ's image.

● **Discipling Women Through Studying Scripture** – Cathy Moffett, women's ministry leadership team, Glen Hope Baptist Church, Burlington; Room: Cedar B; 3:15-4 p.m.: Biblical authors use many rich terms to describe the Bible, proclaiming both the delight and useful benefits of applying the Word to one's life. This breakout session will encourage women to seek the illumination of God's Word by the Holy Spirit and offer some helpful tools for a deeper investigation of the teaching and application of scripture. These basic tools will also be beneficial for discipling other women on their journey in God's Word.

● **21st Century Safety and Security for the Church – What You Don't Know Can Ruin Your Ministry** – Bob Wild, senior director of strategic alliances, Brotherhood Mutual Insurance; Room: Cedar A; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: Churches are no longer the "safe zones" people used to think they were. If your church is not prepared to actively address problems, your entire ministry is at risk. Proper planning, training, screening and implementation of safety and security policies

is not a luxury in the 21st century – it is a necessity. One of America's leading authorities in the area of church safety and security, Bob Wild, will give you the tools you need to evaluate and begin the process of implementing policies to protect your people and your ministry.

● **Generation Z is Here** – Tom Knight, consultant, BSC collegiate partnerships; Room: Heritage B; 4:15-5 p.m.: Just as the church is starting to understand millennials, the next generation — Generation Z — moves in. The first of them just started their freshman year of college, and if you think the millennials have shaken things up, you and your church need to brace yourself for what's next.

● **Impact on Purpose: Developing Your Church's Strategy to Impact Lostness Through Disciple-making Across the Street and Around the World** – Dan Collison, BSC strategy coordinator (Charlotte); Room: Pinehurst; 4:15-5 p.m.: Gospel impact in our communities is at its lowest level in generations. While some may be tempted to "circle the wagons," Christ's commission compels us to engage. Seemingly insurmountable obstacles reveal unprecedented opportunities. This interactive session will help you

chart a course toward disciple-making that makes a difference.

● **Impacting Lostness: Churches Planting Churches** – BSC church planting team; Room: Heritage A; 3:15-4 p.m.: One of the most effective ways to impact lostness through disciple-making is churches giving birth to new churches. This forum of successful leaders will discuss steps in partnering with a new church to positively impact the sending church so that dozens are won to Jesus.

● **Involving Your Church in Life-changing Missions Projects** – N.C. Baptists on Mission/N.C. Baptist Men staff; Room: Cedar C; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: Your church can be involved in missions locally, across the state and around the world. Come discover the mission projects in which your church can become involved.

● **Leading Your Church on the Mission of God Through Your Sunday School and Small Groups** – Rick Hughes, consultant, BSC Sunday School and small groups, BSC staff and Jim Cohn, pastor, First Baptist Church, Walnut Creek; Room: Oak B; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: You don't have to be a large

See Breakouts page 14

Committee on Nominations Report

BSC Communications

The Committee on Nominations is charged with the task of receiving and reviewing the numerous recommendations provided by North Carolina Baptists for service on the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s (BSCNC) Board of Directors, the committees of the convention, the boards of the institutions and agencies of the convention, and the board of North Carolina Baptist Hospital. The committee begins its work with the recommendations sent by North Carolina Baptists and when exhausted, or in the event too few recommendations have been received for a specific place of service, the committee seeks to find candidates who meet the qualifications for service as outlined in the convention bylaws.

The full report from the Committee on Nominations can be found on the BSCNC’s Annual Meeting website, in this edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, on the *Biblical Recorder* website and in the Book of Reports provided to each messenger who completes their registration at the Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the committee members listed below, I want to thank each North Carolina Baptist who completed and submitted a recommendation. It is not too early to begin thinking about those individuals whom you wish to recommend for consideration by the 2017 Committee on Nominations. Please continue to submit your recommendations at ncbaptist.org/recommend, as your input is essential to the committee’s work and the ongoing effectiveness of the missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Noah Crowe, Chair

2016 Committee on Nominations Members

Reginald Bakr, Browns Summit; Charles Brust, Bladenboro; Noah Crowe, Robbinsville; Steve Frazier, Waynesville; Ken Gilbert, Cary; Marvin Green, Rutherfordton; Ronald Hester, Bladenboro; Kenn Hucks, Monroe; David Jones, North Wilkesboro; Richard Odom, Stokesdale; Jonas Perez, Concord; Joseph Phan, Raleigh; Jonathan Rebsamen, Charlotte; Steve Roy, Clayton; Steve Schultz, Candler; Hak Ung, Creedmoor; Beth Wooten, Beulaville; and Eddie Yount III, Taylorsville.

The Committee on Nominations report follows the BSCNC’s bylaws directive to “nominate persons for election by the Convention to the committees listed in Article I.C.1 (b) – (d) of these Bylaws, such other committees as may be assigned to it, the chair of such Convention committees, the boards of trustees and directors of all institutions and agencies of the Conven-

tion, the Board, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention.”

Among other considerations for nominees, the bylaws state “It is desirable that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of members nominated to all committees of the Convention, the Board, the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention’s institutions and agencies shall come from churches with a membership under four hundred (400).” This is indicated in the committee’s report by (O) for 400 and over and by (U) for under 400 in church membership.

The bylaws further direct that, “The Committee on Nominations shall include in its report at a minimum the name, church, home town, association, occupation, and sex of each nominee, the name of the committee or board on which the nominee is to serve together with such summary information as will make clear to this Convention the diversity and breadth of representation provided by the slates of nominees.”

Board of Directors, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

Region 1 – No Vacancies

Region 2 – Philip Brannan, Temple Baptist (O), New Bern, Atlantic, minister, male; Jason Currie, Grifton First Baptist (U), Grifton, South Roanoke, minister, male; and Charles Headden, Cornerstone Gospel (U), Cape Carteret, Atlantic, minister, male

Region 3 – Robert E. Jordan, Zion’s Tabernacle Baptist (U), Lumberton, Robeson, minister, male; Randy Locklear, Westside Baptist (U), Hope Mills, Robeson, minister, male; Darrin Moore, New Hope Baptist (U), Whiteville, Columbus, minister, male; and Nathan Morton, Elizabethtown Baptist (O), Elizabethtown, Bladen, minister, male

Region 4 – Wayne Harrifeld, Hocutt Baptist (O), Clayton, Johnston, lay person, male; Kelton Hinton, Princeton Baptist (O), Princeton, Johnston, minister, male; Jay Huddleston, (2019 unexpired term of Nhiem Tran), Cary First Baptist (O), Apex, Raleigh, minister, male; Robert Alton (Al) James, Hales Chapel Baptist (O), Wake Forest, Johnston, minister, male; and Melanie C. Wallace, Hephzibah Baptist (O), Wendell, Raleigh, lay person, female

Region 5 –No Vacancies

Region 6 –Jonathan Morris, Troy First Baptist (U), Troy, Montgomery, minister, male; Josh Phillips, Memorial Baptist (O), Albemarle, Stanly, minister, male; and Clay Smith, Matthews First Baptist (O), Matthews, Metrolina, minister, male

Region 7 –Grant Atkins, Cornerstone Baptist (U), Pinnacle, Surry, minister, male; Christopher Benfield, Fellowship Missionary Baptist (U), State Road, Surry,

minister, male; Mickey Cogdill, (2018 unexpired term of Robert Duncan), Ban- nertown Baptist (O), Mount Airy, Surry, minister, male; Ron K. Greene, Oak Grove Baptist (U), Newland, Avery, minister, male; and Chris Hughes, (2017 unexpired term of Toby Oliver), Mount Vernon Baptist (O), Boone, Three Forks, lay person, male

Region 8 – William A. Cooper, (2017 unexpired term of Phil Oakley), Shelby First Baptist (O), Shelby, Greater Cleve- land, minister, male; Cail Elliott Sr., Parkwood Baptist (O), Gastonia, Greater Gaston, lay person, male; William D. (Billy) Fryar, Double Springs Baptist (U), Shelby, Greater Cleveland, minister, male; Troy Grant, Lakeview Baptist (O), Hicko- ry, Catawba Valley, minister, male; Sandy Huntley, (2019 unexpired term of Chris Hensley), Bethany Baptist (O), Forest City, Sandy Run, lay person, female; and Michael (Todd) Rudisill, Christ United Baptist (U), Newton, Catawba Valley, minister, male

Region 9 – Della A. Brindley, Pole Creek Baptist (O), Canton, Buncombe, lay person, female; Walter Brooks, Calvary Road Baptist (O), Waynesville, Haywood, lay person, male; James Felty, Calvary Bap- tist (U), Brevard, Transylvania, lay person, male; Donnie Ray Parks, Biltmore Baptist (O), Fletcher, Buncombe, lay person, male; and Tracy B. Smith, Ratcliffe Cove Baptist (U), Waynesville, Haywood, minister, male

Region 10 – Robert S. Brown, Franklin First Baptist (U), Franklin, Macon, minis- ter, male; and Thomas Nahlen, Longview Baptist (U), Franklin, Macon, minister, male

Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina

Connie Coble, Trinity Baptist (O), Ra- leigh, Raleigh, lay person, female Kenneth Haigler, Wrightsboro Baptist (O), Wilmington, Wilmington, lay person, male; Gary Issette, Peace Church (U), Wilson, N.C. Miscellaneous, lay person, male; Jerry Jordan, Lakeview Baptist (U), Oakboro, Stanly, lay person, male; Justin Lee, Clinton First Baptist (O), Clinton, Eastern, lay person, male; Joann Lutz, Boil- ing Springs Baptist (O), Boiling Springs, Greater Cleveland, lay person, female; David Powell, Salem Baptist (O), Dobson, Surry, minister, male; Elaine Scarborough, Wadesboro First Baptist (O), Polkton, Anson, lay person, female; and David B. Smith, Lenoir First Baptist (O), Lenoir, Caldwell, minister, male

North Carolina Baptist Hospital

George D. Renfro, Biltmore Baptist (O), Asheville, Buncombe, lay person, male

Biblical Recorder

Kevin Atchley, Elizabeth Baptist (O),

Shelby, Greater Cleveland, lay person, male; Tony Honeycutt, Big Rock Creek Baptist (U), Bakersville, Mitchell, lay person, male; Nathan T. Jones Jr., (2016 unexpired term of Rob Pocheck and full term), Cross Culture Church (U), Raleigh, N.C. Miscellaneous, lay person, male; Daniel Meyer, Mount Vernon Baptist (O), Blowing Rock, Three Forks, lay person, male; and James L. Pennington Jr., Temple Baptist (O), New Bern, Atlantic, minister, male

North Carolina Baptist Foundation

Bruce Cannon, Bear Creek Baptist (O), Bakersville, Mitchell, minister, male; Mi- chael C. Cummings, Charlotte First Baptist (O), Charlotte, Metrolina, minister, male; Robert Howard, Southport Baptist (O), Southport, Brunswick, lay person, male; Roy D. Krege, Mount Calvary Baptist (U), Banner Elk, Three Forks, lay person, male; and Glen Warren, Piney Grove Baptist (U), Fuquay-Varina, Raleigh, minister, male

Committee on Convention Meetings

Horace Aclin, Olive Chapel Baptist (O), Apex, Raleigh, minister, male; Larry Burns, Mulberry Baptist (O), Gasto- nia, Metrolina, minister, male; Webster Gregory, Dublin First Baptist (O), Dublin, Bladen, minister, male; Garland Honeyc- utt, Big Rock Creek Baptist (U), Bakers- ville, Mitchell, minister, male; Joe Daniel Staley, Oak Grove Baptist (U), Lincoln- ton, South Fork, minister, male; Jeff A. Stephens, Germanton Baptist (O), Pilot Mountain, Pilot Mountain, minister, male; and Chip Hannah, Chair, Peace Baptist (U), Whiteville, Columbus, minister, male

Committee on Resolutions and Memorials

Everett Coates, Hocutt Baptist (O), Clayton, Johnston, lay person, male; Buddy Cutshaw, Macedonia Baptist (U), Indian Trail, Union, minister, male; Jarrod Scott, Green Pines Baptist (O), Raleigh, Raleigh, minister, male; Zach- ary Williams, North Canton Baptist (U), Waynesville, Haywood, minister, male; and Jonathan Blaylock, Chair, West Canton Baptist (O), Canton, Haywood, minister, male

Historical Committee

Lloyd V. Fish Jr., Buff Creek Baptist (U), Franklin, Tuckaseigee, minister, male; James Lutzweiler, Gethsemane Baptist (U), Jamestown, Piedmont, lay person, male; William Robertson, North Main Baptist (U), Salisbury, Rowan, minister, male; Tim Sydnor, Cary First Baptist (O), Cary, Raleigh, lay person, male; and Don Wright, Chair, Salem Baptist (O), Apex, Raleigh, lay person, male

2016 summary for proposed BSC bylaw amendments

The Board of Directors (Board) presents to the messengers attending the 2016 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (Convention) proposed amendments to the Convention's bylaws for consideration.

The proposed amendments are encapsulated in 4 (four) motions. A brief description of each motion is found below. The motions with the proposed amendments are located in a special section of the *Biblical Recorder*. Please note that no changes are proposed for the Articles of Incorporation, only for the Bylaws.

● **Motion One** – Focuses on the meeting dates for the Board. During its May 2016 meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from the Board of Directors Meetings Evaluation Task Force (Task Force) regarding changes in the meeting dates for the Board. The Board proposes amendments in order to facilitate the changes proposed by the Task Force and to provide flexibility in meeting dates without the necessity of further bylaw amendments.

● **Motion Two** – Eliminates limitations placed upon employees of the affiliated educational institutions as well as limitations for those elected to serve as directors and trustees of the affiliated educational institutions in serving in various Convention positions. Currently, employees of the affiliated educational institutions and

those elected to serve as directors and trustees of the affiliated educational institutions are prohibited from serving on the Board of the Convention, Convention committees and the boards of other Convention institutions and agencies and the Hospital. These limitations were in place to prevent potential conflicts of interest in the past. However, the potential conflicts no longer exist as the Convention does not provide any funding for the affiliated educational institutions and no longer elects any directors or trustees for these institutions. Finally, in recent years, some individuals elected by the Convention to serve on the Board and Committees of the Convention have been forced to resign due to accepting employment by one of the affiliated educational institutions. Again, the opportunity for conflicts of interest is no longer an issue; therefore, the Committee proposes the removal of this prohibition.

● **Motion Three** – Clarifies the role of the members elected to the Convention's Committee on Convention Meetings. Currently, this committee is directed to assign nine (9) of its members to serve as a credentials sub-committee. The Committee on Convention Meetings has determined that nine (9) members are not necessary for this task. The proposed amendment will give the Committee on Convention Meetings chair flexibility in assigning all committee members to this task.

● **Motion Four** – Addresses several miscellaneous matters in the bylaws that deserve attention. The proposed amendments update, correct and bring consistency to these specific sections. The first matter is related to membership on the Board by representatives from the Baptist Campus Ministry of North Carolina student organization. This organization has ceased to exist; therefore, it is no longer necessary to provide Board membership to these representatives.

Second, the use of the terms directors and trustees on the boards of Convention's institutions and agencies is inconsistent within the various sections in the bylaws; therefore, amendments are proposed to make the language in these sections consistent.

Third, references to the Fruitland Baptist Bible College directors are inconsistent; therefore, amendments are proposed to make these references consistent. The final section merely amends two cross references that became incorrect due to prior amendments.

Should you have questions, comments or concerns about these motions please feel free to contact either John Compton, chairman of the articles and bylaws committee, at john.compton316@gmail.com or Brian Davis, Convention associate executive director-treasurer, at bdavis@ncbaptist.org.

Proposed amendments to bylaws of Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc.

Motion 1

The Board of Directors moves that the first part of Section 1 of Article II.E. and the first part of Section 2 of Article II.E. indicated as the "Current Reading" below be deleted in their entirety and replaced with the language indicated as the "New Reading":

Current Reading:

E. Meetings of the Board
1. Regular and Special Meetings. The Board shall have three (3) regular meetings, scheduled as follows: The first and third meetings shall be in January and September on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the fourth Sunday. The mid-year meeting shall be on the Tuesday and Wednesday following the third Sunday of May, or a more convenient date recommended by the Executive Director-Treasurer and Board President and voted on by the Executive Committee in its March meeting. In the event that any regular meeting of the Board is postponed . . .

2. Notice of Meetings. Regular meetings of the Board may be held without notice, unless the mid-year meeting date is changed in accordance with these Bylaws. In the event that the Executive Committee moves the date of the mid-year meeting of the Board, then the Board Secretary shall give notice of the new date of the Board meeting no less than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the mid-year meeting of the Board. In the event that the Executive Director-Treasurer . . .

New Reading:

E. Meetings of the Board
1. Regular and Special Meetings. The Board shall have three (3) regular meetings scheduled in January, May and September. In the event that any regular meeting of the Board is postponed . . .

2. Notice of Meetings. At each January meeting of the Board, the newly-elected President of the Board shall provide notice of the dates for the next three (3) regular meetings of the Board (May, September and the following January). The Board Secretary shall provide written notice of these dates to all Board members within fourteen (14) days of the conclusion of the January Board meeting. In the event that the Executive Director-Treasurer . . .

Motion 2

The Board of Directors moves that the limitations on employees, trustees and directors of affiliated educational institutions serving as members of the committees and boards for the Convention and related entities be eliminated by deleting each of the sections or portions thereof of Article I.C.2.d., Article I.C.6.a.(vi), Article II.B.1., Article II.F.1., Article II.G.2.a.(vii), Article III.C.7., and Article III.C.8. of the Bylaws as indicated by the "Current Reading" below and replacing each of them with the "New Reading," as set forth below:

Article I.C.2.d.

Current Reading:

d. No individual who is employed by the Convention or any institution, agency or affiliated educational institution of the Convention, whether the salary is total or supplemented, shall serve on the Committee on Nominations.

New Reading:

d. No individual who is employed by the Convention or any institution or agency of the Convention, whether the salary is total or supplemented, shall serve on the Committee on Nominations.

Article I.C.6.a.(vi)

Current Reading:

(vi) No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) Convention committee, board of the Convention, special committee of the board of the Convention (as hereinafter named in Article II.F.), or board of its institutions, its agencies, its affiliated educational institutions or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.) at the same time.

Changes

Continued from page 7

New Reading:

- (vi)
- No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) Convention committee, board of the Convention, special committee of the board of the Convention (as hereinafter named in Article II.F.), or board of its institutions, its agencies, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.) at the same time.

Article II.B.1.

Current Reading:

1.
- Qualifications. . . . No one who is employed by the Convention, or any institution or agency of the Convention as described in Article III.A.(1) below, or any affiliated educational institution of the Convention, whether the salary be total or supplemented, shall be eligible for at-large membership on the Board or as an at-large member (other than an ex-officio member) of any special Committee of the Board.

New Reading:

1.
- Qualifications. . . . No one who is employed by the Convention, or any institution or agency of the Convention as described in Article III.A.(1) below, whether the salary be total or supplemented, shall be eligible for at-large membership on the Board or as an at-large member (other than an ex-officio member) of any special Committee of the Board.

Article II.F.1.

Current Reading:

1.
- Selection of Committee Members. . . . Any member of a special committee of the Board who is not a member of the Board shall not be serving at the same time on any Convention committee, any other special committee of the board of the Convention, or any board of the Convention’s institutions, agencies, affiliated educational institutions, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.).

New Reading:

1.
- Selection of Committee Members. . . . Any member of a special committee of the Board who is not a member of the Board shall not be serving at the same time on any Convention committee, any other special committee of the board of the Convention, or any board of the Convention’s institutions, agencies, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article III.A.).

Article II.G.2.a.(vii)

Current Reading:

- (vii)
- No person shall serve as a Fruitland Director, who at the same time is employed, either partially or fully, by the Convention, or any institution, agency, or any affiliated educational institution of the Convention.

New Reading:

- (vii)
- No person shall serve as a Fruitland Director, who at the same time is employed, either partially or fully, by the Convention, or any institution or agency of the Convention.

Article III.C.7.

Current Reading:

7.
- No individual elected by the Convention shall serve on the Hospital board who at the same time is holding membership on the Board of the Convention or of any other institution or agency of the Convention or affiliated educational institution of the Convention.

New Reading:

7.
- No individual elected by the Convention shall serve on the Hospital board who at the same time is holding membership on the Board of the Convention or of any other institution or agency of the Convention.

Article III.C.8.

Current Reading:

8.
- No individual who is employed, either on a full-time or part-time basis, by the Convention, any institution or agency of the Convention, or affiliated educational institution of the Convention shall be eligible to be elected by the Convention to serve on the board of trustees of the Hospital.

New Reading:

8.
- No individual who is employed, either on a full-time or part-time basis, by the Convention or any institution or agency of the Convention shall be eligible to be elected by the Convention to serve on the board of trustees of the Hospital.

Motion 3

The Board of Directors moves that Articles I.C.6.b., as indicated in the “Current Reading” below, be amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of subsection (v), by adding the new subsection (vi) shown below, by renumbering the current subsection (vi) as (vii) and by deleting the last paragraph of subsection (b), all as indicated in the “New Reading” below:

Current Reading:

- b.
- . . . The committee’s duties shall include:
- . . .
- (v)
- . . . No new items of business directing the Convention or committing funds that require a vote may be introduced following the designated time prior to the last session; and
- (vi)
- Dealing with all other matters in connection with the annual meeting not provided for in the Articles and Bylaws.

The chair of this committee shall appoint three (3) members to serve as the Teller Subcommittee. The subcommittee shall receive and count all ballots on votes taken during the Convention’s meetings. The Teller Subcommittee chair will report results on all votes to the Convention President or presiding officer.

The chair of the Committee on Convention Meetings shall also appoint nine (9) members to serve as the Credentials Subcommittee. The subcommittee shall provide for the registration of messengers and visitors prior to and during the Convention; the Credentials Subcommittee chair shall report to the messengers upon the call of President and shall serve as a committee on credentials for any messenger whose qualification is in question.

New Reading:

- b.
- . . . The committee’s duties shall include:
- . . .
- (v)
- . . . No new items of business directing the Convention or committing funds that require a vote may be introduced following the designated time prior to the last session;
- (vi)
- Providing for the registration of messengers and visitors prior to and during the Convention; the chair of the committee or the chair’s designee shall report to the messengers upon the call of the President; and the committee shall serve as a committee on credentials for any messenger whose qualification is in question; and

Great Commission Advance: ‘Not alone’ in CP impact

By ART TOALSTON | Baptist Press

“Great Commission Advance” shouldn’t be mistaken for a formal program. It’s more personal.

It’s a call for “every Southern Baptist and every Southern Baptist church living up to the high calling of disciple-making, evangelism and missions, biblical stewardship and fervent and effective prayer,” as Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee, defines the focus of a growing partnership between state conventions and SBC entities.

Simply put: “We follow Jesus, we love others like Jesus and we tell the world about Jesus,” Page said.

In myriad ways among Southern Baptists, Great Commission Advance is nurturing discussions about Cooperative Program national and international missions and ministries, and other initiatives large and small, to tell the lost about Jesus. And it relays a key message to missionaries, church planters and pastors in bivocational or traditional settings: “Through the Cooperative Program, we definitely are not alone,” Page said. “That is the theme of this emphasis: We are ‘Not Alone,’” in moving toward the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Program in 2025.

Contemporary technology and videos are part of the Great Commission Advance initiative alongside the Christian faith’s cornerstones cited by Page.

Southern Baptists encompass “many faces, many accents, many languages, but we’re all reading from the same Word, working for the same goal – to share the gospel with every person on the planet,” Page noted. The Cooperative Program enables every church “no

matter its size and every group no matter its ethnicity” to do its part in the Great Commission task, which he underscores as “the single mission of the Southern Baptist Convention for more than 170 years.”

Among the disciple-making facets of Great Commission Advance is NetCP, a partnership of state conventions and SBC entities in state-of-the-art technology to assist churches in elevating their missions outreach through the Cooperative Program.

State conventions, for example, can customize communication to churches that have stagnated or declined in their CP giving in recent years to help pastors lead their churches toward strengthened discipleship for the Great Commission.

Terry Dorsett, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England, said NetCP has “the potential to re-educate and empower a new generation of Southern Baptists toward significant Kingdom advance. NetCP is one piece of the larger foundation that the Great Commission Advance and its key initiatives are laying for revival to happen across America.

“We cannot reach our nation without a unified strategy and plan that helps us marshal our people, prayer and financial resources the best way possible,” Dorsett said.

“Great Commission Advance allows us to do that.”

In the area of missions and evangelism, the “1% CP Challenge” – which Page set forth prior to the Great Commission Advance – is continuing to stir churches upward in their Cooperative Program support by 1 percentage point of their budgets each year.

Since 2012, nearly 12,350 churches have responded to the 1% CP Challenge, some continuing for multiple years.

When Brad Adkins became pastor of Powdersville First Baptist Church in South Carolina in 2006, upheaval in the congregation had ended its missions giving.

“The first thing I told them was that we had to start investing in the Kingdom,” said Atkins, who served as president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention from 2011-2013. Powdersville First Baptist, in a precursor to the 1% CP Challenge, initially budgeted 5 percent of its receipts through the Cooperative Program; today 10 percent of the church’s budget undergirds Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries while 3 percent is devoted to the cooperative ministry of the 50 churches in the Piedmont Baptist Association in the northwest part of the state.

“Although we may not be large enough to send missionaries to the ends of the earth,” Atkins said, “we are able to help send SBC missionaries through our CP giving.”

Also part of the Great Commission Advance:

- Advisory councils reflecting the insights and concerns of African-American, Hispanic, Asian, multi-ethnic, smaller church/bivocational and women’s leaders within the SBC, along with a Calvinism advisory group and a mental health panel.

The councils also have been a catalyst. Gideon Lee, an engineer and bivocational college pastor for a Chinese church in Cambridge, Mass., said, “We feel God is touching our heart to reach out to others. The future of the church in America is reaching out beyond our own ethnicity.”

- *TalkCP.com*, an online forum for insights and reflections on the Cooperative Program’s reach and impact.

Chris Martin, executive director of the Hawaii Pacific

See CP page 11



FREE

DID YOU KNOW?

If you joined a North Carolina Baptist church in the past two years and came from a non-Baptist background, you are eligible for a free one-year subscription to the *Biblical Recorder*.

Many who join your church do not know who Baptists are, what we believe and how we cooperate for missions. Maybe they have no church background or they came to your church from a non-Baptist church. The best way to inform them is to give them a full year of regular news and information through the *Biblical Recorder*. It's free! Contact our circulation manager, Liz Tablazon, today, and she will help you get started: (919) 459-5693 or liz@bmow.org.

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By the numbers \$1,000

For the 2016 budget, every \$1,000 contribution through the Cooperative Program sends:

- **\$410** for ministries of the Baptist State Convention through its staff and programs, such as conference centers; helping plant a new church about every four and a half days on average somewhere in the state, training and other support for churches to create disciple-making cultures; and a major effort to identify, reach for Christ and plant churches for the 300+ language/culture groups who now live in North Carolina.

- **\$400** to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), where the funds are divided according to the SBC's annual budget:
 - \$201.64 to the International Mission Board
 - \$91.16 to the North American Mission Board
 - \$88.64 for the six SBC seminaries, including Southeastern, with a total of some 18,000 students in 40+ main and satellite campuses
 - \$6.60 for the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission
 - \$11.96 (2.99% of the SBC's budget) for the SBC Executive Committee, including annual meetings, committee meetings, administration

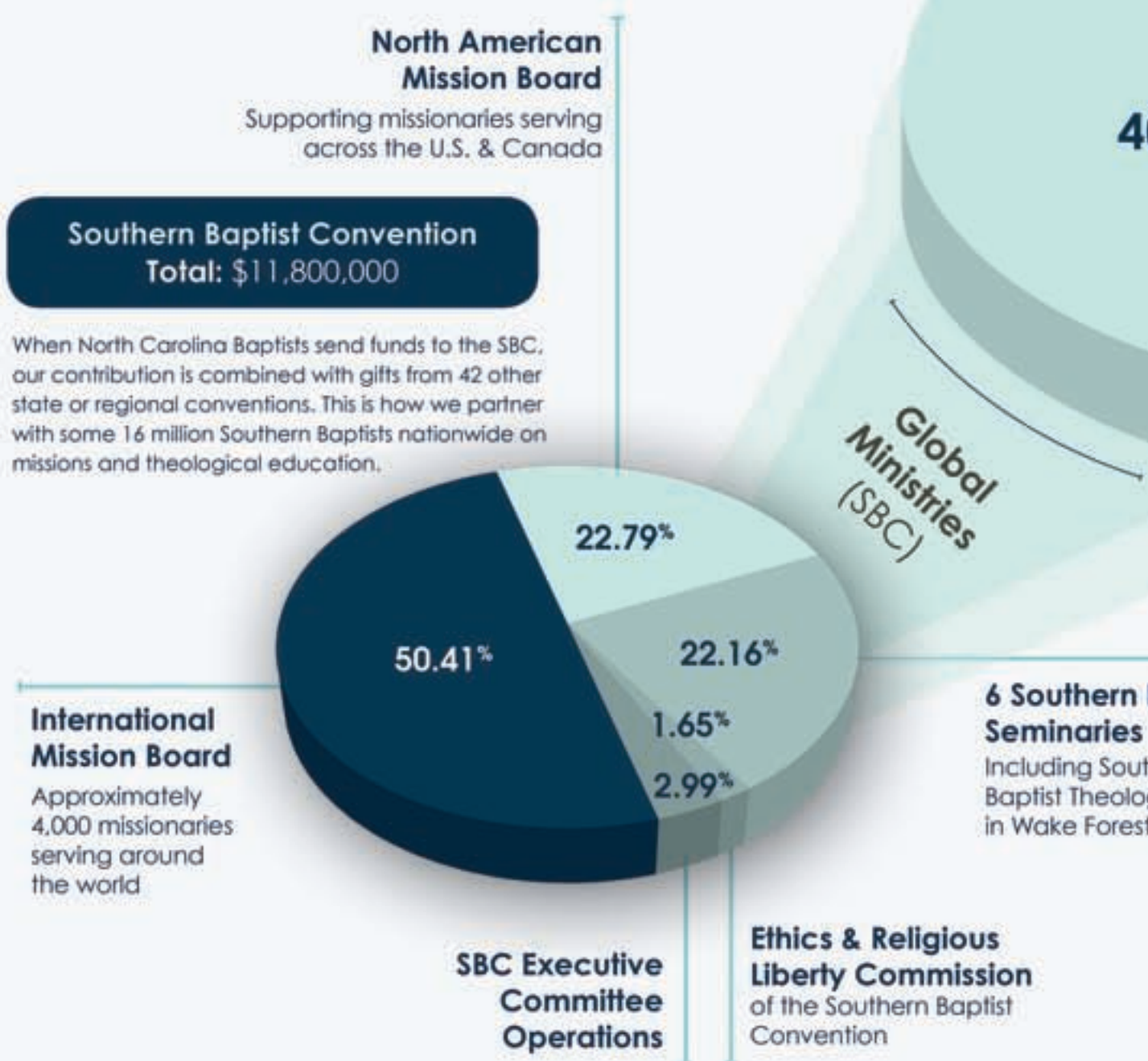
- **\$158** for the institutions and agencies of the Baptist State Convention:
 - \$92 for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, including the nine group homes operated to minister to people with developmental disabilities and the N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry
 - \$20 for N.C. Baptist Hospital's Division of Faith and Health Ministries
 - \$23 for Fruitland Baptist Bible College, including the main campus at Hendersonville and several satellite centers
 - \$17.50 for the N.C. Baptist Foundation and the *Biblical Recorder* newspaper
 - \$5.10 for N.C. Baptist scholarships to college students*

- **\$31.30** for protection benefits for pastors/staffs of N.C. Baptist churches (via GuideStone)

*This reflects numbers for spring 2016. Beginning this fall, the scholarships are being managed by the N.C. Baptist Foundation.

Resources: Download a 2016 budget booklet at: ncbaptist.org/fileadmin/about-us/budget/downloads/2016/2016-budget-booklet-web.pdf. To download free videos and other CP-related resources, go to ncbaptist.org/cpre-sources.) **BR**

[2016] COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET



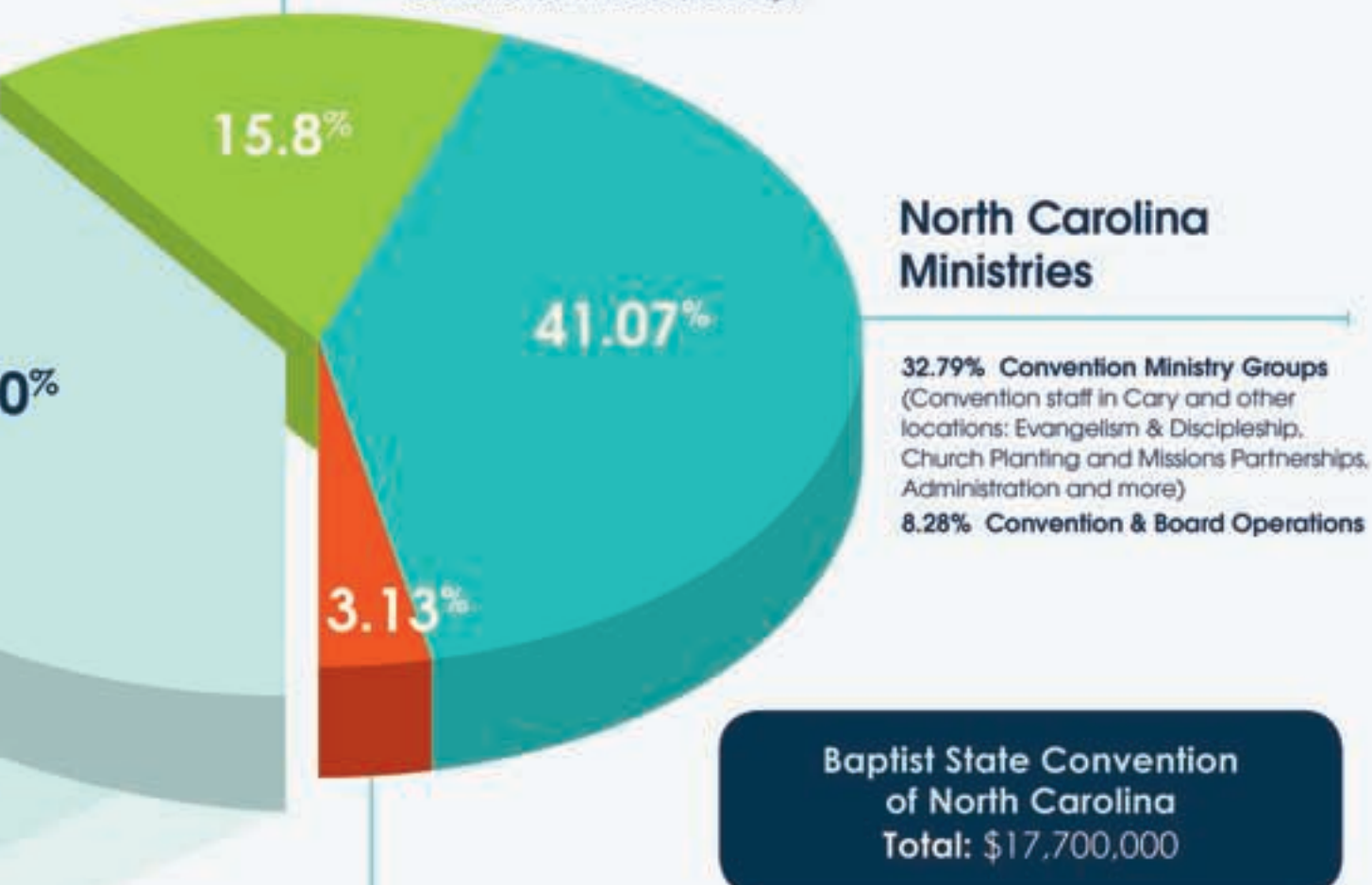
North Carolina Baptists

Baptist State Convention of North Carolina • Milton A. Hollifield Jr., Executive Director-Treasurer
205 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511 • (919) 467-5100 • (800) 395-5102 • www.ncbaptist.org

The missions and ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina are made possible by your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the North Carolina Missions Offering.

Institutions & Agencies

- 0.51% **Christian Higher Education***
N.C. Baptist Scholarships
 - 11.24% **Christian Social Services**
Baptist Children's Homes of N.C., Developmental Disabilities Ministry (9 Group Homes), N.C. Baptist Aging Ministry, N.C. Baptist Hospital's Division of Faith and Health Ministries
 - 1.75% **Agencies**
Biblical Recorder newspaper, NC Baptist Foundation
 - 2.30% **Fruitland Baptist Bible College**
Main campus, Hendersonville and satellite centers
- *Funds are for Spring 2016 only. Beginning Fall 2016 the N.C. Baptist Foundation administers scholarships.*



GuideStone & Church Protection Benefits

Retirement and protection benefits for pastors/staffs of N.C. Baptist churches

Baptist

the Eastern
ological Seminary
, N.C.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
How North Carolina Baptists Support Missions

For more information contact the
Cooperative Program office at
(800) 395-5102, ext. 5541 • (919) 459-5541 • cp@ncbaptist.org

CP Continued from page 9

Baptist Convention, wrote in one of TalkCP's commentaries, "As a Southern Baptist, cooperation was taught to me from an early age. I recall the times when missionaries would speak to our RA's group, our association was hosting an outreach or when our church was assisted by other churches to meet a need. I never knew our church to be alone in the pursuit of the Great Commission."

- Intercessory prayer, a key component of which is PrayerLink, a network of state convention prayer coordinators and SBC representatives now in the process of strengthening its ministry to promote a Great Commission prayer mindset along with prayer ministries and resources in all dimensions of Southern Baptist life.

- Nearly 20 short Cooperative Program and 1% CP Challenge videos ranging from upbeat animation to personal interviews produced by state conventions and the SBC Executive Committee, available free for church and small group viewing (sbc.net/cp/videos.asp).

- Development of a line of biblical stewardship resources, including digital and print sermon outlines, Bible studies, workbooks and financial planning tools.

Page also envisions each follower of Christ having "a personal missions portfolio," a "personal and strategic plan to embrace the Great Commission to be on mission every single day of our lives beginning in the community where we live and expanding across North America and to the far reaches of the world."

"We need to be resolute," Page said, "in leaving behind a legacy of commitment to our Lord, a legacy of missions and evangelism, a legacy of church plants and missionary work, a legacy of touching the lives of countless men and women, boys and girls in discipleship."

Since Southern Baptists launched the Cooperative Program in 1925, "God has used it to do things that no other denomination has ever seen," Page said.

"As we approach that 100-year mark, may it be stronger than it has ever been before, may there truly be a Great Commission Advance."

(EDITOR'S NOTE – October is Cooperative Program Emphasis Month in the Southern Baptist Convention. Art Toalston is senior editor of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.) **BR**

#LiftMyPastor honors bivocational Brooklyn pastor

By **MAKAYLA SYKES** | Baptist Press

The around-the-clock work of a pastor often goes unnoticed. In conjunction with Pastor Appreciation Month last year, the North American Mission Board invited churches and individuals to take to social media and share what they appreciate about their pastor.

From postings on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter with the hashtag #LiftMyPastor, Nathan Tubbs, pastor of Cornerstone Church of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, N.Y., was chosen to host a free concert by recording artists Shane and Shane.

Tubbs serves bivocationally as Cornerstone’s pastor and as a science teacher in New York City’s public school system – managing the two jobs while nurturing a healthy environment at home with his wife Lesley and two children. “Church planting really wasn’t on the radar,” Tubbs said, “until I came to New York City for a church planting internship during seminary.”

Tubbs received a bachelor’s degree in marine biology

from Auburn University in Alabama. “If you had asked me in college or even in the first year of seminary, I would have told you that my marine biology degree was going to be used as a platform for missions somewhere in the 10/40 window [of lands in Asia and Africa with little or no gospel awareness]. That’s really where my wife and I were leaning.”

The couple began to pursue their dream of moving to Africa, but God closed the door as Lesley developed some serious health issues in 2007.

“We then started looking at moving to New York to plant a church, but the question was always, How are we going to even get there? We can raise a bunch of money, but is that really sustainable for us to be in this endless fundraising circuit? We began to ask, Why don’t we find a way to become integrated in the community with something that is sustainable job-wise?

“Someone pushed me toward education, and I found a fellowship in New York City that took people without education degrees and put them in the classroom with full salary and full benefits.” Tubbs subsequently

received his second master’s degree in education and became a sixth-grade science teacher.

“From about 8 a.m. to 2:20 p.m. I am a teacher, and when I’m not at school, I am a pastor,” Tubbs said.

He spends weekends, lunch breaks, breakfasts and afternoons working on pastoral duties. “I like the term bivocational, but it can give the appearance that you sort of work two part-time jobs. It really is working two full-time jobs.”

Lesley faithfully gave her support to Tubbs through seminary and has been leading the women’s ministry at Cornerstone and playing in the worship band. In 2014, she was diagnosed with chronic myeloid Leukemia. She also developed lupus shortly after, but even with health issues, Lesley has stood ready to support others.

The Shane and Shane concert was shared with the entire Cornerstone congregation in April. Not only did it serve as an act of appreciation for Tubbs, but the church also turned it into an outreach project, inviting their neighbors to join in a night of celebration and worshipping God. **BR**

HB2

Continued from page 3

supporting and maintaining HB2 at all cost.

But a most interesting twist entered the debate by way of the N.C. Restaurant and Lodging Association (NCRLA). Representatives of the NCRLA reported that they had been in conversations with leaders within the N.C. General Assembly and the Charlotte City Council and that a repeal of HB2 might be under consideration if certain expectations were met.

Those expectations? Supposedly, General Assembly leaders indicated that a full repeal of the Charlotte anti-discrimination policy would lead to a full repeal of HB2. Furthermore, the governor’s office reported that if the Charlotte City Council took such action, Gov. McCrory would call the General Assembly into special session to repeal HB2.

For those for whom the economy is the bottom line, this news appeared to be a message of hope. Again, the stated reason for the General Assembly enacting HB2 was due to the Charlotte City Council’s action of enacting its anti-discrimination policy. If both pieces of legislation are repealed, then a virtual reset would take place, meaning that issues would automatically return to pre-Charlotte ordinance and pre-HB2 status.

But this raises an important question: What was the status of discrimination as it relates to gender and sexuality prior to these legislative actions?

While the economic impact was not visible, there was a much greater impact taking place across the state and nation regarding gender and sexuality prior to these legislative actions.

It is this matter that is of most importance to Christians. Even prior to the Charlotte ordinance and HB2, a gulf was widening concerning the understanding of

gender and sexuality, specifically related to the boundaries of each.

It is that point that needs to be understood by N.C. Baptists and other Christians. Long before the Charlotte City Council or the N.C. General Assembly took any action, the boundaries of gender and sexuality were eroding. The reality is, regardless of whether HB2 remains or is removed – the federal court case regarding HB2 is scheduled to begin Nov. 14, 2016, in Winston-Salem – the erosion of boundaries regarding gender and sexuality will continue.

So, what should be the next steps for N.C. Baptists regarding HB2?

Certainly, we should respect the judicial process that is already underway, and we should pray earnestly for those in positions to render the decision(s) regarding HB2.

But, most importantly, N.C. Baptists must remember that the answers to questions regarding gender and sexuality are not found in legislation on any level. Even if HB2 stands the scrutiny of the federal courts, and even if the Charlotte ordinance is repealed, the fact remains that so many people in our land are utterly confused about gender and sexuality. This means that the church has the opportunity to bring clarity to issues for which the courts have already demonstrated a lack of clarity. In addition, the church has the opportunity to proclaim truths that the courts will not – that clarity in the matters of gender and sexuality can be found in the timeless truths of the Bible.

This means that our next steps should be the same as our first steps – pray for all people, proclaim God’s truths to all people and prove God’s love for all people. N.C. Baptists need to spend more time praying for those who are confused about gender and sexuality rather than resort to com-

plaining about these same people. N.C. Baptists need to proclaim the truths of God’s Word regarding gender and sexuality – without reservation, but with respect and with love. And N.C. Baptists need to prove that the love of Christ, which we claim has changed our hard hearts, compels us to express love for those who are confused regarding gender and sexuality, even if these people are antagonistic toward us and the message of the gospel. Were these your first steps when HB2 was passed? If not, these are the steps necessary moving forward.

Recent decisions in federal courts do not bode well for HB2. Again, gender and sexuality are being defined in ways that cut across our culture’s traditions – traditions that were often influenced by [s]cripture in days gone by. Christians in general, and N.C. Baptists in particular, are called to focus their efforts not on legislation, nor on candidates for public office, but upon the Great Commission given to us by our Lord to “*go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you ...*” (Matthew 28:19-20). And included in the admonition of “teaching them to observe all that I commanded you” are the truths of [s]cripture regarding gender and sexuality.

The young people of our communities, and possibly within our churches, need clarity on God’s design for gender and sexuality. Their lack of understanding of these truths leaves them open and vulnerable to half-truths, deceptions and lies. The reckless pursuit of happiness, which is one of the pillars of those seeking to further erode boundaries of gender and sexuality, is inconsistent with [s]cripture. Far too many in the church fail to understand that the doctrine of love,

as outlined in [s]cripture, includes both grace and mercy, as well as holiness and righteousness. The inclusion of one to the exclusion of the other in our preaching and teaching will result in immature disciples who cannot discern truth from lies.

But it is not young people alone who are confused by gender and sexuality. Our communities are filled with parents and grandparents who mistakenly reinforce the confusion expressed by their children/grandchildren. While every parent has a scriptural admonition to love their children, the [s]criptures are clear that parents who love their children do not withhold God’s truth from them. The continued expansion of permissive parenting reveals the necessity for the church to increase its disciple-making efforts in both reaching young people with the gospel and equipping parents to be disciple-makers. Yes, disciple-making must take place at home, but the church has a strategic role in equipping parents as disciple-makers to take the gospel home with them.

If HB2 is overturned, has hope been lost? No! But neither is hope retained if HB2 is sustained. Our hope is in the gospel and our commitment must be to the fulfillment of the Great Commission and the expansion of our Lord’s [K]ingdom. It remains to be seen what new opposition the gospel will face in the years to come. It is possible that persecution may come for those who hold to the scriptural definitions of gender and sexuality. But, come what may, N.C. Baptists must be resolute in our commitment to pray for all people, proclaim God’s truths to all people and prove God’s love for all people. These should be our next steps.


(EDITOR’S NOTE – Brian K. Davis, is associate executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.) **BR**

BSC annual meeting packed with things to do

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s annual meeting Nov. 14-15 is packed before and during with events for messengers and guests. All events are at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, unless otherwise noted. Here is a list of events:

- Nov. 13-14: Pastor’s Conference
- Nov. 14-15: BSC annual meeting
- Nov. 14:**
- Ministers’ Wives Conference; speaker: Dorothy Patterson

- Boston Partnerships Brunch
- N.C. International Missionary Fellowship (off site)
- Toronto Partnerships Tea & Coffee
- Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Alumni & Friends Lunch
- New York City Partnerships Lunch
- Baltimore Partnerships Coffee Break
- Sandy Creek History Tour takes messengers via bus to Sandy Creek Baptist Church, one of the oldest N.C. Baptist churches.

- Nov. 15:**
- Great Commission Partnerships Breakfast
- Heavenly Banquet; speaker: Phil Kitchin
- Pray Greensboro Vision Bus Tour: Participants will pray for revival and spiritual awakening at sites around Greensboro.
- Visit ncannualmeeting.org to get information on most of these events. Check the next *Biblical Recorder* and online at BRnow.org for an expanded list with information about each event. 

Changes Continued from page 8

- (vii) Dealing with all other matters in connection with the annual meeting not provided for in the Articles and Bylaws.

The chair of this committee shall appoint three (3) members to serve as the Teller Subcommittee. The subcommittee shall receive and count all ballots on votes taken during the Convention’s meetings. The Teller Subcommittee chair will report results on all votes to the Convention President or presiding officer.

Motion 4

The Board of Directors moves the adoption of the following miscellaneous amendments to update sections, correct errors and provide wording consistency among the sections as follows:

- a. To amend Article II.A.3. by deleting subsection c. of Article II.A.3., by adding the word “and” at the end of subsection b., and by relettering the current subsection “d.” to subsection “c.”

Current Reading:

3. Ex-officio Non-voting Member. The following shall be ex-officio non-voting members of the Board:
- a. Executive Director-Treasurer;
 - b. The members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Inc. who are not then serving as elected members of the Board;
 - c. The President of the Baptist Campus Ministry of North Carolina and one other representative of the Baptist Campus Ministry of North Carolina as determined by its governing documents; and
 - d. The Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina’s President.

- b. To amend Article I.C.6.a.(ii) and (iv)(a) to provide consistent references to both trustees and directors of the Convention’s institutions and agencies by adding the language as reflected in the “New Reading” set forth below:

Current Reading:

- a. The Committee on Nominations shall . . .
- ...
- (ii) . . . The committee shall invite individuals through the *Biblical Recorder* and the Convention’s website to submit recommendations for trustees of institutions and agencies and for terms on the Board; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board in that year from each region. . . .
- ...
- (iv) When considering nominations, the committee shall:

- (a) Consult with the representatives of the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention’s institutions and agencies for the purpose of determining the specific trustee skills needed;

...

New Reading:

- a. The Committee on Nominations shall . . .
- ...
- (ii) . . . The committee shall invite individuals through the *Biblical Recorder* and the Convention’s website to submit recommendations for trustees and directors of institutions and agencies and for terms on the Board; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board in that year from each region. . . .
- ...
- (iv) When considering nominations, the committee shall:
- (a) Consult with the representatives of the boards of trustees and directors of the Convention’s institutions and agencies for the purpose of determining the specific trustee or director skills needed;
- ...
- c. To amend Article II.G.2.a.(vi) related to the correct designation of the Fruitland Directors by deleting it in its entirety as indicated in the “Current Reading” below and replacing it with the language as reflected in the “New Reading” set forth below:

Current Reading:

- (vi) No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the Fruitland Board after serving on the Fruitland Board whether such service has ended through expiration of the term, resignation or otherwise until one (1) full term has elapsed; provided, however, that any Fruitland Board member who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term; and

New Reading:

- (vi) No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself as a member of the Fruitland Directors whether such service has ended through expiration of the term, resignation or otherwise until one (1) full term has elapsed; provided, however, that any member of the Fruitland Directors who shall have been elected to fill a vacancy of less than two (2) years shall be eligible to be re-elected to a full term; and
- d. To amend Article II.B.2. and Article III.B.3.a. to update the cross-references therein by deleting the references to “Article I.C.5.a.” and replacing them with “Article I.C.6.a.”

Breakout

Continued from page 7

church to be on the mission of God. Pastor Jim Cohn shares practical steps in leading his small-town church on mission through Sunday School and small groups. The church is taking the gospel outside the walls of the church building to engage people with the gospel through disciple-making.

● **Making Disciples Who Make Disciples: Using Patterned Effectively in Your Church** – Ashley Allen, senior consultant, BSC Embrace Women’s Evangelism and Discipleship; Room: Auditorium II; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: Do you want the members of your church to engage in disciple-making in their homes and communities, but don’t know the best way to equip them? *Patterned* is a 10-week Bible study designed for any follower of Jesus Christ to gain practical tools to engage in our Lord’s Great Commission mandate of becoming a disciple-maker. The study, written by N.C. Baptists, for N.C. Baptists, includes lessons focused on the various elements of disciple-making. This breakout session will focus on how to use the material in a community and group setting to best equip members of your church to actively take part in fulfilling the Great Commission.

● **Pocket Watch: It’s Time to Build Your Understanding of a ‘Pocket of Lostness’ and How You Can Be a Part of Impacting It for the Kingdom** – Chuck Campbell, BSC strategy coordinator (Greenville); Room: Oak A; 3:15-4 p.m.: What is your understanding of pockets of lostness? What makes them “pockets?” Where are pockets across North Carolina? Where is the closest pocket to your church? We will look at various pockets across the state and explore what God is doing to impact them. Join us as we learn how your church can be involved in reaching its community through a “pocket watch.”

● **Principles for Revitalization: A Case Study** – Brian Upshaw, team leader, BSC church health and revitalization, and Paul Roberts, pastor, Quest Fellowship, Garner; Room: Colony C; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: What happens when a church must face the harsh reality that it is dying? Hear one church’s story about its faith and courage to follow the Lord to make the drastic changes needed to become vibrant again.

● **Reaching the Nations in North Carolina** – Zac Lyons, consultant, BSC Great Commission Partnerships; Room: Oak C; 4:15-5 p.m.: How can your church learn to discover and intentionally engage the unreached people groups now living in your community with the gospel?

● **Ready, Set, Go! Developing a Comprehensive Children’s and Youth Ministry** – Merrie Johnson, consultant, BSC youth evangelism and discipleship, and Cheryl Markland, consultant, BSC childhood evangelism and discipleship; Room: Cedar B; 4:15-5 p.m.: The importance of ministry leaders working toward a shared vision of disciple-making cannot be overstated. Learn how to more effectively disciple the children and youth of your church through the development of a comprehensive ministry plan for disciple-making that begins with infants and continues through adulthood.

● **Robbing the Early College Cradle** – Jonathan Yarboro, team leader, BSC collegiate partnerships; Room: Heritage B; 3:15-4 p.m.: Since 2002, a whopping 83 early college high schools have popped up on

college campuses all over North Carolina. High school students now roam the halls of community colleges and universities alike. Are they college students, or are they high school students? Whose responsibility are they? Early colleges are changing the ministry landscape of both youth ministry and collegiate ministry. How can your church be on the front lines of developing this mission field?

● **Stuck in a Cultural Twilight Zone** – Sammy Joo, consultant, BSC collegiate partnerships; Room: Heritage A; 4:15-5 p.m.: Her parents came to the United States to get a taste of the American dream. They worked hard to learn a new language and build a business. They are immigrants, but what about her? She was born an American, but people assume she is not. And just as others have a hard time placing her, she has a hard time finding her place in cultural norms. This is the plight of “the second generation.” Their search for identity is fertile ground for the gospel. They just need churches that care.

● **The Church Renewal Journey** – Bob & Phyllis Foy, consultants, church renewal; Room: Birch; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: A discipling process for awakening and equipping your church laity to impact their communities for Christ.

● **The ‘What’ of EPIC Stewardship** – Neal Eller, team leader/senior stewardship consultant, BSC church strengthening; Room: Turnberry; 3:15-4 p.m.: An EPIC – Experiential, Participatory, Image-driven, Connected – adventure in the world of stewardship. Resources await those who attend. Experience inspirational and moving videos, books, congregational emphasis, campaigns and small group studies, all tailored to speak to different generations. Participate in discussions with your colleagues to discover best stewardship practices. Image-rich infographics and pictures that teach timeless truths about life and stewardship will be used. And finally, connect with friends and organizations by way of social media to develop a network of partners in the gospel so that we may “spur one another on to good works and deeds” (Hebrews 10:24).

● **Three Effective Models for Evangelism and Discipleship to Impact Pockets of Lostness** – Steve Harris, BSC strategy coordinator (Blue Ridge Region); Room: Oak A; 4:15-5 p.m.: We talk a lot about the need for evangelism and discipleship in the local church,

but what is actually working? A careful observation of best practices has revealed three models that are effective at seeing lostness engaged and disciples multiplied. “Training for Trainers,” missional communities and community ministries are models that will be explored.

● **Unleashing Disciple-making in the Home** – Mark Smith, family pastor, Lakeview Baptist Church, Hickory; Room: Auditorium IV; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: When it comes to family discipleship, God designed the church (Ephesians 4:12) and the home (Deuteronomy 6:7) to come together as a team. When both institutions are biblically unified, they are able to accomplish extraordinary things for God’s Kingdom in the church and in their community. Come hear God’s command to parents and grandparents to be learners of the Bible, doers of His commands and teachers of scripture to their children and grandchildren.

● **We’re Not in Kansas Anymore: Understanding What’s Driving the Rapidly Changing Context in North Carolina and North America** – Cris Alley, BSC strategy coordinator (Triangle Region); Room: Pinehurst; 3:15-4 p.m.: Ever had your words taken out of context? It probably led to utter confusion. The same can happen when sharing the gospel. Major currents are driving rapid changes in the North American context. This session will help you understand these changes in order to share the gospel with clarity and grace.

● **Who is My Neighbor?** – Phil Kitchin, former pastor of Clarkston International Bible Church, Clarkston, Ga., & former IMB missionary; Room: Turnberry; 4:15-5 p.m.: The ethnic profile of your church community has drastically changed in the past 10 years. How is your church going to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people groups who don’t speak your language and who don’t want to relate to American or Southern culture? Are they really your neighbors?

● **With: Informal Mentoring and Intentional Disciple-Making** – George Robinson, associate professor of missions and evangelism, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Room: Auditorium I; 3:15-4 p.m. & 4:15-5 p.m.: Jesus made disciples by spending intentional time with willing and obedient followers. And He did so without a curriculum. This session will focus on the relational element of intentional disciple-making and how to increase your kingdom impact by spending more time with fewer people. ■■

RESOLUTION

Resolution of Appreciation to Wake Forest University Z. Smith Reynolds Library

Whereas, the Z. Smith Reynolds Library of Wake Forest University has for decades funded and maintained the N.C. Baptist Historical Collection at its facilities, and

Whereas, it houses the largest collection of historical documents related to the work and ministry of N.C. Baptist churches and associations in North Carolina covering a span of over 250 years, and

Whereas, the library has in recent years digitized thousands of documents, making it possible for researchers to access material online, therefore

Be it resolved that during its 186th annual meeting on

November 15, 2016, the messengers of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina express their great appreciation to the staff of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library of Wake Forest University for its ongoing efforts to collect and preserve matters of historical significance to North Carolina Baptists, and

Be it further resolved that Tanya Zanish-Belcher, Director of Special Collections and Archives, be commended for her commitment to North Carolina Baptists and to the researchers who have benefitted so greatly from her dedication, and

Be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution be presented to the President of Wake Forest University and to the Dean of the Z. Smith Reynolds Library in recognition of the superb work of their staff.

N.C. coats help people in New York find Christ

By MIKE CRESWELL | BSC Communications

Last December, a 58-year-old man was baptized in New York City. Any baptism is cause for celebration, but this Bangladeshi man had been Muslim until he recently came to faith in Jesus Christ late last year. It was a quiet baptism, performed in a bathtub.

North Carolina Baptists helped that happen, through their Coats for the City project last year. The coats project, done each year over the past four years in partnership with the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association, asks North Carolina Baptists to collect new or lightly used coats. Baptist State Convention of North Carolina staffers collect the thousands of coats and truck them to New York, where they are distributed by new churches in their local neighborhoods about the city.

Last November local Baptists set up tables in the Jamaica section of Queens, tables piled high with those coats from North Carolina. They also distributed hot tea as local Baptists and North Carolina



Russell grew up in Bangladesh and was a Muslim before he became a Christian. Now he is starting a new church for Bangladeshi people.

Baptist volunteers talked to the hundreds of people who gathered for coats.

Jamaica is an area in Queens where many people from Bangladesh and surrounding Asian countries have settled. Men wearing turbans sip chai at sidewalk cafés; women wearing Indian saris or Islamic burqas shop for Asian clothing.

One local Christian man handing out coats who was also from Bangladesh was



named Russell*. When Russell helped the then-Muslim man from Bangladesh find a coat, the two talked.

Home visits and long discussions of faith followed. Russell was happy when the man decided to become a follower of Christ and followed in baptism. Since then Russell has been meeting with him for discipleship. That has gone well; that new baptized believer has already led a Muslim Bengali woman to faith in Christ. She was baptized in June this year.

Russell said the coats project is a great idea. “The coats provide a bridge to local people,” he said. “Showing concern makes a big impact in our community. Many people live here in poverty.”

He smiled sadly as he said, “Even some of my own family who will not even talk to me [because he is Christian] nevertheless lined up to get coats,” he said.

The new believer cannot be identified for security reasons. Russell’s own background says much about the extreme persecution that can be directed at people who leave Islam to follow Jesus.

Like many others here, Russell was born in Bangladesh in an Islamic family and grew up Muslim. As he grew up in a heavily Muslim area of Bangladesh, he knew nothing of Christianity. He went to prayers as required of Muslims.

Outwardly his life seemed to be going well. He was able to study engineering in Denmark, where he learned English. He returned to Bangladesh when his mother became seriously ill with Addison’s disease.

Russell noticed that his mother often read from a book with no cover; sometimes he found her weeping as she read.

One day she handed him the book. “Read this book and be blessed,” she told him. He took the book from her, but it was two months before he got around to opening it. He was shocked to see that it was a Bible. “Mom, why did you give me this book?” Russell asked because he knew Muslims were forbidden to read it.

But, out of respect for his mother, Russell began reading the New Testament. At first he was confused at four different versions of the life of Jesus. His mother explained that the four Gospels were written by four different witnesses. “They say the same thing, therefore, it is true,” she said simply.

Russell was shaken to his soul by the powerful truths he read. He struggled between the Islamic teachings he had grown up with and the Bible he now

read. He focused his study on four people Islam’s book, the Koran, calls prophets: Moses, Abraham, Jesus and Mohammed.

He quickly saw that Jesus was not just a prophet; rather, he had a divine character and spoke with divine authority. “Even in the Koran, Jesus was portrayed as divine. The others were just flesh and bone,” he concluded.

As a Muslim, he was carrying shame and guilt and was living a sinful life. He had seen peace neither in his own life nor in his Islamic culture, where he said hatred was the norm.

But when he read the New Testament, he found Jesus urging His followers to love one’s enemies. “That made a lot of sense in my heart,” he recalled.

One day he was so spiritually oppressed, he opened the Bible and read the third and 14th chapters of John over and over. He was born again. “This time was so awesome! It was like [God] speaking to me. I knelt down and I started praying to Jesus.” Russell felt God welcome him into His family. The year was 2001.

He sought out other Christians to help him grow in his faith. Amazingly, some refused to help him. He finally found an evangelical pastor in Chittagong, a port city of Bangladesh, who welcomed him into a Bible study.

Being a follower of Jesus in a Muslim land is hard. He was afraid to leave his apartment building because of persecution. He recalls being so afraid his knees literally shook.

Russell was beaten more times than he could count. He points to scars on his hands and a scar on his head from attacks, then to a tooth that was broken when he was thrown to the ground and hit with a rock.

His future wife came to faith in Christ through a supernatural dream. Eventually the two were able to move to New York. They have a young son. Now Russell, 38, is intent on starting a new church in Jamaica, Queens. “I’m passionate to reach my people for Christ,” he said. And God has rewarded his zeal, for he has seen 27 Bangladeshis become Christians.

* Name changed.

(EDITOR’S NOTE – The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will be collecting coats for Coats for the City at this year’s Annual Meeting, scheduled for Nov. 14-15 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. To learn more, visit ncbaptist.org/coats. Each coat should be accompanied by a \$2 gift to cover the cost of Bibles and Jesus videos.) **BR**

Sound the alarm

In Joel 1:2-20, the prophet Joel describes the onslaught and devastation a plague of locusts brings upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The devastation was horrific, resulting in starvation, and God was the originator.

The plague of locusts represented God’s attempt to draw His people back to Himself through relationship. He judged and disciplined them because of their sin. This was the “day of the Lord,” and God desired His people to recognize their sin and return to Him.

Despite the locusts, they continued in their sin and God tightened the screws on His people. It seems reasonable to think that the devastation described in Joel 1 would cause God’s people to humble themselves before Him in repentance – yet it did not.

Proverbs 16:18 reminds us that “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” In Joel’s day, the trumpet, also known as the “shofar,” was used to call God’s people to worship or sound an alarm. In Joel 2:1, it was used to sound the alarm that a strong and mighty northern army, probably the Assyrians, was approaching. Regardless, it referred to an army that would bring greater devastation and misery upon

God’s people. This was a new level of judgment that would result in cessation of life in Jerusalem and a scattering of God’s people in exile.

This calamity was truly something to sound an alarm about, don’t you think?

Who is sounding the alarm today? Are God’s people even listening? Clearly, the church in America is being disciplined and judged by God. The waning of the manifest presence and favor of God upon His church, rampant apathy, complacency, sin among believers, unhindered wickedness and

evil in the culture and the intensification of natural phenomena all point to this reality.

God has been trying to get our attention for quite some time. Yet, like the people of God in Joel’s day, we continue in our sin, doing our own thing, keeping our same misplaced priorities. Who will blow the trumpet?

Who will listen?

(EDITOR’S NOTE – Chris Schofield is director of the Office of Prayer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. For more information you can reach him at (800) 395-5102, ext. 5514, or cschofield@ncbaptist.org.)



DR. CHRIS SCHOFIELD

Benefits Continued from page 1

committee had three representatives. ... People didn't even really know what they had been elected to."

The new leadership team will be simplified to eight members who still represent the entire state. The transition is ongoing, but McLaurin hopes the new roles will be clarified and put in place by next year's meeting.

The change in leadership structure followed another significant change in the scheduling and planning of the missions conference. When a winter storm forced McLaurin to cancel a meeting in 2013, leadership was prompted to review how the conference operated.

It wasn't the first time timing affected attendance and participation. With the two-day meetings traditionally held in January and July, inclement weather often kept missionaries from either attending or staying for the full meeting at Caraway Conference Center and Camp in the winter. In July, more associations were involved with mission projects, also hurting attendance. The conference is now a four-day annual event in April.

Four days provide time for additional training, more fellowship and meetings with representatives from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSC). All associational staff members, as well as new and potential associational missionaries are also invited.

"Multi-staff can even plan together, as all are engaged in the training. Baptist entities are invited to be a part of this to build relationships," McLaurin said. "All of this

strengthens the partnership we have as N.C. Baptists to strengthen the church, so that the local church can better impact lostness in this generation."

McLaurin believes one of the greatest accomplishments from restructuring is the opportunity for new missionaries to join, meet and learn from seasoned missionaries. One day of the conference is specifically devoted to training new missionaries, but the increased attendance and participation of other missionaries, staff members and BSC personnel expose new missionaries to more resources, quality training and stronger relationships with regional partners.

'Pool of Resource People'

In changing the conference structure, leadership hoped to respond to the needs of each individual association, said McLaurin.

"I believe we're much stronger," he said. "We're working together more cooperatively as a group of associational missionaries helping one another in our individual associations, so we can be a pool of resource people to one another."

One way missionaries serve each other came as a result of efforts by Ken Tan, leadership development consultant with the BSC. Tan worked closely with McLaurin and Lester Evans, BSC team leader of associational partnerships, to gather survey results from mis-

sionaries across the state and determine what churches prioritized as their most pressing concerns.

Tan developed training seminars for four tracks: conflict resolution, mentorship, character development and church revitalization.

"One of the things we really needed was to provide this kind of training in the association," Tan said. Trainers need to "understand the context and need to be familiar with what's happening with local churches. We need to train trainers who understand the mindset of the region and challenges of where they're from."

After new trainers attend an introductory equipping seminar at the BSC building, they are expected to conduct their own seminars at their respective associations or regions within one year.

"They'll be asked to create a learning community. ... By the end of this year, we will have trainers all over the state," Tan said. Now when a pastor or associational missionary requests certain training from a specific location, he refers them to another nearby missionary who can train them locally.

Tan said most of the leaders adapting this training system are new associational missionaries. "It's a chance for them to offer resources beyond what we're offering here," he said. "This is a good partnership. The churches act closely with the association. I cannot go to all the associations – it's a matter of multiplication." **BR**

SBC Exec. Comm. recommends expanding membership, hears miraculous report

Baptist Press

Four state conventions would gain representation on the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee (EC) under a recommendation adopted during the EC's Sept. 19-20 meeting in Nashville for presentation at the SBC annual meeting in June 2017.

The recommendation would amend SBC Bylaw 18 to exempt the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin and Montana Baptist conventions from Bylaw 30's requirement that territories have 15,000 members in cooperating Baptist churches to qualify for EC representation.

In other actions, EC members updated the committee's media relations policy, declined to recommend an amendment to the SBC constitution to require that churches relate to a state convention and association to be considered a cooperating Southern Baptist congregation and honored retiring state convention executives Fred Hewett, Cecil Seagle and Fermin Whittaker.

David Platt, president of the International Mission Board, recounted a missionary's story in his report to the EC.

He said a Southeast Asian believer trained by Southern Baptist missionaries began sharing the gospel in a village "that was totally unreached."

As villagers became interested in Christianity, they brought idols, necklac-

es and amulets associated with the occult to the center of the village to be burned, Platt said. In a reversal, however, one day all the villagers began taking back their occult-related items. The believers learned the village leader had died and his people believed his demise was the work of evil spirits who were displeased at the setting aside of sacred objects.

Discouraged, the Christians went to express their condolences at a house where the man's body lay.

Standing over his body, they began praying "that God would show His mercy to the people in the village, that God would show His glory and His love to that people who were so close," Platt said. "This Asian believer tells our missionary," Platt said, "that as they were praying there over the man ... the man coughed. Everybody in the house got really still. And the man coughed again. People came rushing over, and the village leader started breathing. Everybody's looking at these Asian believers like, 'What happened?'"

"So they shared the gospel, and in the days to come, people started coming to faith in Christ and that village started burning their idols."

The episode illustrates, he said, the spiritual fruit that has come as IMB missionaries have shared the gospel with "biblical clarity, precision and consistency." **BR**

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Literacy

Continued from page 1

for North Carolina churches to share the gospel with people from around the world.

“You don’t have to go to another country,” Boyd explained. “You don’t have to get a passport. You don’t have to worry about eating different types of food. You don’t have to worry about what age you are. The whole world is coming to us.”

She recounted how one of her ESL classes included ladies from Sudan, Vietnam and multiple South American countries. “Look in there,” Boyd told Terry Prichard, MZBA associational missionary, “that’s a little United Nations.”

Even the after school tutoring classes and summer activities offered by the

MZBA can become quite diverse, said Boyd. “You’ll get children from everywhere.”

The ARW class is the “toughest ministry,” said Boyd, because it targets native English speakers that cannot read well. She said many people are embarrassed to admit they cannot read English, although they’ve spent their entire lives in the United States. Some even sign up for the program but turn around and leave before they enter the classroom. Boyd tries to make them feel comfortable enough to stay.

“Once we get them in here they’re very relaxed and they start to do really well,” she said.

MZBA developed citizenship classes after an ESL student asked for help with the civics test required by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Boyd contacted the local congressional representative’s office to inquire about the requirements and they sent her the bank of test questions.

When Boyd speaks to churches about the ministry, she helps them understand the test’s difficulty for immigrants by asking a few sample questions. She starts with something easy, like asking them to name the president of the U.S. “Everyone chuckles,” she said.

Then Boyd poses a harder question: “The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Can you name one of the writers?”

She receives understanding looks after explaining the situation for most immigrants. “Think about having that question asked to you and then you have to

interpret it in your language and answer in English,” she said. It’s difficult and immigrants are thankful for the tutoring.

The congressional office has been a great help to the ministry, according to Boyd. “We have a really good relationship with our representative,” she said, referring to Rep. Mark Walker and his staff. MZBA often refers immigrants and new citizens to the office when legal and procedural questions arise.

Boyd wants to see more churches employing literacy missions to engage international people living in the state. She and other N.C. Baptists involved in the program have become close friends with international families over the years.

“I would have never met this group of people if we did not have this literacy program,” she said, referring to a Vietnamese family.

Visit mtzionassociation.com for more information. **BR**

CHURCH NEWS



Friendship and Macedonia Baptist churches, Murphy

Two churches within the Truett Baptist Association celebrated 150th anniversaries Aug. 28. The churches are Friendship and Macedonia, both within Cherokee County and both small, rural churches. Macedonia Baptist is, in fact, only a mile from the Tennessee state line. Friendship hosted the event with both churches foregoing the usual Sunday morning services in order to meet together. Close to 200 people attended, including Milton and Gloria Hollifield. Milton serves as the executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The churches held a two-hour program with a children’s skit, singing and special recognition of former pastors, spouses of deceased former pastors and past and present leaders of the association. A DVD was compiled with historic photos, and the church published a cookbook and *A Book of Memories* depicting the history and present in pictures and writing. The church plans to enter a float in the county Christmas parade as well.



Fairview Baptist Church, Statesville

Fairview Baptist Church, Statesville, recognized its pastor, T. Scott Eanes, for 30 years of service. They dedicated a portion of the morning service for honoring Eanes with a video featuring his time at the church.

Eanes was presented with a crystal Bible with an inscription, in addition to a love offering. Fairview also held a luncheon after the service.

Submissions

The *Biblical Recorder* is pleased to publish staff changes, church news and events with a statewide interest. Please send information immediately following an event, or for opportunity corner, send at least two months in advance. Send to dianna@BRnow.org or *Biblical Recorder*, P.O. Box 1185, Cary, NC 27512. Call (919) 847-2127. Have story ideas? Send to editor@BRnow.org.

Training fuels outreach to internationals

“A major way to help a person come to know Christ is to become their friend,” said Donnie Wiltshire, special ministries consultant for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. “If I’m teaching you English in a weekly class and you’re an immigrant, it’s very likely the needs of your household include immigration issues and citizenship issues. Being able to help you at that point solidifies this friendship that we have, which is another open door to be able to share Christ.”

Wiltshire said literacy ministries provide a great opportunity for evangelism and genuine neighbor love: “Immigrants live in just about every part of our state.”

The annual Literacy Missions Conference is scheduled for Oct. 21-22 at Caraway Conference Center in Sophia, N.C. The event features plenary sessions and workshops “to provide a level of advanced training” for people currently involved in literacy ministries.

A wide range of topics will be addressed, from the details of teaching English grammar to citizenship issues.

This year’s theme is “Sharing His Light,” taken from John 8:12 – “Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.’”

Contact (919) 459-5630 or email dwiltshire@ncbaptist.org. **BR**

AROUND THE STATE

Obituary

CECIL EUGENE “GENE” LAWING, 90, died Sept. 13 after an extended period of declining health.

A U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Lawing decided to become a minister after the war. He graduated from Carson-Newman College and became pastor of Beaver Creek Baptist Church and began studies at Southeastern Seminary. Several years after graduating seminary, Lawing became pastor of Bethel Baptist Church, Morganton, for 15 years.

He and his wife purchased a lodge in Ridgecrest where he met a director of missions from Nevada. That meeting spurred 11 years of mission work in Nevada with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). The couple returned to

Morganton after some health problems occurred. They were members at Mount Home Baptist Church, Morganton, and continued to serve five more years as NAMB mission service corps missionaries.

Rev. Lawing was a resident of Morganton, North Carolina at the time of his passing. In March 2008, NAMB honored the couple with emeritus status for their 16 years of service. They were the first in North Carolina to receive the award.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Betty Seagle Lawing; daughter, Gail Lawing; son, Van Ray Lawing; brother, John Hensley; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Memorials to: Mount Home Baptist Church Graceful Giving Fund, 2272 Mt. Home Church Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.

October 16

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

October 23

Unstoppable Mission

Focal passage: Acts 1:4-8, 12-14

The Holy Spirit empowers us to spread the gospel.

If you ever need me on a Friday afternoon, you can find me collapsed on my classroom floor in a heap of exhaustion. You see, I teach math to teenagers, and as much as I love my job, there are many days I can barely stand up and drive home. The duties, the paperwork, the meetings – it can all be overwhelming.

Just last week, as I pondered the events that had filled my days, the Holy Spirit convicted me.

I was allowing my job to consume me, and not once had I even considered sharing the gospel.

My first response was an excuse. I am tired, Lord. I can't fit anything else into my days. I have no more energy to start another conversation or listen to another person's problems.

And yet, in that moment, the Lord reminded me that I was exactly right. I don't have the strength or the power to spread the gospel.

To share Christ, I must rely on the power of the Holy Spirit.

This dependence on the Holy Spirit has always been Jesus' plan for the church. In Acts 1, when Jesus speaks to His followers after His resurrection, He commands them to share the gospel, but He also promises the Holy Spirit will come and empower them.

Jesus explains that after receiving this power, they are to be His witnesses "*in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*" (Acts 1:8). In other words, these followers were to tell others in their own communities as well as in distant lands that salvation comes only through Jesus Christ.

I don't know about you, but there are days and even weeks when I never even consider asking the Holy Spirit to empower me to be Christ's witness.

I believe the lie that I can succeed in my own strength, and I end up falling flat on my face.

What a difference it would make if we learned to rely on His power instead of ours as we share the hope of the gospel with those around us!



EMILY ANTHONY
Member, Imago Dei
Church, Raleigh

Focal passage: Acts 2:22-24, 32-33, 36-38

Jesus died for our sins, rose again and reigns as Lord.

"Smoking causes lung cancer, heart disease, emphysema and may complicate pregnancy." Statements like this one are plastered on every package of cigarettes, but did you know these warnings were not always required?

Midway through the 20th century and before the medical research available today, cigarette packaging was quite different. Companies claimed smoking relieved asthma, calmed nerves and even lengthened life expectancy.

And smoking isn't the only activity no longer encouraged. We once covered our mouths when we coughed, but today we cough into our elbows to stop the spread of germs. Babies used to sleep on their tummies, but now we are told they should snooze on their backs instead.

Messages about our health are always changing, aren't they? For that matter, messages concerning just about every-

thing never seem to stay the same.

Only one message will never be affected by medical research or congressional legislation. Jesus died for our sins, rose again and reigns as Lord. The message Peter preached on Pentecost in Acts 2 is the same gospel we cling to and share today. Jesus is a real man – God in human flesh – who came to earth and performed miracles. Though sinless, He was condemned and crucified, but after three days, "*God raised Him up, ending the pains of death*" (Acts 2:24). Jesus paid the penalty for our sin. After the resurrection He was exalted by God, and even now He is seated at the right hand of the Father. When Peter finished his sermon that day, listeners responded with a question, "*what must we do?*" (Acts 2:38). He exhorted them to repent and believe in the forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

I don't know what new and surprising headlines will appear tomorrow, but it doesn't matter. The message of the gospel will always be the same. Just like 2,000 years ago, we are sinners in desperate need of a rescue. And just like Peter explained on that day so very long ago, rescue only comes through repentance and faith in the completed work of Christ.

October 16

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

October 23

Equipped to Live

Focal passage: 1 Peter 4:1-11

When I was a junior in high school, I went to work for a new Chick-fil-A restaurant that opened near where we lived.

One of the things that stood out to me was the level of in-depth equipping and training for new employees regarding how to do things the Chick-fil-A way. You see, that was crucial equipping as these new employees had one of two issues that had to be overcome.

They either had no previous food service experience and had to be trained from scratch, or they had come with some background in food service and needed to "un-learn" their old ways so they could do things the "Chick-fil-A way."

The goal of all this, of course, was so every employee represented the company well and delivered the kind of quality product Chick-fil-A is known for.

In similar fashion, when we come to know Christ, we are surrendering our lives to Him, no longer living for ourselves but for God and His glory.

We are representatives of Christ ("*ambassadors*" – 2 Corinthians 5:20) and His Kingdom to a watching world.

And, Christ has equipped us – through the truth of His Word that guides us and His indwelling Holy Spirit that is transforming us – to live the Jesus way, rather than the old, dead way of our old lives before Christ.

When we are ridiculed for living in a way that seems so foolish to a lost world, we look to the example of, and depend on the strength of, our Savior who gave His life for us.

It is to our heavenly Father we will give an account for how we have lived the new life He gave to us in Christ. And, as we live our lives in service to Him and others – largely illustrated by the way we love others – we do so for the sake of His glory.

We have been equipped to live our lives for the glory of God.

The question is, "Are others seeing the glory of God in and through us?"



RANDY MANN
Lead Pastor,
Central Baptist Church,
Henderson

Focal passage: 1 Peter 4:12-19

I recently read a story about a Nigerian Christian man named Habila Adamu. One night members of Boko Haram, an

Islamic terrorist group, came into his home and demanded that he convert to Islam and say the shehada: "There is no God but Allah and Mohammad is the prophet of Allah." He refused, telling them that he could not because he was a Christian.

Adamu said, "My wife was crying, but I could not deny Christ. I felt powerful, unafraid, I don't know why." So, they asked him, "Are you ready to die as a Christian?"

Then, in front of his wife and only son, they shot Adamu in the neck and left him for dead. He was losing a lot of blood, but before he lost consciousness, with both he and his wife believing he would die, he told his wife, "to live in this world is to live for Christ."

When we hear such stories we are shocked and horrified. We act as if Jesus

When Ridiculed

came to provide peace and comfort here on Earth to His followers. Then, when the "fiery ordeal" of persecution arises, we act as if some surprising situation has taken place. The reality is, however, not only did Jesus not come simply to provide His followers comfort here on Earth, He actually promised the exact opposite would take place.

Jesus said, "*And you will be hated by everyone because of My name*" (Luke 21:17). Therefore, the issue is not whether or not we will face persecution as Christians, but rather, how we will respond when we do.

Peter counsels his readers, and us, to do three things. First, expect persecution to come and rejoice when it does. We rejoice because of being identified with Christ. Second, glorify God because of this identity, rather than being ashamed. And third, continue walking in obedience to, while trusting in, our faithful God.

When we walk this way, people will not marvel at our power but God's, and will be drawn to know this God who enables us to trust Him even in the midst of such persecution.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Pastor

Pastor. Wakefield Central Baptist Church is seeking God's will in finding a Sr. Pastor who has a heart for people, is evangelistic, and who is mission-minded. We are a traditional, conservative Southern Baptist church located in Zebulon, NC. We have two services with both traditional and contemporary worship and music. Currently we have plans to undertake a building program to help reach our community. The W.C.B.C. congregation feels the need for a pastor with five to ten years experience as a senior pastor, preferably with a master of divinity from a seminary or divinity school. W.C.B.C. has an average attendance of 140 in worship and 125 in Sunday School. Please send resumes on or before November 14 to: Pastor Search Committee, 308 Proctor Street, Zebulon, NC 27591.

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Buies Creek First Baptist Church, Buies Creek, NC, seeks a **full-time pastor** to lead our church into a new chapter in our history. We are a Baptist congregation committed to Baptist distinctives, focusing on the inspirational worship of God and applying the Bible to all areas of life. Our congregation is mission-minded with a long history of cooperative and hands-on missions. We desire a pastor who possesses strong preaching skills, is a leader in guiding and directing the church spiritually and administratively and is a person with a servant's heart. We affirm both men and women to serve as deacons in the church. The successful candidate must possess a strong calling to the pastoral ministry, hold an accredited seminary or divinity school degree, and possess some years of experience in congregational ministry. Interested candidates are encouraged to submit resume information to Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 160, Buies Creek, NC 27506, or electronically to bcfbcpastorsearch@gmail.com. Resumes will be accepted until December 1, 2016.

Meherrin Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are SBC affiliated and prefer a masters's degree. Please send statement of faith, personal testimony and audio or visual of recent sermon. Mail: Deborah Edwards, 714 Edgewood Dr., Murfreesboro, NC 27855.

Blackman's Grove Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **full-time pastor** to faithfully preach and teach the Word of God and lead our congregation. We are a mission minded Southern Baptist church located in rural Johnston County near Four Oaks, NC. We will be accepting resumes until November 30, 2016. Please send resumes to: Blackman's Grove Baptist Church, c/o Pastor Search Committee, 5980 Strickland's Crossroads Rd., Four Oaks, NC 27524.

First Baptist Church, Thomasville, NC, is seeking a **Senior Pastor** to lead a congregation of 200. We are SBC affiliated, divergent ages. Candidate should be seminary trained, and some experience. He should have a passion for reaching the lost, mission minded and able to minister to our congregation and community. Reply: Search Committee, FBC, 11 Cramer Street, Thomasville, NC 27360.

First Baptist Church of Wadesboro, NC (SBC Affiliated) is seeking a **Full-Time Pastor**. Our goal is to reach people for Christ through Prayer, Worship and Missions. We are seeking an energetic Pastor to lead us as we share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Submit resume to FBC Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 423, Wadesboro, NC 28170. Visit fbcwadesboro.org.

Church Staff

First Baptist Church, Clinton, SC, seeks **full-time Associate Pastor for Music Ministries** reporting to Senior Pastor. Primary duties include planning, organizing and directing Sunday morning worship for both contemporary and traditional services in addition to conducting weekly rehearsals for the Sanctuary Choir and the contemporary service Worship Team. Ideal candidate will be expected to coordinate the audio-visual tech team, utilizing Media Shout. Other duties will include pastoral care responsibilities (visitation, bereavement, outreach, etc.) in coordination with the existing pastoral staff. Credentials in ministry, music or related degree. Excellent communication skills, a positive attitude and experience would elevate candidacy. A detailed position description is available upon request to: Music Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 301 South Broad Street, Clinton, SC 29325.

Elkin Valley Baptist Church in Elkin, NC, is searching for a **full-time Associate Pastor of Creative Arts**. Responsibilities include leading worship services in a blended/contemporary music style and coordinating church media. A 4-year music degree is required. Detailed information on the position and application directions can be found on the church's website at www.evbfamily.org.

Laurel Springs Baptist Church in Deep Gap, NC, is seeking a **full-time Associate Pastor of Families**. Primary responsibilities include leading the student ministry and coordinating the elementary children's ministry. Student and/or children's ministry experience required; seminary degree preferred. Please send cover letter & resume with references to laurelspringsbap@gmail.com.

Stedman Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist church in Cumberland County, NC, is prayerfully seeking a **full-time minister of Youth, Children and Recreation**. The candidate should have a heart for ministry and have a college degree and some work experience in youth, children and/or recreation ministry. Please email cover letter and resume by November 30, 2016, to dottiebharris@gmail.com or send to Stedman Baptist Church Attn: Dottie Harris, P.O. Box 190, Stedman, NC 28391.

Elizabeth Baptist Church located in Shelby, NC, is now receiving resumes for the **full-time position of Minister of Discipleship and Administration**. A position description can be viewed at <http://elizabethchurch.org/MDAJobDescription>. If interested, please email your resume and introductory cover letter to: ministersearch@elizabethchurch.org. Resumes can also be mailed to: Elizabeth Baptist Church Minister Search Committee, 301 North Post Rd., Shelby, NC 28152. Submission deadline is October 31, 2016.

Miscellaneous

AAIM (Aging Adults Innovating Ministry), an outreach of NCBAM, will hold its **western fall gathering** on October 13 in Asheville. Call 877.506.2226 for more info.

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