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Gilbert, Akin give insights into GCR

By Norman Jameson
BR Editor

Members of the Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force appointed by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Johnny Hunt in June are not releasing any information about their deliberations, but recent comments by two North Carolina members offer some insights into at least what they are thinking.



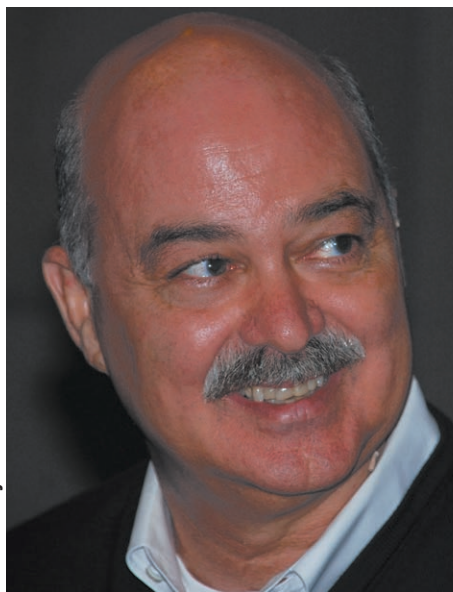
Akin

Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke candidly Oct. 12 to his trustees and board of visitors about SBC issues. Al Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, led a listening session at Hardin Baptist Church in Dallas.

In both sessions, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) took a beating, with Akin saying it “is broke, and has been broke for a long time.” He said Southern Baptists have no “comprehensive strategy” to impact America, and we cannot “continue business as usual.”

Although some denominational defenders of *status quo* have said that the past couple years of declining baptisms, dollars and churches are an

(See Gilbert Page 4)



LEADING — Al Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, believes the local church is central in fulfilling the Great Commission.

DEPRESSION

Clergy similar to population; suicides rising

By Greg Warner
Special to the Recorder

The tragic suicide of Hickory pastor David Treadway Sept. 27 highlights a problem some say is growing worse by the year.

No one knows for sure how many ministers suffer from depression — or how many attempt suicide. Even those who counsel depressed clergy don’t know those numbers.

“It’s like nailing Jell-O to the wall,” said H.B. London, vice president for pastoral ministry at Focus on the Family. But he offered an estimate, based on research and a decade of ministering to ministers, that 18 percent to 25 percent of all ministers are depressed at any one time.

Most counselors interviewed for this series agreed depression among clergy is at least as likely as in the general population. “I would venture to say it is as common among clergy as non-clergy,” said Matthew Stanford, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

And those numbers are staggering.

“The likelihood is that one out of every four pastors is depressed,” said Stanford, an evangelical Christian who studies the handling of mental illness in the Christian community.

About one in four adults will experience a mental-health disorder in a given year, according to the National Institute of Mental Health. Not all are as serious as major depression, or clinical depression as it was previously labeled. But major depressive disorder does affect 6 percent to 8 percent of all adults per year.

During their lifetime, as many

as 12 percent of men and 26 percent of women will experience major depression, according to the American Medical Association (AMA).

Some counselors who treat clergy say depression is on the rise.

Anxiety in the pulpit “is markedly higher” in the last five years, “and the accompanying depression, as a reaction to it, is therefore higher,” said Fred Smoot, executive director of Emory Clergy Care in Duluth, Ga., which offers pastoral care to 1,200 United Methodist ministers in North Georgia.

“The current economic crisis has caused many of our pastors to go into depression,” said Smoot, a former Methodist pastor with a PhD in pastoral counseling.

Most counselors agree the majority of clergy depression goes unreported and untreated because of career fears, social stigma and spiritual taboo.

“Clergy do not talk about it because it violates their understanding of their faith,” said Steve Scoggin, president of CareNet, which provides pastoral counseling in 21 North Carolina centers. “They believe they are not supposed to have those kinds of thoughts.”

Nearly two out of three people suffering with depression do not actively seek or receive treatment, according to a study by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, even though the rate of successful treatment is about 60 percent. When treatment fails, it’s usually because the patient quits taking prescribed anti-depressants, researchers say.

Depression causes two-thirds of the 30,000 suicides reported each year, AMA says.

Even some depressed people who are taking anti-depressants commit suicide,

(See Depression Page 6)



Culture, isolation push some to depression

By Greg Warner
Special to the Recorder

It’s a prescription for tragedy. A high-profile, high-stress job with impossible expectations for success starts you down the road to depression. Then a stigma against weakness and treatment, along with a cultural and professional code of silence, keeps you on that destructive path until you can’t take it anymore.

Sometimes the result is the unthinkable — suicide.

Most often, however, depressed ministers suffer in silence, unable to talk about it even with family. Sometimes they leave the ministry. Occasionally they get help.

What kind of personal pain would cause a pastor to abandon his family,

his calling and everything else around which he has built his life?

Members of Sandy Ridge Baptist Church in Hickory are asking themselves that question after their pastor, David Treadway, 42, committed suicide early Sunday morning, Sept. 27.

Those who counsel pastors say our Christian culture, especially Southern evangelicalism, creates the perfect environment for depression among pastors.

It’s a job that breeds “isolation and loneliness” — the pastorate’s “greatest occupational hazards,” said Steve Scoggin, president of CareNet, which counsels many North Carolina Baptist pastors.

“These suicides are born out of a lack of those social supports that can intervene in times of personal crisis.”

“We create an environment that

makes it hard to admit our humanity,” Scoggin added. “...We believe that (pastors) are not supposed to struggle as others do.”

“We invite depression by unrealistic expectations,” said H.B. London, vice president for pastoral ministries at Focus on the Family, based in Colorado Springs, Colo. “We set the bar so high that most pastors can’t achieve that, and because most pastors are people-pleasers, they get frustrated and feel they can’t live up to that.”

A pastor is like “a 24-hour ER” who is supposed to be available to any congregant at any time, said Scoggin of CareNet, a statewide network of pastoral counseling centers that is a subsidiary of North Carolina Baptist Hospital.

When pastors fail to live up to the

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BR Photo by Norman Jameson

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N.C. volunteers rush to aid disaster victims

By Rick Houston

Special to the Biblical Recorder

Indonesia and the Philippines are so far from North Carolina that to many, the countries might as well be in another universe.

Not to John Adams, pastor of Salem-burg Baptist Church and Jack Frazier, a battalion chief for the Cary Fire Department. The men returned Oct. 8 from disaster relief trips to the countries, and their memories will be with them a very long time.

Adams, married 34 years to his wife Carol, is a team leader and point of contact between North Carolina Baptist Men and Baptist World Aid's Rescue 24, an international search-and-rescue ministry. He was in Indonesia Oct. 1, just a day after a 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck the country's West Sumatra district, killing 1,200 people and leaving as many as a half million homeless.

"It was a contrast, in that you had a destroyed building (with) catastrophic destruction, but then the building next to it, (there) might be nothing wrong with it and business is going on as usual," Adams said Oct. 15. "Everything is destruction and it's catastrophic, but then the city is still going about its business."

A 1975 graduate of West Point Military Academy, Adams made the trip with the full support of his church family.

"They're mission minded," Adams continued. "They're some of the most generous, giving folks I've ever met. We go into our Jerusalem focusing on the community here in Salemburg, but we also are very supportive of Judea and Samaria, where we go on disaster recovery with North Carolina Baptist Men. We have a lot of folks involved in that."

Once Indonesian government and United Nations officials felt the situation was under control, Adams headed to the Philippines, where Frazier had been working with Rescue 24 since Oct. 1. A member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Frazier worked in several areas in and around the capital city of Manila that had been hard hit.

Nearly 400,000 sought emergency shelter after 16 inches of rain fell in the area in just half a day. Approximately 500 lost their lives.



Photo by Jack Frazier

CROWDED — Volunteers set up a medical clinic in a classroom at Promised Land Baptist School and Church in the Philippines. Each of the 120 patients seen that day received prayer, as well as medical attention.

Those who had the least, the so-called "informal settlers," were hit hardest, according to Frazier, a paramedic. Asked to describe the situation on the ground in the Philippines, Frazier took a moment.

"First, you have to understand how poor the Philippines are to start with," Frazier began. "The housing situation for many is just very minimal. They lived in homes built from just leftover scraps, whatever they can find ... Those were the ones whose homes were usually either wiped completely away or their possessions were lost in the flooding."

For all the losses the Filipino people suffered, however, Frazier found them to be stunningly adaptable. Those whose huts were still standing along the river were still living in them, sleeping on blocks with pallets, inches above the water. They washed clothes in buckets, "going on about life like nothing ever really happened."

Even more incredible was the demeanor of the people Frazier served.

"It was amazing that they were such a happy, friendly group considering what had just happened to them," said Frazier, who was also deployed to Thailand last year in hopes of making it into Myanmar. "They didn't have much to start with, and then they go through

this. But when we showed up, they were just excited and appeared happy to see us. We saw a lot of smiles and happy children, but many of them had just lost everything except the clothes they were wearing."

Payatas is a town built, literally, on a dump site. Rescue 24 operated a clinic out of a school and church in the town, and two incidents in particular stand out for Frazier.

One sick infant was brought into the clinic with no clothes, wrapped only in a blanket, by a neighbor. The child's mother was at work ... scavenging through the dump.

An elderly man with tuberculosis had to discontinue his treatments because he

could afford neither the trip to the doctor, nor the medicine itself.

Frazier's team hopes to be able to find financial support to assist that school and church.

"My wife (Paula) is a school teacher and I have kids (daughters Katie and Jessica) in school," Frazier said.

"When I think about the blessings that we have in this country, and then you look at that little school ... all the windows didn't even have all the panes of glass in them. So when the storm came, they couldn't shut out the weather. In one bathroom, it was just literally a hole in the ground."

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Houston is a writer in Yadkinville.)

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Campbell dedicates Butler Chapel over 4 days

By Norman Jameson
BR Editor

Campbell University stretched a “thrilling and most enjoyable moment” over four days to dedicate its new, \$8.5 million Anna Gardner and Robert B. Butler Chapel Oct. 12-15.

The 12,000-sq.-ft. facility features an elegantly spartan, pine paneled sanctuary with lavish light, premier instruments, glass walls, creation and resurrection stained glass windows, a bride and choir room and the admissions office for Campbell University’s divinity school.

Other outside features include a memorial garden, meditation garden, memorial pool and memorial walk.

Construction on the red brick building began in May 2008.

Originally planned as a smaller facility, funding support was overwhelming, enabling a larger vision, according to Dwaine Greene, vice president for

academic affairs and provost.

The new facility will seat 450. Turner Auditorium will continue to hold large student body events.

Butler Chapel, named for 1940 alumna Anna Gardner Butler and her husband, whose estate provided a \$3 million lead gift toward the project, culminates a dream of Mrs. Butler who said, even as a student, that the Baptist university needed a chapel.

The chapel, with a 20-bell carillon tower above an intimate prayer room, commands the first view on the academic circle, a location placing it central to scholarly life at Campbell.

Greene said in his remarks Oct. 15 that “academic pursuit and faith commitment are like one hand washing the other and almost indistinguishable in this place.”

Allan Schuyler, pastor of Candlewyck Baptist Church in Charlotte, said, “The God of the universe is neither contained nor containable,” but Christians



Photo by Bennett Scarborough

DEDICATING — Campbell’s Anna Gardner and Robert B. Butler Chapel.

construct such sacred places in which to meet Him.

“This chapel will speak to students as they walk by and give testimony to the

hope of God leading us in his own way to all those who enter,” said Campbell President Jerry Wallace at the Oct. 14 service.

Families serve together during missions week

By Melissa Lilley
BSC Communications

FORT CASWELL — In the parking lot behind the fire station Frank Smith and his father-in-law grilled hamburgers and chatted with firemen. Inside, chili warmed on the stove and Smith’s children poured sweet tea. His wife and mother-in-law set out chips and condiments. Occasionally the three Smith children ran outside to check on dad.

When lunch was ready Oak Island firemen and police officers gathered for the blessing, but first, Frank and Rachel’s youngest, five-year-old Lydia, led a devotion with her grandfather. They talked about how God sent His son Jesus Christ to die on a cross to pay the penalty for sins so that sinners could be forgiven and know God.

The Oak Island fire station was just one of the sites where families served during Family Missions Week in September, the first event jointly sponsored by N.C. Baptist Men and Embrace Women’s Missions and Ministries.

Chuck Register, Baptist State Convention executive leader for church planting and missions development, said, “It is a natural partnership for North Carolina Baptist men and women to come together to bring glory and honor to Christ.” Every morning families went out and served, and every evening they met together for worship.

Mike Sowers, N.C. Baptist Men youth missions and family foundations consultant, developed this event, as he



BSC photo

HELPING — Painting is just one of the ways families served during missions week.

coordinates the Deep Impact summer missions weeks to give families a place to do missions together. “Many kids have never seen their parents doing missions work,” he said.

Family Missions Week helped the Smith’s three children put “hands and feet to what they believe,” Rachel said. To participate in something like Family Missions Week parents must take time off from work, rearrange nap and bedtime schedules and sometimes make financial sacrifices. Yet, the value in teaching children to put others before self and being ready to share their faith is worth it.

For the Smiths, “it doesn’t seem like a sacrifice because we made this commitment to missions.”

Mission sites included feeding meals to public servant workers, beach evangelism, construction and visitation at assisted living facilities.

“We are trying to reach families for Christ, which means it starts with the parents,” said Ashley Allen, Embrace director who led beach evangelism. “Children are watching their parents. They imitate and model what they do. They don’t know how to apply God’s word if they only see their parents at church and never on mission.”

“Children are watching their parents. They imitate and model what they do. They don’t know how to apply God’s word if they only see their parents at church and never on mission.”

— Ashley Allen,
Embrace director

Joseph Graham served on the beach all week, along with his wife and daughter. They prayer walked, played games with children and passed out cups of cold water. Graham, a retired Navy man, usually goes overseas once a year on a mission trip but this was the first mission trip as a family. Graham wants his family to understand that serving others is done every day — “it’s not just a quote in the Bible.”

Julie Harrison, her husband and two children worked at the construction site to help repair the home of an elderly couple who are both unemployed and the husband is disabled. The team replaced rotten floors and added piers and floor joists in the bathroom, kitchen, living room and laundry room.

They had funds to replace the toilet thanks to a Deep Impact car wash earlier in the summer, and put in a new washer and dryer donated by a local church. Harrison’s husband Mark is missions pastor of Old Town Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

Harrison said the children often watch as dad leaves home on different trips, so this week at Oak Island was a chance for them to learn about missions and why dad has to go.

“I hope this week develops within them a heart to serve others,” Harrison said. “We can’t forget about the rest of the world — it’s a mandate to serve.”

(EDITOR’S NOTE — Lilley is research and communications coordinator for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.)



You are cordially invited to attend our **Alumni Dinner** on Monday, November 9, at 6:00 p.m. at:

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Gilbert, Akin give insights into GCR Task Force

(Continued from Page 1)

aberration based on birth demographics, Akin brushed them off and said, "We're not doing well," and "have been losing ground" for 50 years.

Continued declines will relegate the SBC to the "way of the mainline" denominations, he said. If we fall into irrelevance, it will be "not over theology, but over bureaucracy."

At Hardin where Gilbert went to hear what area Baptists wanted him to take back to task force deliberations, he heard similar harsh words for NAMB.

Unfortunately, the church planter funding process through NAMB is cumbersome, even "stupid" as Jeff Long from Parkwood Baptist Church in Gastonia labeled it.

Host pastor Austin Rammell said there is "massive replication" in the process of identifying, training, placing and funding church plants

and planters. "Either the state convention needs to go away or NAMB needs to go away," said Rammell, who is on the Baptist State Convention board of directors. "I think the obvious answer is NAMB."

Gilbert pointed out that the opinion of NAMB's effectiveness and necessity is different in the Deep South states that basically fund NAMB, and the north and western state Baptist conventions whose work is heavily funded through NAMB. The task force is charged with studying the way Southern Baptists do business and to try to find efficiencies to recommend at the June 2010 annual meeting in Orlando.

Gilbert said, "We are constantly reminded we are only dealing with the national entity called the Southern Baptist Convention." He said the task force can "talk to" and "give challenge to other partners" but cannot instruct.

Akin said with the pending vacancies from resignation and announced retirements in the top spots at the International Mission Board, NAMB and SBC Executive Committee, "there is a lot of swirling about in Southern Baptist life that is going to — one way or another — chart our future for the next several decades." Knowing that missions is the engine that pulls the SBC train, Akin said, "The person who leads the International Mission Board in many ways sets the agenda for the SBC."

Akin feels that agenda should be to eliminate redundant bureaucracies, to trust Southern Baptists' 45,000 churches to win America, and to reallocate funds to carry the gospel to the nations.

He said only Southern Baptists have the resources to reach all people groups with an international missions force. That won't happen if individuals, churches and conventions do not release more money for international fields, he said.

"I don't want to stand before the Lord some day and say we squandered our resources and missed our opportunity," Akin said.

On the other hand, Ronnie Bowers, pastor of Flint Groves Baptist Church in Gastonia, told Gilbert the most important message for local, state and national Baptist entities is to help local pastors reach people.

David Clippard, pastor of Woodlawn

Baptist Church in Lowell, affirmed missions, but asked Gilbert and the task force to consider, "How can you help me as a pastor do what I need to do to equip my church?"

Gilbert affirmed the centrality of the local church in fulfilling the Great Commission. He echoed a sentiment that Baptists through the decades have been assigning and funding others to "win America and win the world," when in fact "the local church has to own this."

He said Southern Baptists are non-connectional in theory, but historically once people start exercising their autonomy at the state or associational level, their loyalty to the Southern Baptist Convention is questioned. It is dangerous to establish any test of loyalty, he

said, because Baptists need to relate to each other and their entities "by conscience."

Other participants at Hardin lamented a sense there is "no compel-

ling vision" coming from the Southern Baptist Convention that will attract and hold commitment from churches. "Be a good Baptist and give 10 percent to Cooperative Program" is not compelling, one said.

The International Mission Board was not untouched. Several participants expressed frustration by the complexity of trying to get their churches involved with international projects. One said he took a team overseas to work but the missionary had nothing for them to do.

Gilbert, who spent five years as special assistant to the president of IMB, said he dreams that churches and their international missions agency could "grow in this together" like a marriage, in which churches would be more teachable about the local situations and missionaries would see the need to accommodate and facilitate churches' desire to be involved.

He called the work of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force "a shot" to reengineer the corporation, rather than starting from scratch.

Find more detailed reports on the Spoke'n blog at www.biblicalrecorder.org.

Appreciation resolution for host — Greensboro

Whereas, the 179th annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina is meeting November 9-11, 2009 in Greensboro, North Carolina; and

Whereas, the local citizens involved in welcoming and facilitating our sessions have done so in a very caring and effective manner;

Whereas, the management and staff of the Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel having gone the extra mile to accommodate this Convention;

Therefore, be it resolved, that we, the messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, meeting at the Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel in Greensboro, November 9-11, 2009 express our appreciation to the officials and people of Greensboro, the management and staff of the Koury Center, Sheraton Hotel and to the Local Arrangements Committee for outstanding service and kindness rendered to us during this annual meeting.

Church News



Contributed photo

► **Centerview Baptist Church**, Marshville, dedicated its new fellowship addition Sept. 27 with a special service. The addition was completed in July. The service also celebrated a \$45,000-note burning. Pastor Joseph Stroud credits church and community volunteers with keeping the costs low. Dennis Burton, director of missions for Union Baptist Association, preached. Deacons and building committee members (back row, from left): Graham Griffin, Wayne Starling, Norm Estell, Jamie Knight, Ricky Tarlton, and Gene Seay; (front row, from left): Mike Rushing, Danny Knight, Roy Helms, Burton, and Stroud.

► **Clay Hobson**, left, of **Union Grove Baptist Church**, Yadkinville, stepped down this month as church treasurer after 57 years of service. There have been several remodels of the church with the last addition being the 600-seat sanctuary, new classrooms, offices, library, etc. Clay even remembers the first person that gave a dollar bill. The congregation honored him in August with a special service, engraved bread tray and a monetary gift for his service. At right, is Pastor Kenny Gooden.



Contributed photo

► Several **Johnston Baptist Association** churches and businesses hosted Johnston County Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon Aug. 18 and Aug. 20. More than 1,200 Johnston County education workers were fed a free lunch.



Contributed photo

► **Central Baptist Church**, Wendell, dedicated a building and held a harvest celebration for its 84th anniversary, including a morning worship service with interpretive movement, a catered meal and an outdoor dedication ceremony. Participants released hundreds of multi-color balloons (black = sin; red = Jesus' blood; blue = believer's baptism; white = purity/cleansing; green = Christian growth; gold = heaven). Key representatives of the church's gospel partnerships released a blue balloon with a world on it representing the pledge to be globally focused and to spread the gospel. From left, Dale Woodard, chairman of deacons; Joe Dillon, International Mission Board and North American Mission Board; Pastor Ed Rose; Kenneth Tan, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; and Cindy Buffaloe, Raleigh Baptist Association. More than 500 people attended.

Couple follows calling as foster parents

By Steve DeVane
Special to the Biblical Recorder

Dave and Adell McHugh may not have the title, but they effectively serve as ministers to children.

The McHughs, who live in Harmony and are members at Western Avenue Baptist Church in Statesville, have been foster parents for more than 20 years. They started keeping foster children in 1969 in Ohio until they moved to North Carolina 17 years later.

The couple started again more than four years ago in Iredell County.

"It is a distinct calling that the Lord has laid on our hearts to minister to children," said Adell McHugh, who works part-time as church secretary at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Mocksville.

The McHughs feel so strongly about foster parenting that they organized a visit to Western Avenue by a social worker to speak with anyone interested in the issue.

The McHughs became foster parents when they initially believed they wouldn't have children born to them. Later their two sons, David, 36, and Josh, 31, were born.

"They were two children we were told we'd never have," Adell McHugh said.

The McHughs continued as foster parents, keeping mostly boys in Ohio. After they'd kept a baby girl for a while, a social worker asked if they'd be interested in adopting her.

"It had been something we'd been praying about," Adell McHugh said.

Sarah McHugh, 26, now works for a manufacturer in Statesville.

She served in Iraq for a year with the Army Reserves as a backup driver for a large vehicle with a crane on the back.

The McHughs were licensed as foster parents in North Carolina in February 2005 and recently adopted two children they first served as foster parents — four-year-old twin girls.

The McHughs said their sons, who also live in the area, think of the girls as their little sisters.

Foster parenting is a good fit for the McHughs. Dave McHugh works nights at a Lowe's Home Improvement distribution center near Statesville.

"I don't have a problem getting up in the middle of the night," Adell McHugh said.

Separating difficult

Dave McHugh said foster parents have to realize that there are sad times when a baby they may have kept for two years has to leave.

"It's difficult to let them go after you've gotten so attached to them," he said.

"You're never ready for that," Adell McHugh said.

But, she said, foster parents know that another child is going to come to them.

That recently happened to the McHughs when a newborn they had been keeping was adopted.

Adell McHugh said she was happy that the child was going to a "forever home" but it was still difficult.

"It was crying over who's leaving and crying over who's coming at the



ADOPTED — After serving many years as foster and adoptive parents, Adell and David Hughes adopted sisters Lena and Megan.

same time," she said.

In Ohio, the McHughs kept a little boy for about three years, starting when he was two years old. The boy looked like Muhammad Ali and learned to talk like the famous boxer.

"He was a child that everywhere he went people were touched," Adell McHugh said. "He was a blast, an absolute blast."

The McHughs are heartened when such kids who have gone through "horrific" things go on to college, and live for the Lord.

Dave McHugh said that in addition to helping kids, foster parents also many times give birth parents an opportunity

to get their lives together.

"It's a real blessing," Dave McHugh said. "It's an opportunity to meet the needs of children and their parents."

The McHughs now help train potential foster parents, serving on panels to share the joy it has been in their lives.

"It's a wonderful way to serve little children, to provide a Christian, loving environment for a child," Adell McHugh said.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Foster parenting is done county by county. To investigate the possibility of becoming a foster parent, call your county department of social services. DeVane is the former Biblical Recorder managing editor.)

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Injured riders get help

By Mike McWilliams
Special to the Recorder

ASHEVILLE — When Monty Fuchs heard about a fatal motorcycle wreck on Town Mountain Road, he thought it was just another sport bike rider who took the curves a little too fast.

"I saw it on the news, and I kind of judged real quickly and thought, 'They probably got what they deserved racing up that road,'" Fuchs said. "I felt really bad when I found out who it was."

Fuchs learned that the victims of the July 24 crash were Nathan Jake Buckner and his wife, Felicia.

Fuchs, the technology director for Buncombe County Schools, works with Felicia Buckner.

She was riding on the back of a motorcycle driven by her husband when he lost control in a curve and it slid under an oncoming pickup, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol.

The crash killed Nathan Buckner and critically injured his wife.

"As soon as I found out it was Felicia, it just broke my heart," Fuchs said. "So I started Biker Down."

Biker Down WNC is a resource and ministry that supports motorcyclists injured in crashes and their families, through prayer, visits and fundraising, Fuchs said.

The group has a web site, bikerdown-wnc.org, with an accident updates blog that lists news about victims of recent motorcycle accidents in Western North

Carolina. The mountains and winding roads attract motorcyclists from far and wide. When one of them crashes, they might not have any support.

"It takes a while for their (out-of-town bikers') family to get here and when their family gets here, they don't know where to eat or where to stay," Fuchs said.

"I put together Biker Down so that we could minister to them, support them in one way or another."

Fuchs said there are about 35 people who help Biker Down. Several motorcycle groups, including Freedom Biker Church, Carolina Faith Riders, the Smoky Mountain Harley Owner's Group and Concerned Bikers Association, have all helped support Biker Down.

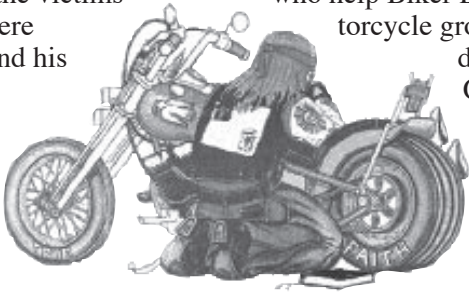
The group supports all riders, regardless of what kind of motorcycle they ride or group they might belong to, Fuchs said.

Biker Down has ministered to several injured riders and continues to grow.

Fuchs said he received four e-mails and four phone calls from people on a recent weekday to tell him about a couple of crashes that injured three riders.

"That's a success in my book," Fuchs said. "If we had that response in every county west of Hickory, this would be a thriving ministry."

(EDITOR'S NOTE — McWilliams writes for the Asheville Citizen-Times where this article first appeared.)



Members should help pastor set boundaries

By Greg Warner
Special to the Recorder

Church members who want to help their pastors avoid depression should accept their human limitations, not expect them to be present for every event, and insist they take care of themselves, counselors say.

Ministers who become depressed almost always talk about the high stress and expectations of the job — even if they impose those depression-triggers on themselves.

“Being a pastor is like being a single parent — there’s never enough love to go around,” said Steve Scoggin, president of CareNet, a network of 21 pastoral-counseling centers in North Carolina. “In a congregation in the Baptist tradition, everyone is your boss. Expectations are as numerous as your congregants.”

“Clergy don’t do a real good job in setting boundaries for their availability,” said Scoggin, who described a typical pastor as a “24-hour ER.”

“That constant availability is one of the worst stressors,” he said.

Economic recession and its strain on church budgets are adding to the normally high stress and unrealistic expectations of ministry, say pastoral counselors and psychologists.

Meanwhile, Baptists in the Carolinas are reeling from news of several suicides and attempted suicides among their pastors in recent years. Could they have been avoided?

Scoggin said cultivating a climate that accepts pastors as human and encourages self-love and self-care offers some prevention. “These suicides are born out of a lack of the social supports that can intervene in times of personal crisis,” said Scoggin.

“Suicide looks impulsive, but there is almost always depression that leads up to that,” he said. “It’s when depression gets to a point where there appears to be no way out.”

Only a tiny fraction of depression results in suicide, whether or not it is treated. But suicide almost always starts with depression.

CareNet, a subsidiary of North Carolina Baptist Hospital, has an agreement with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to treat Baptist pastors whose insurance doesn’t pay for counseling.

The Minister Care Plan provided 102 counseling sessions to Baptist ministers last year, which also includes marital counseling, said Scoggin, of Winston-Salem.

Of 35,000 counseling sessions conducted by CareNet last year, conservatively 10 percent were clergy of various denominations, he said. CareNet is the largest hospital-based counseling program in the country, and its Minister Care Plan is unique among the Baptist state conventions, he added.

The convention-provided counseling for underinsured ministers is underutilized, Scoggin said. “We could do a better job of making clergy aware of these resources.”

Congregations likewise are not encouraging pastors to live healthy lifestyles.

“There is not a lot of encouragement for self-care practices,” he explained.

Not all depression can be prevented or avoided. Clinical depression is an imbalance of the normal chemical functions of the brain. Environmental factors, such as stress, can trigger depression, but avoiding those factors can’t always prevent it.

But some depression could be avoided if ministers and their congregations spent some time on prevention.

“We assume clergy lead a life of commendable spiritual discipline and healthy personal habits,” said Scoggin, but that assumption is incorrect.

H.B. London, director of pastoral ministries for Focus on the Family, agrees.

“Ministry eats up your time,” said London of Colorado Springs, Colo. “One thing that leads to depression is the inability to get rest. ... A guy burning the candle at both ends is going to burn out at some point.”

Scoggin said the high demands of

the Christian faith are sometimes misapplied.

“Our focus on faithfulness is also our greatest weakness,” he said. “It doesn’t allow us to focus on the very things that trouble us.”

“Most pastors have high expectations of themselves,” he explained. “They really understand that as the gospel. They forget the greatest commandment is to love others as you love yourself. We confuse self-love with selfishness. It is a healthy, mature love of self that enables you to love the world — living from the inside out, rather than from the outside in.”

Counselors agree a first step for congregations to help their pastors is to let them be human.

“We want our pastors to be pretty much perfect,” London said. “We don’t want them to have problems, because then those become our problems. But the most effective pastors are the ones that are vulnerable.”

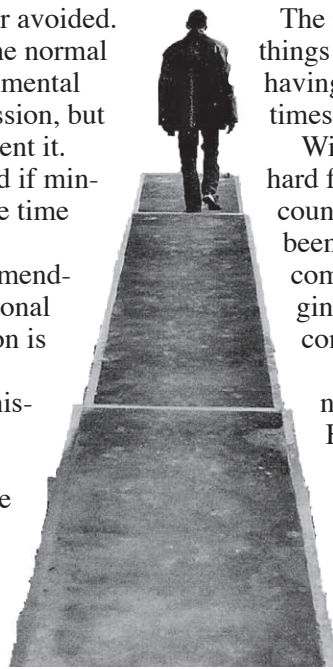
When church members put a pastor on a pedestal “right there next to Jesus,” they “deny his humanness,” said Fred Smoot of Duluth, Ga, executive director of Emory Clergy Care.

The next step often is to blame the pastor when things go wrong, he added. “The difference being having a hero and having a scapegoat is sometimes very little.”

With expectations so high, it becomes very hard for a minister to admit he or she needs help, counselors say. “Although (ministers) have been called to what they’re doing, they still come out of their own humanity,” said Scoggin. “And depression is part of the human condition.”

Several counselors noted there are prominent examples of depressed people in the Bible who were nonetheless used by God — Job, David, Elijah, Jeremiah. “Some of the best diagnostic descriptions of despair are in the psalms,” Scoggin said. “And if you don’t think Jesus got a little depressed and anxious in the garden (of

(See Members Page 7)



Depression: Clergy rates similar to population; suicides rising

(Continued from Page 1)

which prompts skeptics to ask if the cure is worse than the disease. But the research indicates otherwise.

For instance, a recent study of 227,000 depressed U.S. veterans found that the patients treated with anti-depressants — including the popular SSRIs and SNRIs — were significantly less likely to commit suicide than those not taking the drugs, and the risk of suicide decreased when patients started the treatment. Anti-depressants, the study concluded, have “a protective effect” against suicide.

However, the Food and Drug Administration warns that teenagers, and perhaps adults 18-25, are under greater risk of suicide while taking anti-depressants. That warning has sparked much of the concern about the drugs.

A study published in August in the *British Medical Journal* showed that anti-depressants do increase the risk of suicide among people under 25 but have no effect on adults 25-64 and actually reduce the risk of suicide among senior adults — the most under-diagnosed population for depression.

Skepticism about anti-depressants is based on a “Catch 22,” said Stanford. “Depressed patients are most likely to commit suicide — even treated patients,” he said. But it’s the depression, not the treatment, that is the cause.

“There is no empirical evidence that (anti-depressant treatment) causes suicidal thoughts in adults,” the Baylor neuroscientist said. “And it’s definitely true that untreated depression is more likely to result in suicide.”

There are apparently no statistics

that suggest ministers are more likely to commit suicide than other professionals.

Studies purporting to measure the suicide risk of various occupations have produced wildly different results, and none of them point to pastors. According to the American Psychiatric Association, other factors are much more important than occupation, particularly a mental disorder, substance abuse, loss of social support and access to a firearm.

The danger, researchers say, is not your job but perhaps the lack of one.

A 2003 journal study found that the unemployed are two or three times more likely to die of suicide than those with a job. Likewise, a 1998 study in the *British Medical Journal* found “the link between suicide and unemployment is more powerful than other socio-economic measures.”

In a time of recession and rising unemployment, researchers warn, depression, suicide and violence are likely to spike.

Even before the U.S. economy went south, pastors were facing other tough issues, according to those who counsel them. The economy is only amplifying the pressure, they said.

Stagnant church growth, slumping budgets, cultural transition, specialization and “boutique” churches are some of the pressures haunting those in ministry, the counselors said.

“Many pastors are wondering if they are past their prime” in light of that pressure to change with the times, Smoot said. “One of the responses to it is to get depressed.”

Pastors feeling the pressure to bring about change in the church will face tremendous pressure from the other direction — to resist change at all cost, some leaders say.

“Most of our churches are family chapels,” said Monty Hale of Columbia, S.C., referring to the typically small congregations, common in the south, that revolve around a few core families. “The pastor’s job is making sure that nothing changes. These guys that are coming in and trying to move them along to impact (spiritual) lostness are

going to get the response, ‘You’re not from around these parts.’”

The power structure in the average 200-member church is programmed to resist change, said London. “No pastor is going to go there and tear the world up; you can’t buck the power structure,” said London, who leads Focus on the Family’s clergy-care ministry, which has ministered to 100,000 pastors of many denominations.

“The issue that so many pastors face is that they are type-A personalities, they want to succeed, and they don’t see a lot of progress,” said London, himself a pastor for three decades. As a result, 80 percent of pastors become discouraged, according to Focus research. Disillusionment and depression often follow.

“If you serve a church that is resistant to change, you’re dead in the water,” he said bluntly. “Even Billy Graham couldn’t succeed there.”

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Culture, isolation, pressure push ministers to depression

(Continued from Page 1)

frequently impossible demands — imposed by self or others — they often “turn their frustration back on themselves,” to self-doubt and to feelings of failure and hopelessness, said Fred Smoot, executive director of Emory Clergy Care in Duluth, Ga., which is responsible for providing pastoral care to 1,200 United Methodist ministers in North Georgia.

Matthew Stanford, a neuroscientist who studies how the Christian community handles mental illness, says depression carries “a double stigmatization.” Society in general still places a stigma on mental illness, while Christians make it worse by “over-spiritualizing” depression and other disorders — dismissing them as a lack of faith or a sign of weakness.

The result is a culture of avoidance. “You can’t talk about it before it happens and you can’t talk about it after it happens,” said Monty Hale, director of pastoral ministries for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

It’s a silent conspiracy in which both the church and pastor are complicit, the experts say. The congregation creates impossible expectations that can lead pastors to depression, then punishes a pastor who seeks professional help. Meanwhile, pastors often deny themselves both the prevention measures that could avoid depression and the treatment that could cure it.

“There is a tendency to keep it quiet to protect your career,” said Scoggin. The added tragedy, he said, is that depression is treatable for most people.

Main clergy stressors

- **Vocational stressors** — inadequate pay, low work satisfaction, high time demands
- **Intrapersonal stressors** — emotional exhaustion, burnout, low personal satisfaction, sense of personal failure, low family satisfaction, lack of family time, lack of privacy
- **Social stressors** — social expectations, high expectations regarding personal behavior, high criticism, intrusiveness, lack of social support

But even treatment can come at a high price.

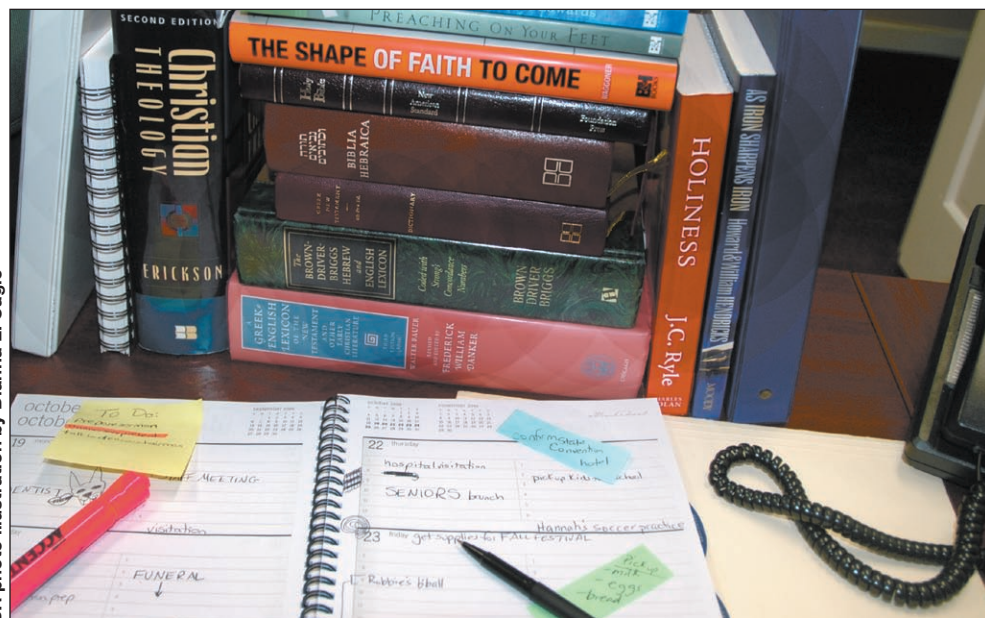
“You are committing career suicide if you have to seek treatment,” said Stanford, “particularly if you have to take time off.”

Depression “is a darkness like no other,” said Stanford, an evangelical Christian who teaches at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Most depression does not lead to suicide, but almost all suicides begin with depression. Experts say it’s a rare outcome to a common problem. But Baptists in the Carolinas are asking tough questions after a spate of suicides and attempts by pastors in recent years.

In addition to Treadway, two other ministers in North Carolina attempted suicide in the past couple of years, said Scoggin. And three depressed pastors in South Carolina have taken their own lives in the last four years, said Hale, although most were not publicly acknowledged as suicides.

Treadway’s death doesn’t follow all the patterns of stress-induced depres-



BR photo illustration by Dianna L. Cagle

BUSY — Sometimes pastors feel overwhelmed by members’ demands and because of their role as shepherd, don’t feel they can share their challenges with others.

sion. Unlike most depressed pastors, the Hickory pastor told his congregation months ago that he was in treatment. And those closest to him say there were no signs that pastoral stress pushed him over the edge on that morning he took his life while in his parked car.

“This kind of blindsided us,” said Rodney Powe, worship pastor of the 900-member church. “I don’t know that we could have done anything different to prevent this.”

Although Treadway had talked about his depression, Powe said, “for people like me who didn’t understand (depression), it was difficult” to come to terms with the pastor’s death and the stigma of mental illness.

Counselors who have since met with the staff and others have discussed the clinical characteristics of the disease, he said. “For me to see it as an illness has helped me sort through it.”

Those who don’t experience depression tend to trivialize the suffering of those who do, he said. “We just say, ‘Come on, get over it. We have the hope of Christ and the Holy Spirit. You

should be able to get over it.”

“People look to pastors as being impervious to any kind of pressure,” said Powe, who has worked at the church for nine years. “We’re professional Christians. We’re supposed to be above this.”

While tragic, Treadway’s death has not crippled the church, he said. “I’m not the least concerned about our church moving on and reaching out to the community. ... The work is bigger than an individual.”

The good news, counselors say, is that most ministers eventually are able to deal with their depression and put their problems, and their jobs, in perspective.

“Most pastors don’t stay depressed,” said Smoot. “They find a way out of that frustration.”

Sometimes that means learning to live with their demons.

“Depression is part of the human condition,” said Scoggin. “... Some people simply find ways to gracefully live with it. Like other chronic illnesses, you may not get over it. Many, many people have to learn to live with it.”

Members should help pastor set boundaries

(Continued from Page 6)

Gethsemane), you haven’t really read the story.”

Despite those examples, there remains a huge stigma among Christians against depression and treatment for medical illness, counselors say.

In this regard, sometimes ministers are their own worst enemies.

Research by neuroscientist Matthew Stanford of Baylor University shows that pastors, particularly conservatives, often dismiss mental illness as spiritual weakness or sin.

In a 2008 study, 30 percent of Christians who approached a pastor about their own or a family member’s diagnosed mental illness were told it was not mental illness at all.

Those pastors in the study most often recommended prayer or repentance of sin, not psychological counseling, for the treatment of depression, anxiety or other mental disorders. Afterward, 57 percent of the Christians who were told they weren’t ill quit taking their antidepressants or other medication.

Also troubling, Stanford said, is that people who suffer from depression or other mental disorders most often go to

pastors first for help. Pastors “are the gatekeepers” to counseling services, Stanford said. “Why do we think that people with no training would know where to refer someone?”

“There is a tremendous distrust of psychology,” said Stanford, an evangelical Christian. As a result, depressed pastors are even less likely to seek counseling than their congregants, he added.

Untreated depression often will show up looking like something else, said CareNet’s Scoggin. “People have all kinds of ways to hide their depressive-ness.”

Some pastors “eat their way to depression,” he said. “Obesity is epidemic among clergy. That’s documented. And obesity can be symptomatic of an underlying personal distress.”

Other depressed people will become mildly agitated or impatient, develop insomnia or hypersomnia, overeat or not eat, or become sad, tearful, lonely or hopeless, he said. As a step toward creating a healthy climate for pastors, Scoggin said, congregations should teach a more holistic approach to faith — one that includes exercise, good eating habits, and adequate time off.



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Roberta's story testifies to forgiveness

By J. Blake Ragsdale
BCH Communications

Roberta can't help but smile as she sits with her children by the lake at Broyhill Home. The family unpacks fresh, chicken salad sandwiches and cool drinks from their picnic basket.

Noah and Hannah eat pausing every so often to observe fish splashing in the placid waters. Roberta reminisces about days gone by when she fished in the lake.

She was not much older than her children when she came to live at Baptist Children's Homes' western area campus.

As a child, Roberta's life was filled with fear. Roberta was six-years-old when she, her two siblings, and mother moved in with Frank.

At first, her mother's boyfriend was nice, but soon Frank's demeanor changed completely.

"He started hitting us, spanking us, and really hurting us," Roberta recalls. "And my mom did nothing."

Roberta's mother continued to allow Frank to torment her children. Roberta remembers instances when she was not allowed to eat, and she was forced to sleep outdoors on the cold, hard ground. Frank's abuse and the humiliation he caused had no boundaries.

"He would feed me on the ground like a dog," Roberta reveals.

"He would say it was because I was nasty, dirty, or whatever he could think of that day."

The suffering continued unchecked for years until the Department of Social Services learned about the children's tumultuous situation and intervened.

When the police arrived, they gave Roberta's mother a choice of staying with Frank or keeping her children.

"My mother said, 'If I have to choose, I choose him,'" a tearful Roberta remembers. "That was hard. Really hard."

Roberta's mother and Frank were charged with 52

(See Roberta's story Page 10)



BCH photo

FORGIVING — Former Baptist Children's Homes resident Roberta Brunck has broken the cycle of abuse in her family. Today, she and her husband Aaron live in Clyde not far away from the Broyhill Home campus where she lived as a child. The couple has two children, Noah and Hannah.



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Prayer guide — November 15-22

- **Sunday.** Pray for all children and families in North Carolina.
- **Monday.** Pray for all the hundreds of children and families to whom we offer hope each year.
- **Tuesday.** Pray for all the dedicated child care workers, residential care givers, and Chiefs who give of themselves around the clock to care for our boys and girls.
- **Wednesday.** Pray for our social workers who guide, encourage and challenge our children and families to be all that God intends.
- **Thursday.** Pray for those who live at all of BCH's homes for developmentally disabled adults.
- **Friday.** Pray for Oak Ranch and BCH's equine therapy service.
- **Saturday.** Pray for BCH president Michael C. Blackwell as he leads the institution boldly into the future.
- **Sunday.** Pray that you will be sensitive to the hurting children around you.

Mills Home helped former resident hit back at life

By Lynn Gantt Drennen
First-Person Account

Iwent to Mills Home August 1962. Mother won custody of us children in the divorce, but it was a bitter consolation since she could not afford to care for the three of us.

Although I spent the first week in tears, I am grateful today to my mother for sending us to Mills Home. And, I'm grateful to North Carolina Baptists who felt my life was worth the financial aid they provided on my behalf for the seven years I lived there.

Living at Mills Home meant learning responsibility for many things including taking care of my own clothes, being responsible for cleaning my part of the bedroom and performing a duty. Every child on the campus was assigned a duty, and we changed every six months or so.

My kitchen duties included preparing, cooking, cleaning and serving meals. One of the best assignments while working in the kitchen was running out to yell the daily milk and bread order. Boys delivered milk and bread, produce and groceries around to cottages on the girls' side of the campus. The

only other time to see and talk to boys was either at church, choir practice, or during the time we were allowed to play in the valley or gym.

When I had duty at the infirmary, Lois Brown, the dietitian, indulged me with her marvelous Yorkshire pudding. I learned about germs and the importance of cleanliness when I worked for nurse Fanny Miller.

Another duty involved working across the campus in the kitchen at the Miles Durham, the little boys' cottage. Ola Mae Byrd and I worked in the kitchen, and even though Mrs. Helen Hoyle was fair, she expected us to get the breakfast fixed, served and cleaned up before we headed back home each morning to get ready for school and catch the school bus as it met our cottages.

After school, afternoons were spent cleaning the living areas in Miles Durham cottage and helping with the evening meal, cleaning the kitchen and finally back home to our cottages for study hall. The days seemed short since we were always busy and kept on schedule with our various assignments.

Once Mrs. Hoyle had me sit on the wool coiled rugs in the TV room floor and sew the coils back together. She



Contributed photo

WINNER — Lynn Gantt Drennen has won numerous awards for quilting including for her *Ancient Memories*, a wedding celebration quilt. The quilt recently won first place at the Asheville Quilt Show in the professional mixed technique category.

gave me a curved needle and a spool of strong upholstery thread with instructions on how to sew through the coils and hide my stitches as I closed the long holes years of use had left in the rugs.

Fast forward to 10 years ago; I used another curved needle and strong upholstery thread to mend the holes of my preacher's coiled rug in the church office.

He was amused with my story about how I learned to mend that particular

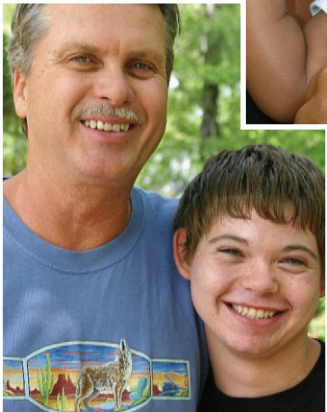
type of rug so long ago at Miles Durham.

Fortunately, I was assigned sewing room duty many times using one of the treadle Singer sewing machines to make miles of kitchen dish towels from pre-cut unbleached cotton muslin rectangles. I loved sewing and quickly promoted from dish towels to bib aprons and later to little boy's housecoats.

(See Mills Home Page 10)

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Sian Saunders
BCH House Parent



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Call 1-800-476-3669 ext. 1209 and learn how you can help hurting children.

Roberta's story testifies to forgiveness

(Continued from Page 8)

counts of child abuse. Roberta and her younger sister and brother were placed in separate foster homes until they were reunited at Broyhill Home in Clyde.

"Before, I didn't know what family was all about," Roberta says. "When I came, I met people who loved and accepted me."

Among those people were house parents Jim and Vivian Johnson.

"She was able to work through a lot of anger and resentment," Vivian says. "It was amazing to see her transformation, especially when she accepted Christ."

At Baptist Children's Homes, caring staff members taught Roberta about God's love and forgiveness.

"I remember them praying for us and some of the devotions in the cottage," Roberta says. "Those things fed my soul."

Roberta's mother eventually left Frank. And through her relationship with God, Roberta was able to forgive her mother.

"The Lord had offered the greatest forgiveness towards others," Roberta explains. "So, I had to forgive her. I had to take that step."

Today, the mother and daughter relationship is restored. Roberta is a caretaker of her mother who is experiencing serious health problems.

"It's the power of forgiveness and how Baptist Children's Homes helped me start that journey of forgiveness," Roberta says.

Today, with Noah, Hannah and her husband Aaron by her side, the cycle of abuse in Roberta's life is broken.

"I am a child of Baptist Children's Homes," Roberta says.

"If someone hadn't helped me, I wouldn't be the person I am today."

Mills Home helped former resident hit back at life

(Continued from Page 8)

Wrap-around skirts were popular and I made many of black denim. Every girl on campus wore a black wrap-around skirt one time or another, and I probably made half of them.

With meticulous training from Mrs. Richardson and Mrs. Campbell on how to read and use clothing patterns, I matched plaids and made (wool) plaid, kick-pleat kilts, skirts, tams and capes. In fact, I sewed my own two-piece bathing suits (that actually worked when they were wet), sleepwear, housecoats, dresses, blouses, shorts, pants and practically everything I wore while in high school including two prom dresses.

One summer, while the tour choir studied music at Fruitland Music Camp, we performed a new musical arrangement and were the first to sing it for the composer. I continued to study clarinet, bass clarinet and bells while in high school, marched and played for the award-winning Thomasville High School band and orchestra.

Although I thought I was more disadvantaged by my comparison to children who weren't from Mills Home, it is apparent now that I was offered many opportunities to excel and encouraged to perform and lead while living at Mills Home.

Education was stressed at Mills Home. As a business administration major, I graduated *magna cum laude* from National University and went on to earn my MBA from there as well. I am currently a database manager for a small manufacturing company in Lindsay, Calif., where I live with my husband.

Quilting champion

You probably want to know how this relates to quilting. I remember spending cold winters in the cottage wrapped in quilts made and donated by North Carolina Baptists. I remember loving the designs and the pretty colors of those practical covers we used all winter long.

My quilt training began 23 years ago and is a great passion in my life. I know that the joy I felt sewing as a child is part of the passion now. Fabric is my artistic medium.

My art quilts have won six national or international best-of-show awards. My quilts have been featured in *Quilting Arts Magazine*, *On Track!* magazine, *The American Quilter* magazine and The National Quilting Association's "2009 Show Special." Ancient Memories, my wedding celebration quilt, just won 1st place at the Asheville Quilt Show in the professional mixed technique category making a total of seven awards for this quilt. And Grape Harvest, made with two other

quilters, has garnered four best-of-show awards in addition to two other awards in national or international competition. Both quilts have been juried into the International Quilt Association's upcoming quilt

... it is apparent now that I was offered many opportunities to excel and encouraged to perform and lead while living at Mills Home.

festival competition held in Houston this October.

I'm a vocal advocate for women taking control of their breast health as well as using breast thermography for yearly exams instead of the antiquated technology used in mammography.

Because of my community service involvement I received the 1996 Lindsay Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year and the 1997 American Association of University Women Lindsay Branch Community Service Award.

Mills Home workers helped teach me about God's love and His mercy and the way to salvation. Mills Home workers showed me mercy and love in a multitude of ways. I'm grateful for the lessons I learned growing up at Mills Home, and I know now that the workers there cared deeply for me as they made sure I learned lessons needed in my adult life.

To see more of the national award winning quilts by Lynn Gantt Drennen, go to <http://community.webshots.com/user/lynnie915>.

(EDITOR'S NOTE — Drennen was a Mills Home resident 1962-1969.)

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InVision vehicle for student summer service in churches

By Teresa Buckner
Mars Hill College

When Mars Hill College Chaplain Todd Boling asked sophomore Britney Acosta to be part of the summer InVision Ministry Team, he gave her an offer she couldn't refuse.

"The way Todd presented it was, I would be living out of a van with four other people, traveling around, and singing," Acosta said.

That might sound like a nightmare for some, but for a college student like Britney, it was an exciting chance to put her faith into action.

"That just sounded like a really awesome experience," she said.

Acosta is one of five members of the InVision Creative Ministries Team that traveled this summer throughout North Carolina and even made one lengthy trip into Canada. The team taught Bible study at summer camps and led churches in creative worship through drama, interpretive movement and music.

Boling began InVision last year, with help from Rick Trexler, campus ministry team leader for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

As a Kentucky campus minister years ago, Trexler guided similar mission teams during Boling's student years.

"My experience serving on that team

for two summers made a significant impact on me and what I understood my calling to be," Boling said.

"When I accepted this position at Mars Hill College, Rick and I saw this as an opportunity to create a similar summer missions team here in North Carolina," Boling said. "Our hope was that we would be able to offer the same life-changing experience we had in Kentucky for our students in North Carolina."

InVision team members also did service projects for host churches, including leading worship in nursing homes, working at a summer camp for troubled youths, and even clearing brush.

Team member Andrew Blakely, a student at Appalachian State University (ASU) said he joined InVision because of his interest in using drama in ministry. But traveling and meeting new people also made the summer "amazing."

"I had the opportunity to spend the summer on a great team of people while sharing the message of Jesus Christ through drama, music, and interpretive movement," Blakely said.

"I was able to grow in my faith while using the talents God has given me. This summer was something I will never forget."

According to Acosta, the most important thing about the summer was the



LEADING — InVision Creative Ministries Team traveled North Carolina over the summer helping with worship services and doing service projects.

effect the team had on young people.

"Time and time again, we would have a youth group leader come up to us at the end of the week and say, 'Our youth have never been excited before about doing something like this,'" Acosta said.

Youth from several churches continued to instigate creative ministry programs after the team left. "It was really exciting to see the effect we had on the youth groups," she said. "I think it really impacted them in a cool way."

InVision team members for 2009 were: Britney Acosta, Mars Hill Col-

lege; Andrew Blakely, Appalachian State University (ASU); Kristen Johnson, ASU; Amanda Mitchell, ASU and Michael Tyndal, Campbell University.

InVision is part of the Baptist Campus Ministries-funded summer missions efforts. College students across the state raise money — typically about \$85,000 — to send selected students on high impact summer mission ministries.

Applications for the 2010 teams are due by Dec. 1. Interviews will be January 22-24 at Caraway Conference Center. Contact Trexler at rtrexler@ncbaptist.org.



Classified Advertisements

Pastor

Riley's Creek Baptist Church, Rocky Point, NC, is seeking a **full-time pastor**. We are a rural church, located 20 miles north of Wilmington with an average attendance in two Sunday morning worship services of 180-200 and 100-120 in Wednesday night Bible studies. We are very mission minded with a heart for winning the lost to the Lord. We are seeking a strong preacher of the word of God. Send resumes to Riley's Creek Baptist Church, 19845 NC Hwy 210, Rocky Point, NC 28457, or email to rcbc27@bellsouth.net.

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Pastor. First Baptist Church of Hope Mills, North Carolina, is seeking a full time pastor. We are looking for a strong leader who has passion for children's ministries and missions and will show compassion for our elderly church members. Local residence requested. Please send resumes and references to 4621 Cameron Road, Hope Mills, North Carolina 28348 or e-mail to amclaurin@amerispec.net.

First Baptist Church of Sylvania, Georgia, located midway between Augusta and Savannah and 30 miles north of Georgia Southern University, is seeking a **full time pastor** to lead and love our congregation. We are seeking an energetic and innovative minister who can recognize the untapped potential of influence in our community and restore our church to its vibrant past. The prospective minister should possess strong pulpit and leadership abilities and have a heart for the community. The successful candidate will have graduated from an accredited seminary. Preference will be given to candidates who have obtained a doctorate. Please forward all resumes to Larry Anderson, 1866 Millen Hwy., Sylvania, Georgia 30467 or email to anderla60@gmail.com.

Church Staff

Minister of Music. Requires work with adult, youth, children and hand bell choirs. Send resume to Personnel Committee, Moffett Memorial Baptist Church, 1026 North Main St., Danville, VA 24540.

Associate Pastor of Children and Youth. First Baptist Church, Rockingham, NC, in the Sandhills region. We are a mid sized moderate church aligned with the CBF and SBC. We are prayerfully seeking a full-time children and youth minister. Would prefer candidate to have a master's degree from an accredited seminary or divinity school and at least 2 years of experience working with children and youth. Would be responsible for the development and implementation of the children and youth programs, also providing pastoral care to children, youth and their families. This person would be guided and supported by the Children's Council and Youth Council. Candidate should be energetic and enthusiastic with good communication skills. Salary would be based on experience and degree. Submit resume to: Children and Youth Minister Search Committee, Attention Harry Coble, Chairperson, First Baptist Church, 201 N. Randolph St., Rockingham, NC 28379.

First Baptist Church of Bryson City, NC, is a family-oriented church of approximately 200 active members seeking an **associate pastor**. He or she (the associate pastor) will be the Christian Education specialist for the church with major responsibilities in the youth program. For a detailed job description, go to the church's website at www.firstbaptistchurchbc.org and click on 'associate pastor.' A seminary or equivalent degree is preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience and education of the candidate.

Minister of Youth and Children. Full time position. Experience required. BA degree required. Overseeing approx. 100 students. Strong personal and computer skills. Overseeing a variety of ministries. 2 additional full time staff. Resumes may be sent to: Concord Baptist Church, PO Box 127, Granite Falls, NC 28630. Or e-mail to tomcdonald@charter.net.

YOUTH MINISTER. Ferry Farm Baptist Church is seeking a youth minister to lead our students as they grow spiritually, serve others, and impact the world! Send resume to: Carroll Ann Lewter, c/o Ferry Farm Baptist Church, 1 Westmoreland Drive, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22405.

Part-Time Music Director. Send resume to: emmanuelbaptistidw@windstream.net. Small and growing church. Work with pastor on songs. Lead Sunday worship and evenings, Wednesday. Train and lead choir. 704-882-3606 or 980-226-4593.

Worship and Discipleship Job Announcement. Polkville Baptist Church, located in the southern foothills of North Carolina, is seeking to fill a full-time position for minister of worship and discipleship. We are a purpose driven church in a rural community averaging 250 during Sunday morning worship. Interested persons should have a degree in music with additional studies in Christian education. For a full job description visit our website at www.polkvillebaptist.com. Please send your resume by October 28, 2009, to: Polkville Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, PO Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136.

Miscellaneous

For Sale: 1992 Ford Classic 28 passenger bus. Has 272,338 miles on chassis. Was purchased refurbished from Bus Pro in McDonough, Georgia. Has a Jasper 360 engine and new transmission. \$10,000 or best offer. For more information, please contact First Baptist Church, Boone, NC at (828) 264-2441.

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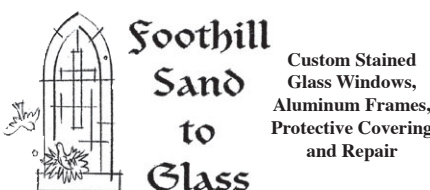
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Cost for Baptist churches and organizations is \$1.20 per word, number and stand-alone initial (\$1.42 for commercial and non-Baptist entities) with a minimum charge of \$35. Classifieds that run in the paper also are carried online.



RIDING — JR Parker, from right, and Logan Standish, line up with others to begin their “Bike for Change” ride Oct. 17.

Charlotte, Shelby churches ride for children

Children riding bicycles in the cold damp weather Oct. 17 to raise money for Baptist Children’s Homes (BCH) met a hero who is going to ride across the state for the same cause next year.

First Baptist Church, Charlotte and Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby joined forces to “Bike for Change.” It was Elizabeth’s first time joining First Baptist, which has raised \$71,064 in six years.

Elizabeth is the home church of Jay Westmoreland, the First Baptist member and BCH trustee who organizes the ride.

Children met Chris Boone, the man who holds the speed record for riding the entire 470 miles of the Blue Ridge Parkway in just 29 hours and 36 minutes.



Boone

To support BCH during its 125th anniversary year next September Boone will attempt to break the 564-mile Murphy to Manteo speed record of 41 hours.

As BCH development officer Lewis Smith says, “Where there’s a wheel, there’s a way.”

BCH will organize special events related to the anniversary and that ride, and Boone is going to begin a blog at www.biblicalrecorder.org so friends can track his training progress. Boone, 44, with his wife, Lisa



BR photos by Norman Jameson

HELPING — “Bike for Change” organizer Jay Westmoreland adjusts the helmet of Joshua Perez before starting the ride.

and son Zach, are members of Rebels Creek Baptist Church in Bakersville.

Huddled with warm coffee and donuts, parents helped Westmoreland arrange children on the track by age group. After a couple laps on the wet track at Northside Baptist Church everyone’s jacket sported a broad wet stripe up the back.

Boone signed autographs and encouraged the riders. After riders had “dried off the track” Boone took a few laps with them. A triathlete, Boone owns a landscaping and a building stone company, and Lisa is director of nursing for the Mitchell County Hospice.

Please Come to the 2009 Annual Session

By Milton A. Hollifield Jr.
BSC Executive Director-Treasurer

This will be my last opportunity in the *Biblical Recorder* to encourage you to attend the 2009 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC). This gathering will be held on November 9-11 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

There are many important reasons for you to participate, but due to limited space, please allow me to highlight four.

On Monday evening, messengers will participate in a commissioning service for our most recent North Carolina church planters. This worship service will highlight the missions partnership that exists between the BSCNC, churches, associations, networks and the NAMB in the planting of churches.

Although, the BSCNC does not actually plant churches, we are an enthusiastic and supportive partner. Plan to attend this missions celebration and commit to pray for these church planters and their congregations. You may find that God is leading your congregation to partner with those who are reaching out to the 180 language groups within North Carolina’s borders.

The Board of Directors approved a proposed 2010 budget and will present it for consideration by the annual session messengers on Tuesday afternoon.

This will be the first budget without optional giving plans in 18 years. I commend the Budget Committee for its hard work. Under the capable leadership of Steve Hardy from Calvary Baptist in Winston-Salem, this committee faced a challenging assignment as they prepared a missions budget amidst a national economic downturn.

The committee worked cooperatively with our staff, and approached this task soberly and prayerfully. I hope that you’ll support the proposed budget.

The Board of Directors will propose some important amendments to our articles of incorporation and bylaws.

This particular issue of the *Biblical Recorder* includes a special insert that details the current reading and the proposed new reading of these documents.

You will also find four accompanying articles that provide summation of the proposed changes. I encourage you to read these summaries as they will help you understand the changes that messengers will consider.

Are you interested in the work of the SBC Great Commission Resurgence (GCR) Task Force? Three individuals who serve on the GCR Task Force are from North Carolina: Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Al Gilbert, senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem; and J.D. Greear, senior pastor of The Summit Church in Durham.

Two of these men, Danny Akin and Al Gilbert, will conduct a listening session on Tuesday evening following the Convention sermon by Stephen Rummage and the conclusion of the evening session. Everyone is invited.

The annual meeting of this state Convention is important.

We will pray and worship our Lord together, listen to inspirational and challenging sermons, take action on various proposals, and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ. With all that demands our time as ministers of the gospel and servants of Christ, I hope you will finalize your plans to come and join me for this important meeting in Greensboro.



Tar Heel Voices

No gun for pastor

A Detroit pastor recently got a call from his security company that a burglar alarm had gone off at his church. So he took his gun, went to the church, and shot a suspected thief in the stomach.

He could have called the police. He could have told the trespasser that stealing was wrong, and offered him some counseling. Maybe he could have offered him a temporary job doing some work around the church. But instead he shot the guy. What would Jesus do if He encountered a suspected thief?

Ministers are people just like you and me, but they are role models and should try to set good examples. How can this pastor ever preach about peacemaking, forgiveness, and turning the other cheek? How can he ever quote the “Golden Rule?” How can he deliver a sermon about loving our neighbor and enemies?

Christian ministers shouldn’t be carrying guns and shooting people.

Chuck Mann
Greensboro



REACT: Tar Heel Voices is your forum

- Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for style, length and clarity.
- Name may be withheld only for sufficient reason.
- Letters must be signed and include an address and phone number.
- Only one letter from a writer will be published in a 90-day period.
- Subjects can range from current events, stories appearing in the *Biblical Recorder* (paper or online), local church or associational news, missions endeavors, or opinions on the Convention (Southern Baptist or state).
- **E-mail to** editor@biblicalrecorder.org, or **mail to:** Editor, P.O. Box 18808, Raleigh, NC 27619.

Roberta breaks abuse pattern

Baptist Children's Homes (BCH), which will celebrate its 125th anniversary next year, is beating the drums for its annual Thanksgiving Offering among North Carolina Baptist churches. With the economy as it is, and with BCH serving more children who have no family or department of social services resources to defray the cost of care, BCH President Michael Blackwell told Baptist State Convention Board members in September, "This is the most critical Thanksgiving Offering we've ever had."

This year's "poster child" is Roberta and you can see a video of her at www.bchfamily.org/support/thanksgiving-offering. (See story, page 8.)



Roberta came into care while I was on staff at BCH. She and her sister were badly mistreated by her mother's boyfriend, who would put a bowl of food on the porch or on the ground and tell them to eat from it like a dog.

Late one rainy night he tossed Roberta into the car and drove to the end of a muddy road. He pushed her out into the rain and told her to walk up the hill to her grandmother's house.

Squinting through the cold rain, Roberta saw the porch light glowing through the misty damp and walked slowly toward it. BCH is that light glowing on the porch in a dark and rainy night for thousands of children.



BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES
of North Carolina

Roberta and her sister went to school bruised, hungry and tired from sleepless nights spent in fear. Finally an aunt called protective services, which came and photographed the girls' bruises.

When a policeman showed up at their door with a social worker to take the girls into protective custody their mom begged them not to take "her babies." In a scene that stings Roberta's heart still today, the social worker told her mom that if she would leave her boyfriend, she could keep her girls.

"If I have to choose, I choose him," Roberta remembers her saying.

After a couple years bouncing around separate foster care placements, Roberta and her sister were united at Broyhill Home, BCH's western campus in Clyde. She accepted Jesus as savior at age 15 and her cottage parents recount her dramatic transformation. She says the prayer, devotions and Bible studies "fed my soul."

Today, Roberta celebrates 11 years of marriage to Aaron. They have a son and a daughter.

Remarkably, Roberta has not only found a way to forgive the woman who hurt her so badly as a child, but she is her mother's primary caregiver as well. She has broken the pattern of abuse in her family and credits the power of forgiveness, demonstrated to her first by the Christian caregivers at BCH.

— NWJ

Budget, bylaws, building, officers, top annual meeting interest

No sideline passes will be distributed for the Baptist State Convention's (BSC) annual meeting in Greensboro Nov. 9-11. You need to be in the game.

Messengers to the 179th annual meeting — called "e3" for encounter God, engage culture, experience peace — will elect new leadership, adopt a single giving plan budget for the first time since 1991, confirm bylaws changes that — among other things — will finally define the relationship of the BSC with Baptist Retirement Homes, and meet in a new facility that will offer exceptional convenience.

For the first time the BSC will meet at the Koury

Convention Center in Greensboro, beginning a commitment to that site for three years. After many years in Winston-Salem before getting bumped twice by Wake Forest University basketball games, the BSC met three years at the Greensboro Convention Center. It was not quite as centrally located as Winston-Salem, but the site afforded more convenient break-outs and auxiliary meeting spaces.

Meeting at Koury provides free meeting space to the Convention, if enough messengers stay at the Sheraton Hotel, which is part of the Koury complex. The convenience is unmatched. You can park your car Monday night and never have to get into it again until you leave after President Rick Speas drops the final gavel Wednesday at noon.

Greensboro's Four Seasons Mall shares the same parking lot. Inside the Koury are a variety of restaurants, and the staff is working closely with BSC staff to match peak demand times with an assortment of other dining possibilities.

Koury room rates of \$126 are higher than for discount hotels nearby, but remember the quality, convenience and ultimate cost savings of thousands of dollars to the Convention if there is no charge for meeting rooms.

Plus, you will have the best meeting spaces you've ever enjoyed for a great lineup of breakout sessions.

New budget

Messengers will consider a budget that reflects an increased commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and eliminates money to the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) and several organizations funded through optional giving plans. While the first optional giving plan was adopted in 1991, messengers in 2008 eliminated all three. Funds are gone for the Baptist World Alliance, Associated Baptist Press, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, and the Baptist Center for Ethics.

Messengers in 2008 also amended a Giving Plans Study Committee recommendation that would have provided an option in the single giving plan for a church to designate 10 percent of its gift to the national CBF. In 2010 remittance forms will include a check box for churches to designate two percent of their gift to theological education at Campbell and Gardner-Webb divinity schools.

The \$34.8 million proposed budget will be the smallest BSC budget since 2000. This will be the fifth year of the past seven in which Cooperative Program income is less than the previous year, and the seventh year in the past nine in which income failed to make budget.

Consequently, the budget committee, chaired by Steve Hardy of Winston-Salem, prepared a budget based on 2008 income. It reflects the fifth consecutive

one-half percentage point increase to ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention. The steady percentage increase to the SBC is cheered by those who want closer ties to the national body. Others lament the "loss" of \$862,500 to state convention ministries that the percentage distribution change over the past five years represents in the 2010 budget.

The full budgetary consequences of shedding support for organizations a significant number of North Carolina Baptist churches appreciate will not be known until several months into 2010.

Responding to complaints that the budget is presented on Wednesdays of the annual meeting, the least attended session, the Program, Place and Preacher Committee, chaired by Timmy Blair, moved the budget discussion and vote to 2:10 p.m. Tuesday.

Officer elections

Four men announced in May that they will be candidates for BSC offices. Others may surface by Convention time, but early announcements tend to limit the field.

Ed Yount, pastor at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Conover, is the only announced candidate for president. He is current first vice president.

Mark Harris, current second vice president, will be nominated as first vice president. Harris is pastor of First Baptist Church, Charlotte.

In the only currently contested race, Ray Davis, pastor of Forbush Baptist Church north of Winston-Salem, will be a candidate for second vice president, as will CJ Bordeaux, pastor of Gorman Baptist Church in Durham.

Yount said in his announcement that he sees the presidency as a position that "would be both ears and voice for North Carolina Baptists and try to serve as a catalyst for evangelism and missions."

Baptist Retirement Homes

Ever since the Baptist Retirement Homes received tentative approval from the BSC Executive Committee in 2005 to invoke the provisions of the BSC Articles and Bylaws to allow the Retirement Homes to elect its own trustees in exchange for giving up Cooperative Program funding, the relationship between that institution and the BSC has been in turmoil.

The Executive Committee eventually revoked its tentative approval after Convention lawyer John Small interpreted the action as a "severing" of relationship, rather than simply an adjustment of relationship. Articles and Bylaws provisions govern the process of severing a relationship and establishing a new one.

When Small and the Executive Committee suggested that the Retirement Homes back up and start over, the Retirement Homes clung to what it perceived as original approval and declined to restart the process. Numerous letters, conversations, meetings and a task force study ensued with no ultimate resolution, except a growing conviction that parting of ways was ultimately inevitable.

The Articles and Bylaws changes messengers will consider in November will designate the Retirement Homes as an "historical social services institution," indicating a once upon a time relationship.


Other changes in the Articles and Bylaws, carried in this issue of the *Recorder* in complete detail, condense, combine and simplify but have few substantive changes.

Come to Greensboro. Get into the game.

EDITORIAL



Norman Jameson


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Youth leaders encouraged to make parents 'heroes'

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Youth ministers serve young people best when they find a way to make their parents heroes in their eyes, according to Jeff Pratt at the National Youth Workers Conference Sept. 14-16.

"It's your job to make mom and dad the hero," Pratt said during an afternoon panel discussion.

"My goal as a student minister is that my students go to mom and dad when they have a theological question."

Pratt, student minister at First Baptist Church, Nashville (Tenn.) and LifeWay Christian Resources' director of student ministry training, then is happy to help parents answer those questions.

Bob Bunn, content editor in LifeWay's student ministry publishing area, said the idea of involving parents in their kids' spiritual development isn't new, but it has been overlooked.

"Youth ministry went through a stage when it was viewed as a one-stop resource for making kids look like Jesus," Bunn said. "As a result, parents abdicated their role."

Bunn pointed to Deuteronomy 6, which calls upon parents to make permanent marks upon the lives of their children.

Parents, he said, are an "invaluable" element in students' development into godly adults.

The first step in reintroducing (or introducing) parents to this idea is getting to know them, Bunn said. "Find out who they are and what they are going through," he insisted.

"Relationships with the parents will allow you to be transparent with them so that you can, at some point, share the truth of Deuteronomy 6 with them."

For more information about student ministry resources and events, visit LifeWay.com/students.



ENTERTAINING — Christian singer Steven Curtis Chapman performed with his two sons, Will, left, and Caleb, on the first night of the conference.



News Briefs

Baptists sweep energy awards

In an unprecedented development three of the four churches earning recognition as Energy Star Congregation Award winners for 2009 are Southern Baptist.

Usually the winners list for energy conservation consists mostly of United Methodist, Catholic, Lutheran and other typically socially active congregations. But this year Southern Baptist churches in Arkansas, Texas and Florida were recognized for excellence in energy efficiency and for being "great examples of financial and environmental stewardship," according to Energy Star, which is a partnership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Energy Star Congregation Awards "salute the thousands of congregations across the nation who are working to save energy and prevent pollution."

This year's winners were First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas; First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.; Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, Fla., and Swarthmore Presbyterian Church in Swarthmore, Pa.

"We have never had one denomination 'sweep' our annual awards," Jeff Lawson, national manager of Energy Star Small Business and Congregations Network told Jonathan Merritt, who founded the Southern Baptist Environment and Climate Initiative. "The explanation seems to be that there was extraordinary support by two Energy Star affiliated contractors, Siemens and Energy Education, Inc. who are working with Baptist churches."

The only other Southern Baptist church to earn an Energy Star Congregation Award was Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, in 2007.

Prof. new head of Hymn Society

(RNS) A church music professor will become the new executive director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, housed at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Deborah Carlton Loftis, visiting professor of church music at the seminary succeeds retiring Carl P. Daw Jr., an Episcopal priest. The society, which has been housed at the Boston University School of Theology, will move to the seminary where Loftis has been teaching.

Loftis has served as a contributing editor to *The Hymn*, the society's journal, since 1979.

Oral missions network honored

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The International Oral-ity Network (ION), of which the International Mission Board (IMB) is a sponsor, received The Mission Exchange's Innovation in Mission Award at a Sept. 22 conference in St. Louis.

The Mission Exchange, composed of 100 evangelical, missions-sending organizations that support approximately 20,000 missionaries, praised ION for its innovative approach to missions, breakthrough thinking, practical training and effective resources.

Beginning this year, The Mission Exchange will recognize an organization annually that excels in one of these four areas — excellence, partnership, finishing well and innovation. This year's focus is innovation.

For more information on IMB's orality strategy, go to www.OralityStrategies.org and www.CBStorying.org.

BCH's Blackwell named to governor's task force

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH) president Michael C. Blackwell has been named by Gov. Beverly Perdue as a member of the new Street-Safe Task Force. Blackwell will serve on the task force alongside a group of 34 members that includes co-chairs Attorney General Roy Cooper and Department of Correction Secretary Alvin Keller.

StreetSafe will bring together faith-based organizations, non-profits, local and state government agencies, business leaders and members of the community to develop a plan to combat recidivism and reintegrate offenders safely into the community.

Blackwell is in his 27th year as president of BCH, a non-profit child care organization headquartered in Thomasville that provides residential services throughout the state.

"We have a tremendous opportunity to put systems into place to help ex-offenders lead positive, productive lifestyles once reintegrated into our communities," Blackwell said. "In the process, we are not only redeeming lives, but creating safer neighborhoods and streets for North Carolina families."

The first task force meeting took place Oct. 8 in Raleigh.

School board keeps banner ban

RINGGOLD, Ga. (ABP) — A school board in northern Georgia upheld a policy Oct. 13 banning cheerleaders from displaying religious banners on the field at high-school football games.

Renzo Wiggins, attorney for Catoosa County Public Schools, said the tradition of having football players at Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School burst onto the field through paper signs displaying Bible verses violated the First Amendment's ban on government endorsement of religion.

"Virtually all of the cases rule that that has the imprimatur of a stamp of approval by the state," Wiggins said in a video posted online by the *Chattanooga Free Press*. "Therefore it is prohibited under the (Constitution's) Establishment Clause."

Local attorney Matthew Bryan, meanwhile, said the signs were protected under the First Amendment's clause guaranteeing free speech.

Superintendent Denia Reese said she regretted the decision to remove the banners from the field and restrict them to a "free-speech zone" outside the stadium, but it was her responsibility to protect the school district from a potential lawsuit.

Thousands from around world helping in Maggie Lee day

SHREVEPORT, La. (ABP) — An Internet-fueled show of support for a 12-year-old girl killed this summer in a church-bus accident is reaching as far away as Africa, bringing clean water to impoverished children in Malawi.

More than 13,000 people have committed to one act of kindness on Oct. 29. That would have been the 13th birthday of Maggie Lee Henson, who died Aug. 2 from injuries she received when the bus carrying youth from First Baptist Church in Shreveport, La., overturned while headed to a church camp. The accident had taken place about three weeks earlier.

Proceeds from sales of a T-shirt and charm necklace designed for the occasion will go to Watering Malawi, a ministry of the Passport youth-camping ministry that provides clean water and irrigation in the drought-plagued country of 13 million.

Evolution exhibit slated for D.C.

WASHINGTON (RNS) — The Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural history will open a new permanent exhibit on the "discovery and understanding of human origins" next March and convene a panel of experts to bridge the gap between religion and science.

With input from more than 50 scientific and educational organizations and 70 scientists and educators, the museum launched a Broader Social Impacts Committee to address the interaction between religion and science.

According to Jim Miller, co-chair of the committee, the evolution exhibit is "a scientific exhibit so it's not there to make a religious point."

Still, the committee will help educate museum volunteers on how to answer questions visitors may have and to "encourage folks to engage the material there in a constructive way."

Three percent of women victims of clergy sexual advances

(RNS) More than three percent of adult women who attend religious services at least once a month have been victims of clergy sexual misconduct, according to researchers at Baylor University.

Put another way: in a congregation of 400 people, seven adult women have been targets of sexual advances by clergy, the study says. In addition, in one of 50 cases, the religious leader was married, according to the report.

Four percent of respondents said they knew of a close friend or family member who had experienced a sexual advance by a clergy member in their own congregation, the study says.

Baylor researchers said their report is the largest scientific study into clergy sexual misconduct with adults in the U.S.

Lesson for November 1

Formations

Lesson for November 8

The Adulteress?

Focal Passage: 2 Sam. 11:2-5, 26-27a

Bathsheba appears in the genealogy of Christ (lit. her of Uriah; Matthew 1:6). Matthew presents Bathsheba — along with Tamar, Rahab and Ruth — in order to assure his listeners/readers that in spite of the irregularities of the situation, Mary is indeed part of God’s providential plan.

While hard to believe, Bathsheba becomes a spiritual forerunner to Mary. Frank Tupper explains: Behind Mary, moreover, Matthew has already included four women in his genealogy: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and the wife of Uriah (Bathsheba) ... These four women have two biographical features in common with Mary: First, each of these women had a well-known story of marriage that contained varying elements of sexual scandal — unions, however “irregular,” which continued the lineage of the Messiah. Second, each woman actively participated in events that became part of God’s purpose in the fulfillment of the messianic heritage, identifying them as instruments of the providence of God (*A Scandalous Providence: The Jesus Story of the Compassion of God*, 1995, 95).

Addressing the four women in Matthew’s gospel, Ulrich Luz writes that “the greatest Jewish female figures are missing: Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel ... A divine irregularity is a common denominator among the four women. God’s saving activity sometimes takes unexpected turns. This interpretation would permit a connection to the virgin Mary, with whom the irregularity reached a peak” (*Matthew 1-7: A Commentary*,

Hermeneia Series, 2007, 83-84).

The initiative for the adulterous relationship resides in David.

The narrative in verses 2-4 reads that “David rose ... he saw ... he sent someone to inquire ... he sent messengers to get her ... he lay with her.”

So insignificant are Bathsheba’s feelings that they remain unrecorded.

She is the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah, both elite warriors of King David. She is beautiful, and David is filled with lust.

This adulterous act becomes a royal nuisance when she informs him “pregnant I-am” (heb. harab anoki; v. 5). This two-word declaration represents the only recorded words of Bathsheba.

Unwanted pregnancies are one of the consequences of disorderly sexual relationships. For Bathsheba this could mean death, thus her haste to notify the king.

David unsuccessfully attempts to provide a liaison between Uriah and Bathsheba.

King David’s alternative solution involves betrayal and murder. When Bathsheba’s legal period of grief is over, David sends for her. King David has the habit of “gathering the wives of other men” upon the men’s death as is the case of Saul’s wife Ahinoam, Paltiel’s wife Michal (to whom he had formerly been married), and Nabal’s wife Abigail (Tikva Frymer-Kensky, *Reading the Women of the Bible*, 2002, 153).



Victor Lyons
Academic Dean,
Foothills Christian College,
Wilkesboro;
Pastor, Union Cross Baptist Church, Elkin

The Mourner

Focal Passage: 2 Sam. 12:15b-25

Bathsheba plays a secondary role throughout this passage.

She is Uriah’s stolen wife (Regina M. Schwartz affirms that “the king’s adultery is a violation of a property right”; Cf. Adultery in the House of David, *Women in the Hebrew Bible*, 1999, 344), the dying child’s mother, and David’s mourning wife (v. 16, 24).

The lingering grief over her husband’s death is now intensified with the death of her unnamed child.

It would outlast that of David who comes to comfort her.

Joy Osgood tries to repair the situation by affirming that “the death of the child was a severe mercy ... a token of the divine compassion for Bathsheba in the longer term. ... It removed the possibility of any future gossip occasioned by an innocent query to the child’s identity” (*1 & 2 Samuel*, The IVP Women’s Bible Commentary, 2002, 177).

Horatio Spafford who lost his daughters by drowning when the ship Ville du Havre collided with another ship in 1873 understands Bathsheba’s despair. Grieving, he wrote: “When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.” Grief overwhelms Bathsheba.

Center stage is King David who fasts

during the seven-day illness. Learning of the child’s death, he immediately bathes and eats. The servants view the king’s behavior as bizarre. David’s fasting was a plea for God to spare the child’s life (v. 22).

The theological secret unknown to the servants is that the child’s death is atonement for David’s sin (there is a vicarious nature about it; Cf. P. Kyle McCarter, Jr. *II Samuel: A New Translation with Introduction, Notes and Commentary*, 1984, 301).

Nathan’s words in 2 Sam. 12:1-14 confirm that David’s misbehavior could be used by Israel’s enemies to blaspheme God. As Jesus challenged his disciples to be light in the world (Mat. 5:14-16), so Israel was to be special among the nations (2 Sam. 7).

With prophetic words, David is told that future blessings have evaporated and that the remainder of his reign will be filled with violence (this begins immediately with the incestuous rape of Tamar, the premeditated murder of Amnon the rapist, and the unavoidable rebellion of Absalom the avenger — three of David’s children).

Bathsheba is finally the subject/actor when “she (gives) birth to a son” (v. 24).

Nevertheless, the naming of the child is left to others. Beyond doubt, Nathan’s words assure Bathsheba of this child’s survival.

Had not God “struck” the first one? Thankfully, God loves this child. No doubt, the joy of a new baby is mixed with the feelings of loss and unanswered questions.

Lesson for November 1

Bible Studies for Life

Lesson for November 8

Live Your Faith

Focal Passages: James 1:19-25; 2:14, 18-26

In the gospels, Jesus told a parable about a sower and his seeds.

In this parable, seeds were cast upon four types of soils: a barren, hardened pathway, a shallow, rocky place, a cluttered, thorny place and a fertile soil.

On the shallow, rocky soil, the seed is received joyfully, but because it has no root it quickly dries up.

Among the thorny soil, the seed takes root, but becomes choked and dies. Jesus likens these soils to individuals responding to the spoken word, or gospel.

Both are unfruitful and deceived because of troubles or worries. Both are hearers of the word, but not doers!

James writes to a people who were experiencing difficult persecution and were unsettled by the many concerns that were pulling them apart and causing them consternation as believers.

How does one live out vibrant faith in Jesus Christ scattered among the nations (James 1:1)?

In our relationships with one another, James recommends, “Be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger.”

The Jewish Fathers had a saying, “There are four characteristics in scholars. Quick to hear and quick to forget; his gain is cancelled by his loss. Slow to hear and slow to forget; his loss is cancelled by his gain. Quick to hear and

slow to forget; he is wise. Slow to hear and quick to forget; this is an evil lot” (William Barclay).

In our relationship with our Lord, James recommends looking intently (gazing at, perceiving into) and obediently into God’s perfect and liberating law, which is perfect and liberating because it rests upon the work of Christ who sets us free. In the words of classical writer, Seneca, “To obey God is liberty.”

James reinforces this truth by calling the believer to not be careless as if glancing at him/herself, then turning away and immediately forgetting what was seen (or heard). But, instead, to be continually doing what that word or law says.

James asks, “What good is it; what is the profit of it all if we say that we have faith and it does not produce righteous deeds?”

To what end do we arrive if we talk a good and impressive talk, but our daily lives prove barren and vain?

Have we succumbed to the deception that a careless and casual Christianity is what is required of us?

Yes, we are saved by grace through faith, but there is also a sense that we must live out that salvation. Profession without practice and words without deeds is dead (Barclay).



John Pond
Director of Missions, West Chowan Baptist Association

Celebrate Your Trials

Focal Passage: James 1:2-18

We were traveling through the Nairobi National Game Park located outside the Kenyan capital. It is a beautiful reminder of what life was like before the advent of the tribal society which now inhabits the nation. In the park is a rich diversity of African wildlife and flora that remind one of primeval Africa.

The mini-safari we took was filled with breathtaking views of herds of zebras, antelopes, and gazelles. In dense pockets of the preserve were hidden lions and hyenas. And along the lake were hippos and crocodiles. It was an incredible and dangerous experience!

One such danger occurred when we approached a herd of cape buffaloes. At first it appeared to be a small group, so we continued driving ahead. Suddenly, we were literally surrounded by a herd of at least 100 buffaloes. We could not back-up nor move forward. For an instant, we were immobilized and powerless. Knowing that cape buffaloes are the most unpredictable and dangerous animals in Africa, we could only sit still in our truck and wait until the herd moved on. Gratefully, they ignored us and moved on to an awaiting pool of water, allowing us to proceed gingerly and quietly ahead.

James describes a similar experience in relation to facing trials and temptations. He writes, “Count (consider) it now whole and unmixed joy whenever you fall into the midst of manifold temptations or testings.” The term he uses describes the experience of being totally surrounded by trials, not sought or pursued but fell into. He recognizes that sometimes we fall into testing (sometimes positive but more often negative) situations, like our herd of buffaloes, and encourages us to face it with full joy.

For James each unexpected trial is part of a larger story that God is telling through the lives of his people. If faced in the right way it produces what William Barclay calls unswerving constancy (patience) — that is, the ability to turn those trials into something great and glorious, making us perfected and completed, lacking in nothing.

In the midst of trials we are called to be joyful, and when we face temptations and remain unscathed, we are truly blessed. We are not mere puppets to an unpredictable God who changes with every passing mood and passion, but instead, we are chosen and protected by the God “who does not change like shifting shadows” (NIV). Thus, life becomes more abundant and rich when temptations are encountered and defeated by God’s grace, for there is nothing which comes from God which is not good and does not re-create our lives showing us that we belong to Him (1:17-18).

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- Kingdom Prayer for Kingdom People
- Making Church Sticky Through Organic Discipleship



North Carolina Baptists will celebrate with our most recent church planters during a commissioning service Monday evening. Meet and hear testimonies from those pastoring the newest churches in our state.

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Introduction to

Proposed Amendments to Articles and Bylaws

Following summaries explain changes

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) Board of Directors is recommending numerous changes to the Convention's Articles and Bylaws, collectively referred to as the BSCNC's governing documents, for messengers to consider in annual session Nov. 9-11.

All of the proposed changes are printed in this special insert in the Biblical Recorder, Beginning on page B3. Because the changes are extensive, although most are simply condensing, sorting and clarifying, the following four summaries are offered to explain them. This first summary explains those that follow. The summaries have been written by the BSC communications staff, who ask you to familiarize yourself with them and to attend the 179th annual session "e3 = encounter God, engage culture, experience peace" at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.

BSC Communications

The Board of Directors (Board) will present to the messengers at the 179th meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) numerous amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, collectively referred to as the BSCNC's governing documents. This introductory article, followed by three explanatory articles, explains key points related to the proposed amendments to assist North Carolina Baptists' review of the Board's proposed amendments.

In 2008, the Articles and Bylaws Committee (Committee) began a thorough review and revision of the BSCNC's governing documents. To make the task more manageable, the Committee proposed

to the Board changes only related to the BSCNC's Board and its relationships with the other entities (institutions, agencies, et. al.) with whom the Convention cooperates in ministry for consideration in 2008. The Board approved the Committee's work and presented such amendments to the Convention in annual meeting in 2008. The messengers approved all proposed amendments in 2008.

The Committee continued the work begun in 2008 and brought amendments to the Board for approval at its meeting in September 2009. After considering and adopting the amendments, the Board will present them to the messengers to the Convention in annual meeting in November 2009.

The three articles explaining the

proposed amendments to the BSCNC's governing documents are organized in the following manner:

Article Two – Convention: Meetings, Officers, and Committees

Proposed amendments to the Convention's governing documents combine Articles VII and VIII in the Articles of Incorporation and Articles I, II and IX in the Bylaws into a single Article I in the Bylaws. The new Article I addresses the meetings, the officers, and the committees of the Convention. The Board's amendments propose to eliminate the offices of Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary and reduce the number of Convention Committees from nine to four.

Article Three – Miscellaneous Amendments

The Board proposes several miscellaneous amendments to the Articles of Incorporation related to prohibitions, personal liability, and indemnification as well as the amendment process. In addition, there are several items in the Bylaws that do not fit within the three categories that have already been amended: Board of Directors, Other Entities, and the Convention. Therefore, the proposed amendments group these items together under the heading of Miscellaneous in a new proposed Article IV in the Bylaws. First, the Board proposes an amendment to the notice required for the Convention's approval of borrowing.

Second, the Convention's fiscal year end is to be revised. Third, the Board proposes to revise the process for amending the BSCNC's governing documents. Finally, the Board offers amendments to the process for how a ministry, institution or agency of the Convention may be established, severed, or terminated.

Article Four – Change of Status for Convention Councils and Baptist Retirement Homes

Messengers to the 178th annual meeting of the BSCNC in November 2008 approved a recommendation for the Board to study a change of status related to the three councils of the Convention. Board President, Allan Blume, assigned this task to the Committee. After completing its work, the Committee reported to the Board which adopted the Committee's recommendations that the three councils become committees of the Board. In the amendments, the Board proposes that the three councils become committees of the Board.

Messengers to the 178th annual meeting of the BSCNC in November 2008 also approved a recommendation for the Board to study the severance process for the Baptist Retirement Homes (BRH). President Blume also assigned the study regarding the severance process to the Committee. Adopting the Committee's recommendation, the Board proposes amendments to sever the existing relationship with BRH and to recognize BRH as a historical social services institution.

Proposed Amendments Related to Convention's Meetings, Officers and Committees

BSC Communications

The provisions concerning meetings, officers, and committees of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) are currently spread across at least six articles in its governing documents. To reduce unnecessary duplication, condense, and clarify references in the governing documents to the meetings, officers and committees of the Convention, the Board of Directors (Board) proposes to move these from separate sections of the governing documents into a single article in the Bylaws. Explanation of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws related to the Convention is outlined below:

Meetings of the Convention

Provisions on the meetings of the Convention are currently found in the Articles of Incorporation (Article VII – Meetings) and the Bylaws (Article IX – Quorum). The Board's proposed amendments consolidate the provisions in Article I.A. of the Bylaws setting the time, place, and notice required for annual and special meetings. In addition, these sections set forth the quorum and voting requirements for the Convention to conduct business.

The Board proposes that all references to the annual convention in the governing documents, currently reading "annual session" or "annual meeting" be changed to consistently read "annual meeting." The current language creates confusion as the annual convention has multiple sessions: morning sessions, afternoon sessions, and evening sessions. The proposed change would allow distinctions to be made in references to the overall meeting or to specific sessions within the meeting thereby reducing confusion.

Officers of the Convention

Currently, Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation and Article I of the Bylaws both address the officers of the Convention. The proposed amendments in Article I.B. include all references to officers of the Convention found in the existing governing documents. The proposed amendments will remove the offices of Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary. These duties would be moved to the Secretary of the Board.

The duties of the Executive Director-Treasurer (EDT) are revised and condensed in these proposed amendments.

They also clarify the process to be followed in the event a vacancy in the position of EDT arises between the annual meetings of the Convention. Furthermore, a process is established for the termination of an EDT; the current Bylaws have no provisions regarding any such action.

There are no limits placed upon the number of Parliamentarians in the current governing documents. The proposed amendments require no fewer than one but no more than three Parliamentarians. The proposed amendments also provide for Parliamentarians to "be persons of sufficient knowledge and experience to enable them to fulfill their duties for the Convention."

Finally, the process of succession regarding a vacancy in the office of Convention President is clarified.

Committees of the Convention

The section on Convention Committees now in Article II of the Bylaws will be moved to a new Article I.C. of the Bylaws.

The Committee proposes to reduce the number of the Convention Committees from nine (9) to four (4) which would involve the following actions:

1. The current Committee on Committees and current Committee on Nominations would be combined into a single committee known as the Committee on Nominations with eighteen (18) members. The Convention officers would recommend to the Board and the Board would elect the members of this committee at its January meeting each year. All other Convention Committees, members of the BSCNC Board of Directors, and members of the boards of institutions and agencies of the Convention would be nominated to the Convention by this new committee.
2. At this time, the following three Convention Committees work on the meetings of the Convention: Committee on Program Place, and Preacher; Committee on Local Arrangements; and Committee on Enrollment. These three committees would be combined into a single committee known as the Committee on Convention Meetings. This combined Committee would provide a single unified group for planning the annual meeting and any special meetings resulting in reduced expenses and increased communications for this important endeavor. The new Committee would have eighteen (18) members.

3. The Committee on Resolutions and Committee on Memorials would be combined into a single committee known as the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials. This Committee would consider recommendations for both resolutions and memorials and present these recommendations at the annual meeting. The new Committee would include nine (9) members.
4. The duties of the Historical Committee would not change.
5. The Committee on Trustee Orientation would be dissolved. Based on the changes in institutional relationships in recent years, the need for this Committee has changed. The Convention staff will work with the various institutions and agencies to provide necessary orientation about the BSCNC as part of the orientations provided by the institutions and agencies.

Currently, the terms for service on Convention Committees varies with committees having a one (1) year term of service, a three (3) year term of service, or a four (4) year term of service. The proposed amendments change all Convention Committees to three (3) year terms of service. The proposed amendments prohibit individuals who have served a full term on a Convention Committee from serving another term on the same Committee until a full term has elapsed. This means those completing a full three (3) year term of service may not serve again on the same Committee until three (3) years have passed. Currently, individuals must only wait one year before they can be re-elected to serve on the same Committee. However, the proposals continue to allow individuals who have served a full term on one Convention Committee to then serve a term on a different Convention Committee after one (1) year has elapsed.

To facilitate an orderly transition to these proposed Committees for the members currently serving on Convention Committees and those who shall be elected to serve on Convention Committees in November 2009, a transition motion has been prepared outlining the process to be followed. If approved, the transition motion will allow the Convention Committees to include more than the maximum number of members for a period of up to four years until the committees, through attrition, are reduced to their proposed maximum membership.



Summary of

Miscellaneous Amendments

BSC Communications

Messengers to the 178th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) approved significant restructuring of the Convention’s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws allowing the elimination of unnecessary duplication, clarification, and condensation related to the Board of Directors (Board) and to the BSCNC’s relationship with other entities. The Articles and Bylaws Committee (Committee) continued its work in 2009 proposing amendments to the Board that will further condense and clarify the governing documents. In addition to proposed amendments concerning the meetings, officers and committees of the Convention, the Board in 2009 is proposing amendments to address several seemingly unrelated items. This article seeks to explain the items that have not been previously addressed under the headings of Board of Directors, Other Entities, and Convention. While some of the items are very straightforward, others will require explanation.

In the Articles of Incorporation, the Board proposes amendments to clarify compensation for individuals who are both an employee and director of the BSCNC and to clarify that the Board as well as the messengers in annual meeting can approve employees and other individuals entitled to indemnification.

For both the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws, the Board proposes amendments to the procedure for amending the BSCNC’s governing documents. The Bylaws currently require that amendments may only be presented for consideration by the messengers following the Monday night session. The proposed amendment would allow bylaw amendments to be considered at any session other than the first or last sessions of the annual meeting.

Next, notification of proposed bylaw amendments currently requires publication in the *Biblical Recorder* in two separate issues in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken. The amendment would require notice to be given in an issue of the *Biblical Recorder* with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the annual meeting and appear

on the BSCNC’s Website twenty-one (21) days in advance of the annual meeting and that such proposed amendments would remain on the Convention Website through the conclusion of the annual meeting in which the proposed action is to be taken.

The proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation mirror the changes outlined above for amendments to the Bylaws. The two distinct differences are that amendments to the Articles of Incorporation continue to require a 2/3 majority for approval and that any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation that has not been publicized in advance cannot be considered by the messengers. These requirements for voting and for notice are unchanged from the current provision in the Articles of Incorporation.

The Board proposes combining several articles of the Bylaws into a new Article IV., entitled “Miscellaneous.” This article would cover the provisions concerning debts, fiscal year, changing ministries and relationships with other entities and amendments.

In the section concerning debt, the notice required for the Convention or its institutions and agencies regarding borrowing is proposed to be amended. Currently, the Bylaws require that the intention of the Convention to borrow money or guaranty the debt of an institution or agency that will require Convention approval appear in three (3) separate issues of the *Biblical Recorder*. The proposed amendment reduces the number of appearances in the *Biblical Recorder* from three (3) to two (2) but adds the requirement that notice also be given through the BSCNC’s Website thirty (30) days in advance of the annual meeting where such an action is proposed.

Clarification to the Convention’s fiscal year is proposed. Currently, the Bylaws establish the Convention’s final day of the fiscal year as the Friday following the last Sunday of the calendar year. The Board proposes establishing a fixed date for the closing of the fiscal year, December 31, but allows the Board the authority to establish financial policies that allow contributions received by a certain date to be included in the fiscal year just ended.

Currently, Bylaw Article VIII. entitled “Adoption or Termination of Activities; Establishment or Termination

or Severance of Institutions, Agencies or Councils” addresses issues impacting not only institutions, agencies and councils, but also the ministries of the Convention as established under the authority of the Board. To simplify and clarify this very significant area, the Board recommends dividing the current article into two (2) separate sections. Therefore, a new proposed section Adoption or Termination of Activities or Work of the Convention is offered. Likewise, a new proposed section Establishment, Termination or Severance of an Institution or Agency also is offered.

The section on adoption or termination of activities or work of the Convention clarifies the process to be followed when the Convention in annual meeting approves a motion from the floor regarding the ministries of the Convention itself. The process outlined in the proposed amendment recognizes the Board’s primary authority to direct the work and activities of the Convention; however, it provides a mechanism for the messengers to override the Board’s decisions in this area. The primary difference is that the proposed article removes references to the institutions, agencies and councils.

The section to establish, to terminate or sever an institution or agency amends the process currently established in the Bylaws. First, the current requirement for a two (2) convention meeting process is removed. Currently, the Convention can vote to study the establishment, termination or severance of an institution or agency, but the proposal cannot be finally approved at the same annual meeting in which the proposal for study was introduced. In the proposed amendment, the messengers can vote on such a proposal following a minimum six (6) month study by the Board. Thus if such proposal is presented to the Board, and the Board is able to complete a six (6) month study of the proposal, then the proposal may be considered and finally approved in a single annual meeting of the Convention.

On the other hand, if a proposal is introduced by a messenger at the annual meeting, it will still require a minimum six (6) month study by the Board, before the Convention can make a final decision to establish, terminate or sever a relationship with an institution or agency of the Convention.

Proposed Changes to

Councils and Baptist Retirement Homes

BSC Communications

Messengers to the 178th annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) approved two significant studies for the Board of Directors (Board). The first study concerned a change of status regarding the three Councils of the BSCNC: Council on Christian Higher Education (CCHE), Council on Christian Social Services (CCSS), and Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs (CCLPA). The second study addresses the relationship between the BSCNC and the Baptist Retirement Homes (BRH).

Both of these motions fall within the current Bylaw article entitled: “Adoption or Termination of Activities; Establishment or Termination or Severance of Institutions, Agencies, or Councils.” As such, the consideration of both proposals requires two (2) convention meetings for completion. The current Bylaw requires that any motion on the status of councils or severance of a relationship with an institution be referred to the Board for study. Therefore, no final action can be taken at the Convention meeting at which such proposal is first made. The Board is then expected to report its findings back to the next annual meeting once a study is complete. Board President Allan Blume assigned both of these tasks to the Articles and Bylaws Committee (Committee) for 2009. The Committee completed its review and brought for consideration recommendations to the Board. The Board proposes certain bylaw amendments to implement these recommendations.

Change of Status
for Councils

Prior to the establishment of each of the three (3) councils of the Convention, the responsibilities of each council had been fulfilled by committees of the General Board (the predecessor to the Board). The establishment of two of the councils, CCHE (established 1944) and CCSS (established 1959), were impacted by the Convention’s relationship with its institutions of Christian higher education and Christian social services. The Convention established the third council, CCLPA (established 1968), in an effort to coordinate the work of various committees of the General Board, cooperate with similar ministries in North Carolina (Christian Action League), cooperate with the agency of the Southern Baptist Convention assigned tasks similar in nature (formerly the Christian Life Commission now known as the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission), and involve Baptist media (*Biblical Recorder* and *Charity and Children*) in such efforts.

However, following the establishment of the councils, a duplication of efforts by similarly named committees of the Board and these councils continued. According to the BSCNC Bylaws, the purpose of the councils and committees of the Board were to “recommend to the General Board allocations...” and “keep the needs of these institutions before the General Board.”¹ The Convention included both committees and councils related to the same tasks in its structure until 1977 when messengers approved significant changes to the governing documents. The Board proposes

to change the councils to committees of the Board. The new committees would have the same membership and responsibilities as the councils. Such a change would simplify and clarify the governing structure of the BSCNC.

Severance with Baptist
Retirement Homes

Institutions and agencies of the Convention enjoy two primary connections with the member churches of the Convention. First, the Convention elects from its churches individuals who serve as trustees of the institutions and agencies. Secondly, the institutions and agencies receive from the churches, through the Cooperative Program, funds allocated for the conduct of ministry on behalf of the churches. While there are other benefits that institutions and agencies enjoy through their relationship to the BSCNC, the two primary connections of governance and funding are keys to maintaining the relationship. BRH broke the first point of connection in December 2005 by deciding to elect its own trustees.

Following the actions of the BRH trustees to elect their own trustees without any notice to or approval by the BSCNC, Convention leadership worked to address concerns of BRH leadership in order to restore the relationship between the BRH and BSCNC. Following efforts first undertaken by Mike Cummings, then acting Executive Director-Treasurer, and later the newly elected Executive Director-Treasurer, Milton A. Hollifield, Jr., to reconcile the relationship, the

messengers of the 176th annual meeting of the BSCNC meeting in November 2006 approved the appointment of a special committee to work with BRH leadership to seek to restore the relationship. The special committee worked through 2007 and made its recommendations to the 2007 annual meeting. The special committee determined that the BRH, through election of its own trustees, had severed its relationship with BSCNC. The special committee recommended that the BRH proceed through the prescribed process for formalizing this severance as outlined in the BSCNC Bylaws. The messengers approved this recommendation, and the Convention requested BRH to start the process. However, through 2008 the BRH leadership made no effort to fulfill the Convention’s request. Therefore, messengers gathered in November 2008 for the annual meeting, in accordance to BSCNC Bylaws, directed the Board to study and bring back recommendations concerning the formalized severance. The Board is now presenting to the messengers the recommended Bylaw changes for consideration to sever the relationship between BRH and BSCNC and to recognize BRH as a historical social services institution.

1. Norfleet Gardner, ed., *North Carolina Baptist Annual One Hundred Thirtieth Year 1960* – BSCNC Bylaws, Article V. The Council on Christian Education and Article VI. The Council on Christian Social Services, 36-37.



Proposed Amendments

BSCNC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

SECTIONS MOVED FROM ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION TO BYLAWS

The substance of the following sections was moved from the existing Articles of Incorporation to the Bylaws. Amendments on these matters are proposed in the new location.

TOPIC	SECTION IN CURRENT ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION	SECTION IN PROPOSED BYLAWS
Convention Meetings	Article VII.	Article I.A.
Convention Officers	Article VIII.	Article I.B.

MAJOR SECTIONS RELOCATED WITHIN THE BYLAWS

The substance of the following sections was moved from one location within the Bylaws to another location in the Bylaws. Amendments on these matters are proposed in the new location.

TOPIC	SECTION IN CURRENT BYLAWS	SECTION IN PROPOSED BYLAWS
Convention Quorum	Article IX.	Article I. A.3
Convention Officers	Article I.A-D.	Article I.B.
Convention Committees	Article II.	Article I.C.
Councils Move to Committees of Board	Article IV.	Article II.F.10-12.
Concerning Debts	Article VI.	Article IV.A-D.
Fiscal Year	Article VII.	Article IV.E.
Establishing or Severing Ministries	Article VIII.	Article IV.F.
Establishing or Severing Relationships with Other Entities	Article VIII.	Article IV.G.
Amendments	Article X.	Article IV.H.

Convention Meetings, Officers and Committees — Articles of Incorporation

Motion 1

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the current Articles VII and VIII of the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in their entirety; (2) the following language be substituted in their place to be numbered as new Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation, and (3) Articles IX-XVII of the Articles of Incorporation be renumbered, respectively, to Articles VIII-XVI.

Current Reading — Articles VII. and VIII.

Article VII. Meetings

The Convention shall convene annually the sessions of the Convention on Monday after the second Sunday in November. In case of emergency or unusual circumstances, the Board of Directors is empowered to change the time or place of meeting, cancel the sessions of the Convention, or call a special meeting by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present when the vote is taken.

Article VIII. Officers of the Convention

The officers of the Convention shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, an Assistant Recording Secretary, an Executive Director-Treasurer, and Parliamentarian(s), as provided as follows:

A. President and Vice-Presidents

The terms of the President and the Vice-Presidents shall commence at the conclusion of the annual session at which they are elected and continue until the close of the next annual session of the Convention. The President and Vice-Presidents may not be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office. A vacancy in the office of President shall be filled by the Vice-Presidents succeeding to the office in order of their rank.

B. Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary

The terms of the Recording Secretary and the Assistant Recording Secretary shall commence on the first day of May following the annual session at which they are elected and continue until the first day of May in the following year.

A vacancy in any of the Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary or Assistant Recording Secretary occurring between sessions of the Convention may be filled by the Board of Directors.

C. Executive Director-Treasurer

- In cases of a vacancy in the office of Executive Director-Treasurer, the Board of Directors shall nominate a person to the Convention to fill this office.
- Opportunity shall be given to receive additional nominations from the floor of the Convention.
- The person receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected.

Upon election, the Executive Director-Treasurer shall hold office for an indefinite period, with retirement to take effect based upon policies established by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. The Executive-Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors, and shall serve until the earlier of his death, his retirement, his resignation or his termination as determined by a majority vote of the Board of Directors at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors.

4. In case the position of Executive Director-Treasurer becomes vacant between sessions of the Convention, the Board of Directors, upon the recommendation of its Executive Committee, shall name an acting Executive Director-Treasurer to serve until the next regular session of the Convention.

5. The Executive Director-Treasurer is the chief executive officer of the Convention, the chief budget officer of the Convention, the chief professional adviser of the Convention, the Board of Directors and its committees, the Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention, and one of the denomination's spiritual leaders, providing statewide guidance and inspiration.

The Executive Director-Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member on all committees and shall aid the committees by furnishing information, printed materials and needed guidance for their work.

D. Parliamentarians

The President shall appoint the Parliamentarian(s), who will serve at the pleasure of the President.

New Reading — Article VII.

Article VII. Officers of the Convention

The officers of the Convention shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, an Executive Director-Treasurer, and Parliamentarian, as set forth in the bylaws of the Convention.

Members; Composition — Articles of Incorporation

Motion 2

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the opening paragraph of the current Article VI.A. of the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (2) current Article VI.A.1.a. in the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; and (3) the current Article VI.A.2. in the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

(1) Article VI.A.

Current Reading:

A. Those messengers who have been duly elected by cooperating churches, have been duly registered by the Committee on Enrollment, and are in attendance at the annual session. The number and criteria for messengers shall be as follows:

New Reading:

A. Those messengers who have been duly elected by cooperating churches, have been duly registered by the Credentials Subcommittee, and are in attendance at the annual meeting or special meeting of the Convention. The number and criteria for messengers shall be as follows:

(2) Article VI.A.1.a.

Current Reading:

a. On a numerical basis: every cooperating church shall be allowed two (2) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every one hundred (100) members or major fraction thereof, beyond the first one hundred (100) members; provided that to have more than two (2) messengers, the cooperating church financially supports the Cooperative Program of the Convention by giving at least one percent (1%) of undesignated budget gifts through the Cooperative Program of the Convention; for the purposes of this calculation, funds used as matching funds for the expanded annuity shall not be considered.

New Reading:

a. On a numerical basis: every cooperating church shall be allowed two (2) messengers and one (1) additional messenger for every one hundred (100) members or fraction thereof, beyond the first one hundred (100) members; provided that to have more than two (2) messengers, the cooperating church financially supports the Cooperative Program of the Convention by giving at least one percent (1%) of undesignated budget gifts through the Cooperative Program of the Convention; for the purposes of this calculation, funds used as matching funds for the expanded annuity shall not be considered.

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BSCNC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

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The Articles may be changed or amended on the Tuesday of any annual session of the Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting when the vote is taken, provided that notice of any and all amendments to the Articles shall appear in the **Biblical Recorder** in two (2) separate issues in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken.

New Reading — Article XV.

Article XVI. Amendments

The Articles may be changed or amended at any session during any annual meeting of the Convention other than the first or the last session during the annual meeting or during any special meeting of the Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting when the vote is taken, provided that notice of any and all amendments to the Articles shall appear (a) in the **Biblical Recorder** in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) on the Convention’s website beginning at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken and to remain on such website through the conclusion of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken.

Prohibitions, Personal Liability and Indemnification — Articles of Incorporation

Motion 4

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the second sentence of the current Article XII in the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (2) the second sentence of the current Article XIV of the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (3) the last sentence of the first paragraph of the current Article XIV of the Articles of Incorporation be amended to change the reference from Article XIV to Article XIII; and (4) the second sentence of the second paragraph of the current Article XIV of the Articles of Incorporation be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

(1) Article XII.

Current Reading:

Except for the Executive Director-Treasurer, no compensation shall be paid to directors and officers for their services as members of the Board of Directors or as officers of the Convention.

New Reading:

No compensation shall be paid to directors and officers for their services as members of the Board of Directors or as officers of the Convention.

(2) Article XIV.

Current Reading:

Also, as used herein, the term "improper personal benefit" does not include a director’s reasonable compensation or other reasonable incidental benefit for or on account of service as an independent contractor, attorney or consultant of the Convention.

New Reading:

Also, as used herein, the term "improper personal benefit" does not include a director’s reasonable compensation or other reasonable incidental benefit for or on account of service as an employee, independent contractor, attorney or consultant of the Convention.

(3) Article XIV.

Current Reading:

No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article XIV shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any director of the Convention for or with respect to any act or failure to act on the part of such director party occurring prior to such amendment or repeal.

New Reading:

No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article XIII shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any director of the Convention for or with respect to any act or failure to act on the part of such director party occurring prior to such amendment or repeal.

(4) Article XIV.

Current Reading:

As used herein, the term "indemnified parties" shall mean the officers of the Convention, the members of the Board of Directors, the President of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, the President of the North Carolina Baptist Men and key employees and special committee members as listed in a duly authorized resolution of the Convention.

New Reading:

As used herein, the term "indemnified parties" shall mean the officers of the Convention, the members of the Board of Directors, the President of the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina, the President of the North Carolina Baptist Men and key employees and special committee members as listed in a duly authorized resolution adopted by either the Board of Directors or the Convention.

Convention Meetings, Officers and Committees — Bylaws

Motion 5

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the current Articles I, II and IX in the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety; and (2) the following language be substituted in their place to be numbered as new Article I in the Bylaws.

Current Reading — Articles I., II., and IX.

I. Duties of Officers

A. The President and Vice Presidents

1. The President shall preside over the deliberations of the Convention and discharge such other duties as are imposed upon the President by the Convention or as are incumbent on the presiding officer of a deliberative body. The President may appoint committees when so directed by the Convention.

2. In the event of the death or incapacity of the President to serve, the Vice-Presidents shall succeed the President in the order of their rank; and so succeeding shall have and discharge the duties incumbent upon the President.

3. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall serve on a nominating committee, chaired by the President, to recommend a Committee on Enrollment and a Committee on Committees to the Board of Directors for their election at its January meeting and shall serve as ex-officio voting members of all Convention committees, the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee. Unless otherwise stated in the Articles or Bylaws, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Convention shall serve as ex-officio nonvoting members of all subcommittees of Convention Committees and of all committees and subcommittees of the Board of Directors.

B. The Recording Secretary

The Recording Secretary shall verify the draft of the proceedings of the Convention within forty-five (45) days of being provided a copy of the audio recording and a transcribed draft of the proceedings by the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Assistant Recording Secretary will assist the Recording Secretary during a convention year. In case of resignation or death of the Recording Secretary, the Assistant Recording Secretary will succeed to the office of Recording Secretary.

C. The Executive Director-Treasurer

1. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention shall promote the whole program of the Convention, including Missions, Evangelism, Higher Education, and Social Services and may serve as adviser to all the institutions, agencies, and committees of the Convention. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall work under the direction of and be subject to the authority of the Board of Directors and shall have administrative supervision of such work as shall be assigned by the Convention.

2. In carrying out the responsibilities of each and all these functions, the Executive Director-Treasurer shall:

a. Coordinate and evaluate the Convention’s programs with the help of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee;

b. Advise and otherwise assist the Board of Directors, the Convention and their committees and subcommittees, including the provision of direct staff help in planning meetings, preparing agenda, presenting analyses, facts, and recommendations;

c. Plan, coordinate, and supervise the entire budgetary process (formulation, authorization, and administration) under the direction of the Executive Committee and, where appropriate, the Convention;

d. Assume responsibility for the administration, coordination, and direction of the Convention’s staff, including the recommendations of all divisions and



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department heads, organization of professional staff, development of professional staff position descriptions, and preparation of personnel policies;

e. Encourage staff members to make their fullest contribution to the work of the Convention;

f. Work on a cooperating basis with the heads of all institutions, agencies and councils of the Convention and the heads of all affiliated educational institutions; and

g. Promote participation in and support for all North Carolina Baptist and Southern Baptist Convention programs and represent the Convention, as appropriate, to the denomination and the public.

3. As Treasurer, the Executive Director-Treasurer shall receive all funds sent for the objectives of the Convention, and make acknowledgments of the same in the manner as the Board of Directors may determine for the faithful performance of these duties. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall sign all checks which shall be countersigned by the Executive Leader, Business Services. However, in the event that either is unable to perform this duty because of disability or other cause, the Executive Committee shall designate someone to sign checks on behalf of either officer, each of whom shall be bonded in such amount as shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall forward at least once a month all contributions to their destinations and shall make an annual report of all receipts and disbursements which shall be published in the minutes of this Convention, and upon retiring from or leaving office, shall deliver to the successor all money, papers, books, and other property belonging thereto.

4. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall supervise the work of the Convention staff.

D. The Parliamentarian(s)

The Parliamentarian(s) shall advise and assist the Presiding Officer of this Convention with respect to all matters involving proper parliamentary procedure. The Rules of Order for the Convention shall be those laid down in Robert's Rules of Order, but in cases where the meaning may not be clear the President shall exercise discretion, subject to appeal to the Convention.

II. Convention Committees

A. Categories

- Committees nominated by this Convention's President and Vice-Presidents:
 - Committee on Enrollment; and
 - Committee on Committees.
- Committees nominated by the Committee on Committees, which shall also nominate the Chairperson of said Committees:
 - Committee on Resolutions;
 - Committee on Nominations;
 - Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher;
 - Committee on Local Arrangements;
 - Committee on Memorials;
 - Historical Committee; and
 - Committee on Trustee Orientation.
- Special Committees.

B. Membership

- All members of Convention committees shall be active members of cooperating churches as defined in Article VI.A.3. of the Articles.
- Membership on Convention committees shall not bar one from serving as a member of the Board of Directors, as a director of any agency of this Convention, or as a trustee of any institution of this Convention.
- The terms of office of all standing Convention committees shall begin at the adjournment of the annual session of the Convention at which they are elected and shall terminate upon the adjournment of the annual session of the Convention at which their successors are elected, unless otherwise designated.
- No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the Committee on which he/she is serving, or any other standing committee, except as hereinafter provided, until one full term has elapsed, provided he/she has served a full term.

C. Vacancies

Vacancies occurring in committees between sessions of the Convention shall be filled by the Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the President

and Vice-Presidents, and the Board of Directors shall report this action to the Convention for approval at the next annual meeting of the Convention. When the Chairman of a standing committee resigns or moves out of the state between sessions of the Convention, the vacancy shall be filled through nomination by the current Committee on Committees and elected at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

D. Reports

- All Convention Committees shall report either by oral report or written report at the next annual session of the Convention.
- Nothing contained in Convention Committees' reports to the Convention shall be construed as an action of the Convention except the recommendations, which are definitely listed in such reports and adopted by the Convention.

E. Duties and Membership of Convention Committees

1. THE COMMITTEE ON ENROLLMENT shall consist of nine (9) members, three (3) of whom shall have served the previous year. Its duties shall be to provide for the registration of messengers and visitors prior to and during the Convention. This Committee shall make a report to the assembled messengers upon the call of the President and shall serve as a committee on credentials.

The Committee on Enrollment shall serve from their election by the Board of Directors at its January meeting through the election of their successors and shall begin their work no later than March 1 of the respective year.

2. THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES shall consist of fifteen (15) members. Its duties shall be to nominate for election by the Convention the committees listed in Article II.A.2. of these Bylaws, and such other committees as may be assigned to it. This Committee shall also nominate the chairman of all such committees. The members shall approve all such nominations at the Convention.

It is desirable that at least twenty-five percent (25%) of members nominated to all committees of the Convention shall come from churches with a resident membership under four hundred (400). No one shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) committee at the same time. It is desirable that no church shall have more than six (6) members serving at one (1) time on Convention committees. Any addition beyond six (6) must be individually justified by the Committee on Committees to the Convention.

The Committee on Committees 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 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.

The Committee on Committees shall serve from their election by the Board of Directors at its January meeting through the election of their successors and shall begin their work no later than March 1 of the respective year.

3. THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS shall consist of fourteen (14) members, nine (9) of whom shall be nominated by the Committee on Committees and elected by this Convention to serve three (3) year terms, three (3) of whom will rotate off each year.

The five (5) remaining members shall be nominated by the Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, with at least two (2) of the five (5) from the Executive Committee, and elected by the Executive Committee for one (1) year terms, after its organizational meeting in January.

- The Committee on Resolutions shall be responsible:
 - For reviewing all properly submitted resolutions;
 - For presenting to this Convention for its consideration all appropriate resolutions; and
 - For recommending to the appropriate committee or group, or to the Convention the formation of a special committee, for study, those concerns which arise out of a resolution that seems to call for action.
- The Committee on Resolutions shall observe the following procedures:
 - All resolutions shall be submitted to the Committee on Resolutions in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. The committee shall consider all resolutions submitted. Those to be presented to the Convention shall be printed in an edition of the Biblical Recorder dated prior to the Convention. Exceptions to prior publication may be made in the case of emergency resolutions dealing with matters such as national disasters, public tragedies, or late developments. Also, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present and voting at the Convention the rules may be suspended and a resolution taken up for immediate consideration.
 - The Committee may:
 - reword resolutions for clarity,
 - combine like issues into one resolution, or

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(c) reject resolutions which have been previously addressed or are inappropriate.

iii. The Committee shall notify those submitting resolutions of the disposition thereof. Where possible, notification shall be made prior to the Convention.

4. THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS shall consist of twenty (20) members, serving four (4) year terms, five (5) of who shall rotate off each year. No individual who is employed by the Convention or any institution, agency or affiliated educational institution of the Convention, whether the salary be total or supplemented, shall serve on this Committee.

This Committee shall nominate persons to serve on the boards of trustees and directors of all agencies and institutions of the Convention, the Board of Directors, the eight (8) members-at-large of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs of the Convention and such other nominations as may be delegated to the Committee by the Convention.

It is desirable that the Committee shall nominate at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the members to the various boards and councils from churches with resident membership under four hundred (400). No person shall be nominated to serve on more than one (1) board of the Convention, its institutions, its agencies, its affiliated educational institutions, or the Hospital (all as hereinafter defined in Article V.A.) at the same time. It is desirable that no church shall have more than six (6) members serving at one time on Convention boards. Any addition beyond six (6) must be individually justified by the Committee on Nominations to the Convention.

a. The Committee shall begin to function upon election. It shall meet as often as needed to prepare recommendations for vacancies and shall begin not later than July 1 to prepare recommendations for the annual meeting of the Convention.

b. This Committee shall invite through letter each institution and agency to submit recommendations for vacancies for their respective institutions and agencies occurring annually or between annual sessions of the Convention. The Committee shall invite individuals through the Biblical Recorder to submit recommendations for trustees of institutions and agencies and for terms on the Board of Directors and members at large of the Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs; this invitation shall include a current list of how many persons are to be elected to the Board of Directors in that year from each region. All recommendations shall be accompanied by biographical material, including general assessments by personal and church references. Recommendations and supporting material shall be submitted early enough for the Committee on Nominations to acknowledge and carefully evaluate each recommendation and make an informed decision based upon character, churchmanship, and special skills required by the particular institution. All such materials shall be kept by the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations during the period of active work up to and until the time of the Convention, and all such materials received from churches and individuals shall be shared upon receipt with the particular institution involved. After this Convention has taken action on nominations, the Chairperson will forward all biographical materials to the new Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations.

c. When the Committee meets to do its work, it shall give careful consideration to those who have been recommended from the various sources indicated above and to the fact that the trustees of each institution or agency are close to that institution or agency, have expert knowledge of its needs and possibilities, possess a deep interest and concern for the institution or agency, and know the men and women who can best serve the institution or agency.

The Committee on Nominations shall:

i. Consult with the representatives of the Board of Trustees or Board of Directors of the Convention's institutions and agencies for the purpose of determining the specific trustee skills needed.

ii. Consult as needed with persons making recommendations with respect to their recommendations for membership on the Board of Directors, the Boards of Trustees of institutions and the Boards of Directors of agencies.

iii. Share with the institutions and agencies its proposed nominations prior to notification of these nominees. This is for the purpose of further consultation, if further consultation is deemed necessary by either the Committee or the Boards of Trustees and the Boards of Directors.

iv. Be free to follow its own best judgment in making nominations to this Convention or the Board of Directors. The Committee should strive to select and nominate the best representatives of our Convention from the vast resources available to the Baptists of North Carolina.

d. Special emphasis should be given to:

i. Stability of effective leadership, thus assuring the continuous work of Baptists;

ii. Demonstrated active churchmanship, thus assuring effective Baptist State Convention representation; and

iii. A cross-section of membership, thus assuring representation of

churches of various sizes and types, a variety of professional and educational backgrounds, geographical areas, different age groups, and both lay persons and ministers. It is desirable to avoid the concentration of leadership in too few places.

e. Consent of the nominee to serve shall be secured by the Committee prior to the recommendations to this Convention or the Board of Directors.

f. The full report of the Committee shall be published in the Biblical Recorder at least four (4) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Convention. The report shall include at a minimum the name, church, home town, association, occupation, and sex of each nominee, the name of the institution or agency on whose board the nominee is to serve, together with such summary information as will make clear to the Convention the diversity and breadth of representation provided by the slates of nominees. If necessary, the Committee on Nominations, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective board of directors or trustees of any applicable institution or agency, shall be allowed to amend its report to the Convention in session to replace any previously reported nominee who has been determined to be unable to serve following the publication of the report of the Committee on Nominations to the Convention.

The name of any person to be nominated from the floor of the Convention and the name of the nominee intended to be displaced shall be published in the Biblical Recorder at least one (1) week prior to the Convention's annual session. In addition, biographical material relating to any person proposed to be nominated from the floor of the Convention shall be given to the institution or agency involved and to the Committee on Nominations at least one (1) week prior to such session.

5. THE COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION PROGRAM, PLACE AND PREACHER shall consist of twelve (12) members serving three (3) year terms, four (4) of whom shall rotate off each year. This committee shall be responsible:

a. For recommending the preacher for the next annual session of the Convention;

b. For recommending to the Convention a place of meeting, when necessary;

c. For the program of the current year and preliminary plans for the next two annual sessions;

d. For providing time prior to the evening session on Tuesday for the introduction of any matters of business requiring a vote not scheduled on the agenda and will designate times when such matters will be considered. No new items of business directing the Convention or committing funds that require a vote may be introduced following the designated time on Tuesday; and

e. For all other matters in connection with the annual session not provided for in the Articles and Bylaws.

6. THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS shall consist of nine (9) members, serving one (1) year terms, who are residents of the area where the convention will be held. This committee shall be responsible:

a. For supervising all arrangements with the local auditorium including furniture and needed equipment;

b. For working with Convention staff, Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher, and the Committee on Enrollment in arranging for display booths, sound system and other arrangements necessary for the sessions of the Convention; and

c. For the Teller Committee (subcommittee of Local Arrangements). The Chairperson of the Committee on Local Arrangements shall appoint three (3) members of the Committee on Local Arrangements to serve as the Teller Committee. This subcommittee will receive and count all ballots on votes taken during the Convention. The Teller Committee chairman will report results on all votes to the Convention President or presiding officer.

7. THE COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS shall consist of six (6) members, serving three (3) year terms, two (2) of whom shall rotate off each year. The Committee shall be responsible:

a. For preparing a report memorializing ministers and lay leaders who have died from July 31 of the previous year to July 31 of the current year; and

b. For recommending names of those to whom the Annual of the Convention is to be dedicated.

8. THE HISTORICAL COMMITTEE shall consist of twelve (12) members, serving four (4) year terms, three (3) of whom shall rotate off each year. This Committee shall be responsible:

a. For recommending appropriate measures for the preservation of Baptist history;

b. For encouraging the preservation of minutes and records of all Baptist bodies, churches, associations, and conventions; historical manuscripts; printed materials, including correspondence; and museum objects;

c. For encouraging the writing and publication of high-standard histories

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of individuals, churches, associations, and conventions;

- d. For recommending which historic sites, including buildings, should be properly marked and preserved when these are related to Baptist history;
 - e. For working in close collaboration with the historical researchers of Wake Forest University, who work directly with the Baptist Collection in the Wake Forest University Library; and
 - f. For reporting annually to the Convention.
9. THE COMMITTEE ON TRUSTEE ORIENTATION shall consist of nine (9) members, serving three (3) year terms, three (3) of whom shall rotate off each year. The Committee shall be responsible:
- a. For planning and promoting an annual orientation program for trustees and directors of Convention institutions and agencies;
 - b. For preparing a brief manual of instruction for use by trustees and directors of Convention institutions and agencies; and
 - c. For revising this manual as occasion requires.

IX. Quorum

The quorum of this Convention shall be the number of registered messengers present at any session of the annual convention.

New Reading: Article I.

I. Convention Meetings, Officers and Committees

- A. Meetings of the Convention
1. Time and Place. The Convention shall hold its annual meeting with the first session commencing on the Monday after the second Sunday in November. In case of emergency or unusual circumstances, the Board of Directors (the "Board") is empowered to change the time or place of meeting or cancel the sessions of the Convention. A special meeting of the Convention may be called either (a) by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the registered messengers present when the vote is taken at an annual meeting, or (b) by vote of a majority of the members of the Board present when the vote is taken.
2. Notice. Notices of the meetings of the Convention shall appear (a) in the Biblical Recorder in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention; and (b) on the Convention's website beginning at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention.
3. Quorum. The quorum of the Convention shall be the majority of registered messengers present at any session of the annual meeting or any special meeting.
4. Voting. Except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles or in these Bylaws, an act of the majority of the registered messengers present at a session at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members of the Convention.
- B. Officers of the Convention
- The officers of the Convention shall be a President, a First Vice-President, a Second Vice-President, an Executive Director-Treasurer, and Parliamentarian(s).
1. President and Vice-Presidents
- a. Term. The terms of the President and the Vice-Presidents shall commence at the conclusion of the annual meeting at which they are elected and continue until the close of the next annual meeting of the Convention. The President and Vice-Presidents shall not be elected for more than two (2) consecutive terms in the same office.
 - b. Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of the President shall be filled by the First Vice-President, and a vacancy in the office of the First Vice-President shall be filled by the Second Vice-President. A vacancy in the office of the Second Vice-President shall be filled by the Board.
 - c. Duties. The President shall preside over the deliberations of the Convention and discharge such other duties as are imposed upon the President by the Convention or as are incumbent on the presiding officer of a deliberative body. The President may appoint committees when so directed by the Convention. The President and the Vice-Presidents shall serve as a nominating committee, chaired by the President, to nominate members of the Committee on Nominations to the Board for their election at its January meeting and shall serve as ex-officio voting members of all Convention committees, the Board and its Executive Committee. Unless otherwise stated in the Articles or these Bylaws, the President and Vice-Presidents of the Convention shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of all subcommittees of Convention committees and of all committees and subcommittees of the Board.

2. Executive Director-Treasurer
- a. Term. At its annual meeting or a special meeting, the Convention shall elect a person to the office of Executive Director-Treasurer. The Board shall nominate a person to the Convention for consideration. Opportunity shall be given to receive additional nominations from the floor of the Convention. The person receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. Upon election, the Executive Director-Treasurer shall hold office for an indefinite period. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Board, and shall serve until the earlier of his death, his retirement or his resignation. The term of the Executive Director-Treasurer may also be terminated by a majority vote of the Board at any meeting of the Board, where the individual director requesting the termination of the Executive Director-Treasurer has given at least twenty (20) days prior written notice to the Board Secretary; upon receipt of such notice, the Board Secretary then shall give at least fifteen (15) days prior written notice of the individual member's intent to bring such motion at the meeting of the Board.
 - b. Vacancies. In the event that the position of Executive Director-Treasurer becomes vacant, the Board shall elect, at a regular or special meeting of the Board, an interim Executive Director-Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall consider recommendations from the Executive Committee, with the opportunity for additional nominations to be made at the regular or special meeting. The interim Executive Director-Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board, and shall serve until the permanent Executive Director-Treasurer is elected.
 - c. Duties. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be the chief executive officer of the Convention, the chief professional adviser of the Convention, the Board and its committees, and one of the denomination's spiritual leaders, providing statewide guidance and inspiration. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member on all Convention committees and subcommittees and the Board and all committees and subcommittees of the Board. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be the principal operating officer of the Convention, shall oversee the day-to-day operation of the Convention and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Board. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall plan, coordinate, supervise and evaluate the Convention's ministries and programs, budget and staff and work on a cooperating basis with other Baptist bodies, including churches, auxiliaries, associations, organizations and conventions, and with other religious groups. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall also have custody of all funds and securities belonging to the Convention, shall receive, deposit and disperse same under the direction of the Board, and shall keep full and accurate accounts of the finances of the Convention in books for such purpose. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall forward, at least once a month, all contributions to their destinations.
3. Parliamentarians
- a. Term and Qualifications. The President shall appoint no fewer than one Parliamentarian and no more than three Parliamentarians, who will serve at the pleasure of the President. The term for each Parliamentarian shall end, unless terminated earlier by the President, at the conclusion of the meeting of the Convention. The Parliamentarians shall be persons of sufficient knowledge and experience to enable them to fulfill their duties for the Convention.
 - b. Vacancies. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Parliamentarian, the President may, but is not required to, name a successor so long as there remains at least one Parliamentarian.
 - c. Duties. The Parliamentarians shall advise and assist the President (or presiding officer) of the Convention with respect to all matters involving proper parliamentary procedure. The Rules of Order for the Convention shall be those set forth in the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, but in cases where the meaning may not be clear the President shall exercise discretion, subject to override by a vote of the majority of the registered messengers present at the Convention.
- C. Convention Committees
1. List of Standing Committees:
- a. Committee on Nominations;
 - b. Committee on Convention Meetings;
 - c. Committee on Resolutions and Memorials; and
 - d. Historical Committee.
2. Membership
- a. The members and the chair of the Committee on Nominations shall be nominated by the President and Vice Presidents and shall be elected by the Board at its January meeting. All other Convention committees and their respective chairs shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Convention. All members of Convention committees shall be active members of cooperating churches as defined in Article VI.A.3. of the Articles.
 - b. The terms of office of all standing Convention committees, except the Committee on Nominations, shall begin at the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Convention at which they are elected and shall terminate upon the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Convention at which their successors are elected.



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The terms of office of the Committee on Nominations shall begin at the adjournment of the January meeting of the Board at which they are elected and shall terminate upon the adjournment of the January meeting of the Board at which their successors are elected.

c. No person shall be eligible to succeed himself/herself on the committee on which he/she is serving until one full term has elapsed, provided he/she has served a full term; in addition, no person shall be eligible to serve on any other standing committee until one (1) year has elapsed.

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.

3. Vacancies. Any vacancy for a member of a Convention committee except the Committee on Nominations occurring between annual meetings of the Convention may be filled by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Committee on Nominations. Those elected shall serve through the adjournment of the next annual meeting of the Convention. The Convention shall at its next annual meeting fill the vacancy for the unexpired term. Any vacancy for a member of the Committee on Nominations occurring between the January meetings of the Board may be filled by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the President and Vice Presidents. Those elected shall serve through the adjournment of the next January meeting of the Board. The Board shall at the next January meeting fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

4. Reports. All Convention committees shall report either by oral report or written report at the annual meeting of the Convention. Nothing contained in Convention committees' reports to the Convention shall be construed as an action of the Convention except the recommendations, which are listed in such reports and specifically adopted by the Convention.

5. Duties and Membership of Standing Committees

a. The Committee on Nominations shall consist of eighteen (18) members serving three (3) year terms, six (6) of which shall rotate off each year. Its duties shall be 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 Convention, the Board, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention, in accordance with the following procedures:

(i) The committee shall begin to function upon election. It shall meet as often as needed to prepare recommendations for vacancies and shall begin not later than March 1 to prepare recommendations for the annual meeting of the Convention.

(ii) This committee shall invite in writing each institution and agency to submit recommendations for vacancies for their respective institutions and agencies occurring annually or between annual meetings of the Convention. 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. All recommendations shall be accompanied by biographical material, including general assessments by personal and church references. Recommendations and supporting material shall be submitted early enough for the committee to acknowledge and carefully evaluate each recommendation and make an informed decision based upon character, churchmanship, and special skills required by the particular institution. All such materials shall be kept by the chair of the committee during the period of active work up to and until the time of the Convention, and all such materials received from churches and individuals shall be shared upon receipt with the particular institution involved. After this Convention has taken action on nominations, the chair will forward all biographical materials to the new chair of the committee.

(iii) When the committee meets to do its work, it shall give careful consideration to those who have been recommended from the various sources indicated above and to the fact that the trustees or directors of each institution or agency are close to that institution or agency, have expert knowledge of its needs and possibilities, possess an interest and concern for the institution or agency, and know the men and women who can best serve the institution or agency.

(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;

(b) Consult as needed with persons making recommendations with respect to their recommendations for membership on the Board, the boards of trustees of institutions and the boards of directors of agencies;

(c) Share with the institutions and agencies its proposed nominations prior to notification of these nominees. This is for the purpose of further consultation, if further consultation is deemed necessary by either the Committee or the boards of trustees or directors;

(d) Follow its own best judgment in making nominations to this

Convention or the Board. The committee should strive to select and nominate the best representatives of the Convention from the resources available to the Baptists of North Carolina;

- (e) In conducting its nomination process, the committee should give special emphasis to the following:
 - (1) Stability of effective leadership, thus assuring the continuous work of Baptists;
 - (2) Demonstrated active churchmanship, thus assuring effective Convention representation; and

(3) A cross-section of membership, thus assuring representation of churches of various sizes and types, a variety of professional and educational backgrounds, geographical areas, different age groups, and both lay persons and ministers. It is desirable to avoid the concentration of leadership in too few places.

(v) Consent of the nominee to serve shall be secured by the committee prior to the recommendations to this Convention or the Board.

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

(vii) 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). It is desirable that no church shall have more than six (6) members serving at one (1) time on Convention committees, the Board, and the boards of directors or trustees of the Convention's institutions and agencies. Any addition beyond six (6) must be individually justified by the Committee on Nominations to the Convention. 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.

(viii) The full report of the committee shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than four (4) weeks prior to the annual meeting of the Convention; and (b) on the Convention's website beginning at least thirty-five (35) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. If necessary, the committee, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective board of trustees or directors of any applicable institution or agency, shall be allowed to amend its report to the Convention in session to replace any previously reported nominee who has been determined to be unable to serve following the publication of the report of the committee to the Convention.

(ix) The name of any person to be nominated from the floor of the Convention and the name of the nominee intended to be displaced shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than one (1) week prior to the Convention's annual meeting; and (b) on the Convention's website beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention and to remain on such website through the commencement of such meeting of the Convention. In addition, biographical material relating to any person proposed to be nominated from the floor of the Convention shall be given to the institution or agency involved and to the Committee on Nominations at least one (1) week prior to such meeting.

b. The Committee on Convention Meetings shall consist of eighteen (18) members serving three (3) year terms, six (6) of which shall rotate off each year. The committee's duties shall include:

- (i) Working with Convention staff and the local auditorium in arranging for display booths, sound system and other arrangements necessary for all meetings of the Convention;
- (ii) Recommending to the Convention the preacher for the next annual meeting of the Convention;
- (iii) Recommending to the Convention a place of meeting, when necessary;
- (iv) Recommending the program of the current year and preliminary plans for the next two annual meetings;

(v) Providing time prior to the last session for the introduction of any matters of business requiring a vote not scheduled on the program and will designate times when such matters will be considered. 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

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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.

c. The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials shall consist of nine (9) members, serving three (3) year terms, three (3) of which shall rotate off each year. The committee’s duties shall include:

- (i) Reviewing all properly submitted resolutions;
- (ii) Presenting to the Convention for its consideration all appropriate resolutions;
- (iii) Recommending to the appropriate committee or group, or to the Convention the formation of a special committee, for study, those concerns which arise out of a resolution that seems to call for action;
- (iv) Preparing a report memorializing ministers and lay leaders who have died from July 31 of the previous year to July 31 of the current year; and
- (v) Recommending names of those to whom the Annual of the Convention is to be dedicated.

When considering the resolutions, the committee shall observe the following procedures:

(i) All resolutions shall be submitted to the committee in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. The committee shall consider all resolutions submitted. Those to be presented to the Convention shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date more than one (1) week prior to the Convention’s meeting; and (b) on the Convention’s website beginning at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention. Exceptions to prior publication may be made in the case of emergency resolutions dealing with matters such as national disasters, public tragedies, or late developments. Also, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the messengers present and voting at the Convention the rules may be suspended and a resolution taken up for immediate consideration.

- (ii) The committee may:
 - a. reword resolutions for clarity,
 - b. combine like issues into one resolution, or
 - c. reject resolutions which have been previously addressed or are inappropriate.
- (iii) The committee shall notify those submitting resolutions of the disposition thereof. Where possible, notification shall be made prior to the Convention.

d. The Historical Committee shall consist of twelve (12) members, serving three (3) year terms, four (4) of which shall rotate off each year. This committee shall be responsible for:

- (i) Recommending appropriate measures for the preservation of Baptist history;
- (ii) Encouraging the preservation of minutes and records of all Baptist bodies, churches, associations, and conventions; historical manuscripts printed materials, including correspondence; and museum objects;
- (iii) Encouraging the writing and publication of high-standard histories of individuals, churches, associations, and conventions;
- (iv) Recommending which historic sites, including buildings, should be properly marked and preserved when these are related to Baptist history; and
- (v) Working in close collaboration with the historical researchers of Wake Forest University, who work directly with the Baptist Collection in the Wake Forest University Library.

Board of Directors and Councils – Bylaws

Motion 6

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the current Article IV in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety; (2) the following language shall be inserted after the current Article III.F.9. to be designated as new paragraphs 10-12 in the current Article III.F. in the Bylaws, and the current paragraphs numbered 10-13 in the current Article III.F. in the Bylaws shall be renumbered as paragraphs 13-16, respectively; (3) the first

sentence of the current Article III.A.1.a. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (4) the last sentence of the current Article III.A.1.b. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (5) the current Article III.A.3.b. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with subsections c-e of the current Article III.A.3. being renumbered to subsections b-d, respectively; (6) the first sentence of the current Article III.B.1. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (7) the current Article III.C.6. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (8) the current Article III.D.3.c. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (9) the first sentence in the current Article III.F.1. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (10) the first sentence in the current Article III.F.2. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; (11) the current Article III.F.6.a. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; and (12) the last sentence of the current Article III.F.11.a. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place.

(1) Article IV (deleted, no substituted language)

Current Reading:

IV. Councils of the Convention

A. Council on Christian Higher Education

1. Composition

a. The Council shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board appointed by the President of the Board. Also, the Council shall consist of the following associate members: the President, dean, the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees, and the dean of the divinity school (if any) of each of the affiliated educational institutions. Each affiliated educational institution shall have one vote on matters brought before the Council (except as limited below) with the vote being exercised by the President (or designee) of each affiliated educational institution.

b. The President of the Council on Christian Higher Education shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board and shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Board.

c. No associate member of the Council shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the affiliated educational institutions.

2. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities

The Council shall work to provide an effective program for the affiliated educational institutions without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The Council:

- a. Shall devise ways and means for the proper correlation of the work and programs in the affiliated educational institutions;
- b. Shall formulate and promote plans for increasing interest in higher education at Christian institutions in general and the affiliated educational institutions in particular; and
- c. Shall report to the Convention about the affiliated educational institutions.

B. Council on Christian Social Services

1. Composition

a. The Council shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board appointed by the President of the Board. Also, the Council shall consist of the following five (5) associate members: President of the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (“Children’s Homes”); President of North Carolina Baptist Hospital (“Hospital”); Director of the School of Pastoral Care (“School”); and the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees of each institution.

b. The President of the Council on Christian Social Services shall be elected from one (1) of the Board members and shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Board.

c. No associate member of the Council shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the Children’s Home, Hospital and School.

2. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities

The Council will work to provide a well-integrated program for the Children’s Homes, Hospital and School without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The Council:

- a. Shall consider problems common to all of the social service institutions, and keep the needs of these institutions before the Board and North Carolina Baptists; and

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b. Shall cooperate with all ministries of the Convention in order to create a better understanding of all the problems involved in the ministries of these social service institutions.

C. Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs

1. Composition
- a. The Council shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board appointed by the President of the Board. Also, the Council shall consist of eight (8) at-large members serving four (4) year terms who are to be nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the Convention.
- b. The President of the Council shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board and shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Board.
- c. No member of the Council who occupies a salaried position with this Convention, its institutions, its agencies, or its auxiliaries shall have a vote on appropriations or allocations of funds of the Convention.
2. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities
- The Council will work to provide an effective program to help North Carolina Baptists become more aware of the ethical implications of the Christian gospel with regard to all aspects of daily living, including family life, human life, moral issues, economic life, citizenship, and public affairs. The Council:
- a. Shall seek to develop a comprehensive program addressing Christian social ethics in the life of the Convention, its institutions and its agencies which may include leading seminars, developing literature, distributing information, conducting studies and research, and other means appropriate to accomplish this purpose.
- b. Shall work with all ministries of the Convention, its institutions, and its agencies and with Southern Baptist organizations and other non-Baptist organizations to promote the Christian social ethics in the life of North Carolina Baptists.
- c. Shall designate three of its members for nomination as trustees of the Christian Action League and shall cooperate with the Christian Action League in its efforts to combat addictive substances and other social evils.
- d. Shall work, in cooperation with the Convention staff person assigned to the Council, to promote the Convention’s position on Christian social ethics with the applicable legislative and executive branches, including the General Assembly of North Carolina, for the benefit of North Carolina Baptists.
- e. Shall recommend to the Executive Leader for Administration and Convention Relations the budget for the work of the Council.

D. Council Meetings

The Councils shall meet at least three (3) times a year in conjunction with the meetings of the Board. The President or any five (5) members of a council may call a special meeting of such council.

(2) Article III.F. (insertion, no deletion)
New Reading:

10. Christian Higher Education Special Committee
- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following ex-officio members: the President, dean, the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees, and the dean of the divinity school (if any) of each of the affiliated educational institutions. Each affiliated educational institution shall have one vote on matters brought before the committee (except as limited below) with the vote being exercised by the President (or designee) of each affiliated educational institution.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board.
- c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the affiliated educational institutions.
- d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Higher Education Special Committee shall work to provide an effective program for the affiliated educational institutions without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The committee:
- (i) Shall devise ways and means for the proper correlation of the work and programs in the affiliated educational institutions;

(ii) Shall formulate and promote plans for increasing interest in higher education at Christian institutions in general and the affiliated educational institutions in particular; and

(iii) Shall report to the Board about the affiliated educational institutions.

11. Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee
- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than eighteen (18) members, ten (10) of whom shall be members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of eight (8) at-large members serving four (4) year terms who are to be elected by the Board.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the members of the Board.
- c. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee shall work to provide an effective program to help North Carolina Baptists become more aware of the ethical implications of the Christian gospel with regard to all aspects of daily living, including family life, human life, moral issues, economic life, citizenship, and public affairs. The committee:
- (i) Shall seek to develop a comprehensive program addressing Christian social ethics in the life of the Convention, its institutions and its agencies which may include leading seminars, developing literature, distributing information, conducting studies and research, and other means appropriate to accomplish this purpose;

(ii) Shall work with all ministries of the Convention, its institutions, and its agencies and with Southern Baptist organizations and other non-Baptist organizations to promote the Christian social ethics in the life of North Carolina Baptists;

(iii) Shall designate three of its members for nomination as trustees of the Christian Action League and shall cooperate with the Christian Action League in its efforts to combat addictive substances and other social evils;

(iv) Shall work, in cooperation with the Convention staff person assigned to the Committee, to promote the Convention’s position on Christian social ethics with the applicable legislative and executive branches, including the General Assembly of North Carolina, for the benefit of North Carolina Baptists; and

(v) Shall recommend to the Executive Leader for Administration and Convention Relations the budget for the work of the committee.

12. Christian Social Services Special Committee
- a. Composition. The committee shall consist of not more than ten (10) members of the Board. Also, the committee shall consist of the following five (5) ex-officio members: President of the Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (“Children’s Homes”); President of North Carolina Baptist Hospital (“Hospital”); Director of the School of Pastoral Care (“School”); and the President or Chairperson of the board of trustees of each institution.
- b. Chair. The Chairperson shall be elected from one (1) of the Board members.
- c. Voting. No ex-officio member of the committee shall have a vote on appropriations or allocation of funds that may be made to the Children’s Home, Hospital and School.
- d. Purpose, Duties and Responsibilities. The Christian Social Services Special Committee shall work to provide a well-integrated program for the Children’s Homes, Hospital and School without in any way hindering the trustee operation of any one of them. The committee:
- (i) Shall consider problems common to all of the social service institutions, and keep the needs of these institutions before the Board and North Carolina Baptists;

(ii) Shall cooperate with all ministries of the Convention in order to create a better understanding of all the problems involved in the ministries of these social service institutions; and

(iii) Shall report to the Board about the Children’s Homes, Hospital and School.

(3) Article III.A.1.a.
Current Reading:

For the purpose of achieving equitable geographical distribution, one (1) at-large member shall be elected from each region; one (1) additional at-large member shall be elected from each region for every ten thousand (10,000) resident members or additional fraction thereof, based on the most recent tabulation of annual church profiles as recorded by the Convention.

New Reading:

For the purpose of achieving equitable geographical distribution, one (1) at-large member shall be elected from each region; one (1) additional at-large member shall be elected from each region for every ten thousand (10,000) members or additional fraction thereof, based on the most recent tabulation of annual church profiles as recorded by the Convention.



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(4) Article III.A.1.b.

Current Reading:

In the event an at-large member fails to attend at least one (1) meeting of the Board of Directors in a calendar year, without giving due notice of the absence, the membership shall immediately terminate.

New Reading:

In the event an at-large member fails to attend at least one (1) meeting of the Board in a calendar year, without giving due notice of the absence, the membership shall immediately terminate.

(5) Article III.A.3.b. (deletion, no substituted language)

Current Reading:

- b. Recording Secretary of the Convention;

(6) Article III.B.1.

Current Reading:

All at-large members of the Board shall be active resident members of cooperating churches as defined in Article VI.A.3. of the Articles.

New Reading:

All at-large members of the Board shall be active members of cooperating churches as defined in Article VI.A.3. of the Articles.

(7) Article III.C.6.

Current Reading:

6. Receive and consider at its January meeting, from a nominating committee consisting of the Convention President and First and Second Vice-Presidents, a list of proposed nominees to serve on the Committee on Enrollment and the Committee on Committees of the Convention.

New Reading:

6. Receive and consider at its January meeting, from a nominating committee consisting of the Convention President and First and Second Vice-Presidents, a list of proposed nominees to serve on the Committee on Nominations.

(8) Article III.D.3.c.

Current Reading:

c. The Board Secretary shall keep as permanent records (1) minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, (2) a record of all actions taken by the directors without a meeting, and (3) a record of all actions taken by board committees and special committees of the Board of Directors. The Board Secretary shall perform any duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President or the Board of Directors.

New Reading:

c. The Board Secretary shall keep as permanent records (1) minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, (2) a record of all actions taken by the directors without a meeting, and (3) a record of all actions taken by board committees and special committees of the Board. In addition, the Board Secretary shall prepare the minutes of the meetings of the Convention and shall serve as Convention Secretary for executing such documents as directed by officers of the Convention or Board. The Board Secretary shall also perform any duties as may be assigned from time to time by the President of the Board.

(9) Article III.F.1.

Current Reading:

- 1. Selection of Committee Members

The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be responsible for assigning all newly elected Board members to one of the Board committees, the special committees or councils of the Convention. The assignment process and notification of assignments will be finished at least two (2) weeks prior to the January meeting of the Board. Also, the President and Vice-President will review and take into consideration any recommendations furnished by the Executive Leader associated with the work of a specific committee.

New Reading:

1. Selection of Committee Members. The President and Vice-President of the Board shall be responsible for assigning all newly elected Board members to one of the Board committees or the special committees. The assignment process and notification of assignments will be finished at least two (2) weeks prior to the January meeting of the Board. Also, the President and Vice-President will review

and take into consideration any recommendations furnished by the Executive Leader associated with the work of a specific committee.

(10) Article III.F.2.

Current Reading:

2. Committee Meetings. The Business Services Special Committee, Church Planting and Missions Development Committee, Communications Committee, Congregational Services Committee, and Evangelization Committee shall meet for organizational purposes at the January meeting of the Board, at which time they shall elect a Chairperson. All committees will meet at other times as specified or as called by the committee Chairperson, the Executive Director-Treasurer or the Executive Leader, except that the Executive Committee shall meet at least once per quarter or at such other times as may be called by the Executive Director-Treasurer or the President of the Board, or both. The person or persons calling a committee meeting (other than the January meeting for organizational purposes) shall, at least seven (7) days before the meeting, give notice thereof, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called, by any usual means of communication of which is capable of being confirmed by the Board Secretary.

New Reading:

2. Committee Meetings. The Business Services Special Committee, Christian Higher Education Special Committee, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee, Christian Social Services Special Committee, Church Planting and Missions Development Committee, Communications Committee, Congregational Services Committee, and Evangelization Committee shall meet for organizational purposes at the January meeting of the Board, at which time they shall elect a Chairperson. All committees will meet at other times as specified or as called by the committee Chairperson, the Executive Director-Treasurer or the Executive Leader, except that the Executive Committee shall meet at least once per quarter or at such other times as may be called by the Executive Director-Treasurer or the President of the Board, or both. The person or persons calling a committee meeting (other than the January meeting for organizational purposes) shall, at least seven (7) days before the meeting, give notice thereof, specifying the purpose for which the meeting is called, by any usual means of communication of which is capable of being confirmed by the Board Secretary.

(11) Article III.F.6.a.

Current Reading:

- a. Composition

The membership of the Committee is comprised of four (4) persons of the Board, elected at large plus the following individuals serving on an ex-officio basis:

- i. President of the Board
- ii. Vice-President of the Board
- iii. Chairperson, Articles and Bylaws Special Committee
- iv. Chairperson, Budget Special Committee
- v. Chairperson, Business Services Special Committee
- vi. Chairperson, Church Planting and Missions Development Committee
- vii. Chairperson, Communications Committee
- viii. Chairperson, Congregational Services Committee
- ix. Chairperson, Evangelization Committee
- x. President of the Convention
- xi. First Vice-President of the Convention
- xii. Second Vice-President of the Convention
- xiii. President, Council on Christian Higher Education
- xiv. President, Council on Christian Social Services
- xv. President, Council on Christian Life and Public Affairs
- xvi. President, Baptist Associational Missions Conference and
- xvii. President, North Carolina Baptist Men.

The Committee as constituted the previous year shall remain intact until the January meeting of the Board with the exception of the newly elected Convention officers. The Committee shall be reconstituted during the January Board meeting.

New Reading:

a. Composition. The membership of the Executive Committee is comprised of four (4) persons of the Board, elected at-large plus the following individuals serving on an ex-officio basis:

- (i) President of the Board;

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- (ii) Vice-President of the Board;
- (iii) Chairperson, Articles and Bylaws Special Committee;
- (iv) Chairperson, Budget Special Committee;
- (v) Chairperson, Business Services Special Committee;
- (vi) Chairperson, Christian Higher Education Special Committee;
- (vii) Chairperson, Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee;
- (viii) Chairperson, Christian Social Services Special Committee;
- (ix) Chairperson, Church Planting and Missions Development Committee;
- (x) Chairperson, Communications Committee;
- (xi) Chairperson, Congregational Services Committee;
- (xii) Chairperson, Evangelization Committee;
- (xiii) President of the Convention;
- (xiv) First Vice-President of the Convention;
- (xv) Second Vice-President of the Convention;
- (xvi) President, Baptist Associational Missions Conference; and
- (xvii) President, North Carolina Baptist Men.

The committee as constituted the previous year shall remain intact until the January meeting of the Board with the exception of the newly elected Convention officers. The committee shall be reconstituted during the January Board meeting.

(12) Article III.F.11.a.
Current Reading:

The Team Leaders of the Creative Team and the Information Technology/Information Services Team shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Communication Committee.

New Reading:

The Team Leaders of the Creative Team and the Information Technology/Information Services Team shall serve as ex-officio non-voting members of the Communications Committee.

Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc. – Bylaws

Motion 7

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the current Article V.A. in the Bylaws be deleted in its entirety with the following language substituted in its place; and (2) the following section be added to the current Article V as a new section I. entitled “Historical Social Services Institution.”

(1) Article V.A.
Current Reading:

A. This Article V of the Bylaws shall apply to the following unless otherwise stated: (1) Baptist Children’s Home of North Carolina, Inc.; Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc.; Biblical Recorder, Inc.; and The North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Inc. (collectively referred to as “institution or agency” or the plural thereof, and the governing board members shall be referred to as “trustees” or “directors”); (2) the North Carolina Baptist Hospital (the “Hospital”); (3) Campbell University, Chowan University, Gardner-Webb University, Mars Hill College and Wingate University (collectively referred to as “affiliated educational institution” or the plural thereof); (4) Wake Forest University and Meredith University (collectively referred to as “historical educational institution” or the plural thereof); (5)The North Carolina Baptist Men (referred to as “the auxiliary”); (6) The North Carolina Baptist Associational Missions Conference; and (7) The Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (a historical co-laborer with the Convention).

New Reading:

A. Other Entities
This Article III of the Bylaws shall apply to the following unless otherwise stated: (1) Baptist Children’s Home of North Carolina, Inc.; Biblical Recorder, Inc.; and The North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Inc. (collectively referred to as “institution” or “agency” or the plural thereof, and the governing board members shall be referred to as “trustees” or “directors”); (2) the North Carolina Baptist Hospital (the “Hospital”); (3) Campbell University, Chowan University, Gardner-Webb University, Mars Hill College and Wingate University (collectively referred to as “affiliated educational institution” or the plural thereof); (4) Wake Forest University and Meredith University (collectively referred to as “historical educational institution” or the plural thereof); (5)The North Carolina Baptist Men (referred to as “the

auxiliary”); (6) The North Carolina Baptist Associational Missions Conference; (7) The Woman’s Missionary Union of North Carolina (a historical co-laborer with the Convention); and (8) Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (referred to as the “historical social services institution”).

(2) I. Historical Social Services Institution (insertion, no deletion)
New Reading:

I. Historical Social Services Institution

The Convention recognizes its historical relationship with the Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc. (“Homes”) from 1951 to 2006 as part of the Convention’s ministry to senior adults. As a historical social services institution, Homes is autonomous in its governance and its board of trustees shall be elected by its board of trustees in accordance with such procedures as set forth in its governing documents.

Miscellaneous Sections – Bylaws

Motion 8

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the current Articles VI, VII, VIII and X in the Bylaws be deleted in their entirety; (2) Articles III and V in the Bylaws be renumbered as Articles II and III, respectively; and (3) the following language be added to be numbered as new Article IV in the Bylaws.

Current Reading: Articles VI., VII., VIII. and X.

VI. Concerning Debts

A. Borrowings by Convention

All borrowings by this Convention for its own use shall only be authorized on the following terms and conditions:

1. The Executive Committee of the Board may authorize the Convention to borrow money in anticipation of current revenue, provided that (a) the entire balance of such borrowing shall be repaid by the end of the current fiscal year; and (b) such borrowing does not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.
2. The Board may authorize the Convention to borrow money in anticipation of current revenue, provided that (a) any unpaid balance of such borrowing at the end of the current fiscal year shall be provided for in and made a part of the budget for the subsequent fiscal year; and (b) such borrowing does not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.
3. The Convention shall approve by a majority vote at its annual meeting or a special meeting any borrowing by the Convention not specifically authorized under Paragraphs 1 and 2 above or that requires the Convention to encumber any of its property.

B. Convention’s Guaranty of Borrowing by an Institution or Agency

1. The Executive Committee may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of an institution or agency described in Article V.B. of the Bylaws, provided that (a) such borrowing shall be repaid in full by the end of the current fiscal year of the Convention; (b) the total amount of such borrowing guaranteed by the Convention shall be less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000); and (c) such guaranty shall not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.
2. The Board may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of an agency or institution described in Article V.B. of the Bylaws, provided that (a) such borrowing shall be repaid in full at the end of the subsequent fiscal year of the Convention, any unpaid balance of such borrowing at the end of the current fiscal year of the Convention shall be provided for in and made a part of the budget of such institution or agency for the Convention’s subsequent fiscal year; (b) the total amount of such borrowing guaranteed by the Convention shall be less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000); and (c) such guaranty shall not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.
3. The Convention shall approve by a majority vote at its annual meeting or a special meeting any guaranty by the Convention of any borrowing by any of the institutions or agencies described in Article V.B. not specifically authorized under Paragraphs 1 or 2 above or that require the Convention to encumber any of its property.

C. Convention Approval of Borrowings or Guaranties

1. Any motion which proposes the borrowing of money, the guaranty of borrowing by an institution or agency, or the encumbrance of Convention property which requires Convention approval shall set forth all pertinent facts and a definite schedule for repayment of the borrowing or other obligations. Such motions shall be sent to the Executive Committee and the Board for recommendation to this Convention not less than forty-five (45) days in advance of the meeting of the

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Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion. These recommendations shall be included in the Board’s report and shall be subject to the rules concerning the adoption of that report.

2. Notice of any motion involving proposed borrowing of money, guaranty of borrowing by an institution or agency, or the encumbrance of Convention property requiring Convention approval shall appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in three (3) separate issues in advance of the meeting of this Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion.

D. Borrowings by Institutions and Agencies of the Convention

Upon approval of its trustees in accordance with its articles and by-laws, any institution and agency described in Article V.B. of the Bylaws shall have the authority to borrow money without approval of the Convention, Board or Executive Committee; provided that the Convention will not directly or indirectly be involved in or liable for such borrowing.

VII. Fiscal Year

This Convention’s fiscal year shall close on the Friday after the last Sunday of the year.

VIII. Adoption or Termination of Activities; Establishment or Termination or Severance of Institutions, Agencies or Councils

A. Adoption or Termination of Activities

Proposals concerning a new work or activity not already being carried on by this Convention or termination of any current work or activity shall be presented to the trustees, directors, or members of the appropriate agency, council, or committee for action or recommendation as may be necessary. If the new work shall not be undertaken for lack of funds, lack of authority, or for any other reason, or if the current activity shall not be terminated as requested, the proponent may present the same to this Convention at its regular meeting as set forth hereinafter in Paragraph C.

B. Establishment or Termination or Severance of an Institution, Agency or Council

Proposals concerning the establishment of a new Institution, Agency, or Council, or the termination or severance of any institution, agency or council shall be presented to this Convention in annual session. If this Convention, by majority vote, agrees that the proposal should be further considered, the procedures of Paragraph C below shall be favored.

C. Proposal Referred to Board

Upon presentation of a proposal of Paragraph A above, or upon the vote of this Convention to further consider a proposal under Paragraph B above, this Convention’s President shall refer the proposal to the Board for a detailed study. No final action on any such proposal shall be taken at the Convention at which such proposal is first made.

X. Amendments To Bylaws

These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session of the annual convention after the Monday night session, provided that the amendment to the Bylaws shall appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in two (2) separate issues in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken. In the event the required notice has not been given, these bylaws may be changed or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session of the annual convention after the Monday night session.

New Reading: Article IV.

IV. Miscellaneous

A. Concerning Debts: Borrowings by Convention

All borrowings by this Convention for its own use shall only be authorized on the following terms and conditions:

1. The Executive Committee of the Board may authorize the Convention to borrow money in anticipation of current revenue, provided that (a) the entire balance of such borrowing shall be repaid by the end of the current fiscal year; and (b) such borrowing does not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.

2. The Board may authorize the Convention to borrow money in anticipation of current revenue, provided that (a) any unpaid balance of such borrowing at the end of the current fiscal year shall be provided for in and made a part of the budget for the subsequent fiscal year; and (b) such borrowing does not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.

3. The Convention shall approve by a majority vote at its annual meeting or a special meeting any borrowing by the Convention not specifically authorized under Paragraphs 1 and 2 above or that requires the Convention to encumber any of its property.

B. Convention’s Guaranty of Borrowing by an Institution or Agency

1. The Executive Committee may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of an institution or agency described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws, provided that (a) such borrowing shall be repaid in full by the end of the current fiscal year of the Convention; (b) the total amount of such borrowing guaranteed by the Convention shall be less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000); and (c) such guaranty shall not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.

2. The Board may authorize the Convention to guaranty the borrowing of an agency or institution described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws, provided that (a) such borrowing shall be repaid in full at the end of the subsequent fiscal year of the Convention, any unpaid balance of such borrowing at the end of the current fiscal year of the Convention shall be provided for in and made a part of the budget of such institution or agency for the Convention’s subsequent fiscal year; (b) the total amount of such borrowing guaranteed by the Convention shall be less than Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000); and (c) such guaranty shall not require this Convention to encumber any of its property.

3. The Convention shall approve by a majority vote at its annual meeting or a special meeting any guaranty by the Convention of any borrowing by any of the institutions or agencies described in Article III.B. not specifically authorized under Paragraphs 1 or 2 above or that require the Convention to encumber any of its property.

C. Convention Approval of Borrowings or Guaranties

1. Any motion which proposes the borrowing of money, the guaranty of borrowing by an institution or agency, or the encumbrance of Convention property which requires Convention approval shall set forth all pertinent facts and a definite schedule for repayment of the borrowing or other obligations. Such motions shall be sent to the Executive Committee and the Board for recommendation to this Convention not less than forty-five (45) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion. These recommendations shall be included in the Board’s report and shall be subject to the rules concerning the adoption of that report.

2. Notice of any motion involving proposed borrowing of money, guaranty of borrowing by an institution or agency, or the encumbrance of Convention property requiring Convention approval shall appear in the *Biblical Recorder* in two (2) separate issues in advance of the meeting of this Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion and on the Convention’s website at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention during which it is proposed that action be taken on such motion.

D. Borrowings by Institutions and Agencies of the Convention

Upon approval of its trustees in accordance with its articles and by-laws, any institution or agency described in Article III.B. of the Bylaws shall have the authority to borrow money without approval of the Convention, Board or Executive Committee; provided that the Convention will not directly or indirectly be involved in or liable for such borrowing.

E. Fiscal Year

The Convention’s fiscal year shall end on December 31 of the year; provided further that the Board may adopt a policy that deems that gifts to be received by the Friday after the last Sunday in December are included in that fiscal year.

F. Adoption or Termination of Activities or Work of the Convention

1. Proposals concerning the adoption of a new work or activity not already being carried on by the Convention or termination of any current work or activity (hereinafter “Ministry Change”) shall be presented to the Board. The Board may authorize the Ministry Change without obtaining the prior consent of the Convention.

2. In the event that a messenger at an annual meeting desires the Convention to consider the adoption of a Ministry Change, then the Convention, by a majority vote of the messengers in an annual meeting, may approve further consideration of the Ministry Change. Upon such vote, the Convention’s President shall refer the proposal to the Board for a detailed study.

3. Upon receiving the Convention’s recommendation to consider a Ministry Change, the Board shall conduct a detailed study and may authorize the Ministry Change without the prior consent of the Convention. In the event that the Board

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does not authorize the Ministry Change pursuant to the proposal, then the Board shall report the results of its detailed study to the Convention at its next annual meeting. At such meeting, the Convention can direct such Ministry Change in a resolution adopted by a majority vote.

- G. Establishment, Termination or Severance of an Institution or Agency
1. Any proposal concerning the establishment of a new institution or agency or of a relationship with any institution or agency or the termination of or severance of the relationship with any institution or agency (hereinafter “Relationship Proposal”) shall be subject to a minimum six (6) month detailed study by the Board.
2. Any Relationship Proposal shall be presented either: (1) to the messengers of the Convention in annual meeting, or (2) to the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Convention by a majority vote at annual meeting agrees that the Relationship Proposal should be considered in more detail, then the Convention’s President shall refer the Relationship Proposal to the Board for a detailed study. If the Relationship Proposal is presented to the Board, then the members of the Board by a majority vote may undertake further study of the Relationship Proposal. In each instance, the Board shall conduct a detailed study of the Relationship Proposal for a minimum of six (6) months.
3. The Board shall make a recommendation to the Convention concerning the Relationship Proposal for the establishment of a new institution or agency or of a relationship with any institution or agency or the termination of or severance of the relationship of any institution or agency. Upon receiving the recommendation from the Board, the Convention by majority vote in an annual meeting shall act on the Relationship Proposal and the Board’s recommendation.

H. Amendments To Bylaws

These Bylaws may be changed or amended by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting at any session during the annual meeting (other than the first session or the last session) or during a special meeting of the Convention, provided that notice of the amendment to the Bylaws shall appear (a) in the *Biblical Recorder* in at least one (1) issue with a publication date of more than ten (10) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken; and (b) on the Convention’s website beginning at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken and to remain on such website through the conclusion of the meeting of the Convention in which the proposed action is to be taken. In the event the required notice has not been given, these bylaws may be changed or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the registered messengers present and voting at such session of the annual meeting.

Meeting/Session References — Bylaws

Motion 9

The Board of Directors moves that (1) the word “session” or “sessions” be deleted and replaced with the word “meeting” or “meetings”, respectively, in the following sections of the Bylaws: (a) the current Article III.B.2.; (b) the current Article III.B.3.; (c) the current Article III.B.4.; (d) the introductory paragraph of the current Article III.C; (e) the current Article III.C.3.; (f) the current Article III.G.2.b.(ii); (g) the current Article III.G.2.b.(iii); (h) the current Article III.G.4; (i) the current Article V.B.1.b.; and (j) the current Article V.B.5.c.(iv); and (2) the phrase “regular annual session” be deleted and replaced with the phrase “annual meeting” in the following sections of the Bylaws: (a) the current Article V.B.3.a.; (b) the current Article V.B.5.a.; and (c) the current Article V.C.4.

(1(a)) Article III.B.2.
Current Reading:

... In accordance with Article II.E.4. of these Bylaws, the Committee on Nominations shall present to the annual session a slate of nominees for election, and after opportunity for further nominations from the floor is given, the at-large members of the Board shall be elected by a majority vote of the messengers of the Convention in annual session.

New Reading:

... In accordance with Article II.E.4. of these Bylaws, the Committee on Nominations shall present to the annual meeting a slate of nominees for election, and after opportunity for further nominations from the floor is given, the at-large members of the Board shall be elected by a majority vote of the messengers of the Convention in annual meeting.

(1(b)) Article III.B.3.
Current Reading:

... Each at-large member of the Board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years with, as nearly as may be possible, one-fourth (1/4) of the membership being

elected at each annual session; provided, however, that any such at-large 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...

New Reading:

... Each at-large member of the Board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years with, as nearly as may be possible, one-fourth (1/4) of the membership being elected at each annual meeting; provided, however, that any such at-large 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...

(1(c)) Article III.B.4.
Current Reading:

4. Vacancies: Any vacancy for an at-large member of the Board occurring between annual sessions of the Convention may be filled by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Committee on Nominations. Those elected shall serve through the remainder of the calendar year. The Convention shall at its next annual session fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

New Reading:

4. Vacancies. Any vacancy for an at-large member of the Board occurring between annual meetings of the Convention may be filled by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Committee on Nominations. Those elected shall serve through the remainder of the calendar year. The Convention shall at its next annual meeting fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

(1(d)) Introductory Paragraph of Article III.C.
Current Reading:

Except as specifically limited by the Articles and these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall have the power to act for the Convention in the interim between sessions, and shall have general supervision of all ministries and programs supported by the Convention. Any action taken by the Board during the interim shall be binding on this Convention and be reported fully to this Convention at its next session. The Board shall:

New Reading:

Except as specifically limited by the Articles and these Bylaws, the Board of Directors shall have the power to act for the Convention in the interim between meetings, and shall have general supervision of all ministries and programs supported by the Convention. Any action taken by the Board during the interim shall be binding on this Convention and be reported fully to this Convention at its next meeting. The Board shall:

(1(e)) Article III.C.3.
Current Reading:

3. Make a report of its activities during the year to the Convention during it annual session;

New Reading:

3. Make a report of its activities during the year to the Convention during it annual meeting;

(1(f)) Article III.G.2.b.(ii)
Current Reading:

ii. The Fruitland Directors shall report annually to the September meeting of the Board, and a synopsis of the report shall be given to the annual session of the Convention.

New Reading:

(ii) The Fruitland Directors shall report annually to the September meeting of the Board, and a synopsis of the report shall be given to the annual meeting of the Convention.

(1(g)) Article III.G.2.B.(iii)
Current Reading:

iii. The Fruitland Directors shall be responsible for submitting a budget to the Budget Special Committee of the Board to be included with the budget of the Board for approval by the Convention in annual session.

New Reading:

(iii) The Fruitland Directors shall be responsible for submitting a budget to the Budget Special Committee of the Board to be included with the budget of the

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Board for approval by the Convention in annual meeting.

(1(h)) Article III.G.4.
Current Reading:

4. Change of Status. Any change of status regarding the purpose of Fruitland shall be approved by the Convention in annual session, upon recommendation of the Board.

New Reading:

4. Change of Status. Any change of status regarding the purpose of Fruitland shall be approved by the Convention in annual meeting, upon recommendation of the Board.

(1(i)) Article V.B.1.b.
Current Reading:

b. Submit an annual written report on work done and undertaken to this Convention at its annual session;

New Reading:

b. Submit an annual written report on work done and undertaken to this Convention at its annual meeting;

(1(j)) Article V.B.5.c. (iv)
Current Reading:

iv. The Executive Committee will report its action in full to the Board subject to the approval of this Convention in its next annual session.

New Reading:

iv. The Executive Committee will report its action in full to the Board subject to the approval of this Convention in its next annual meeting.

(2(a)) Article V.B.3.a.
Current Reading:

... Such trustees or directors shall be elected by the Convention for four (4) year terms with one-fourth (1/4) of the board of trustees or directors being elected at each regular annual session of the Convention, after receiving nominations from the Convention’s Committee on Nominations...

New Reading:

... Such trustees or directors shall be elected by the Convention for four (4) year terms with one-fourth (1/4) of the board of trustees or directors being elected at each annual meeting of the Convention, after receiving nominations from the Convention’s Committee on Nominations...

(2(b)) Article V.B.5.a.
Current Reading:

... Any vacancy on a board may be filled by recommendation of the Committee on Nominations, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective institution or agency, to the Executive Committee until the next regular annual session of the Convention, and the Convention shall at its next regular annual session fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

New Reading:

... Any vacancy on a board may be filled by recommendation of the Committee on Nominations, after prior consultation with and approval from the respective institution or agency, to the Executive Committee until the next annual meeting of the Convention, and the Convention shall at its next annual meeting fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

(2(c)) Article V.C.4.
Current Reading:

... Any vacancy on the Hospital board resulting from the departure of a Hospital trustee elected by the Convention, may be filled by a recommendation of the Committee on Nominations to the Executive Committee until the next regular annual session of the Convention, and the Convention shall at its next regular annual session fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

New Reading:

... Any vacancy on the Hospital board resulting from the departure of a Hospital trustee elected by the Convention, may be filled by a recommendation of the Committee on Nominations to the Executive Committee until the next annual meeting

of the Convention, and the Convention shall at its next annual meeting fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

Cross References - Bylaws

Motion 10

The Board of Directors moves that the cross-references set forth below in the current provisions of the Bylaws be amended to change the reference in the new provisions of the Bylaws to the new cross-references as set forth below.

Current Provision	Current Cross-Reference	New Provision	New Cross-Reference
Article III.B.2.	Article II.E.4.	Article II.B.2.	Article I.C.5.a.
Article III. D.3.a.	Article III.F.	Article II.D.3.a.	Article II.F.
Article III. D.3.b.	Article III.F.	Article II.D.3.b.	Article II.F.
Article III.F.3.	Article III.F.5.	Article II.F.3.	Article II.F.5.
Article V.B.1.d.	Article VI	Article III.B.1.d.	Article IV
Article V.B.3.a.	Article II.E.4.	Article III.B.3.a.	Article I.C.5.a.
Article V.C.1.	Article V.C.	Article III.C.1.	Article III.C.

Convention Officers – Transition

Motion 11

WHEREAS, in this annual meeting, the Convention has adopted amendments to its Bylaws affecting all officers of the Convention (“Amendments”); and

WHEREAS, there are individuals serving in various offices whose responsibilities and duties under the existing Bylaws (“Old Bylaws”) will be changed by the Amendments; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the Convention to set the effective dates for the Amendments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Convention during this annual session adopt the following effective dates for the Amendments affecting the officers of the Convention:

1. Recording Secretary; Assistant Recording Secretary. The Amendments affecting the offices of Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary shall become effective on April 30, 2010. The terms of the current Recording Secretary and current Assistant Recording Secretary expire on April 30, 2010. The Recording Secretary and Assistant Recording Secretary shall perform their duties related to the 2009 annual meeting of the Convention as set forth in the Old Bylaws; the Board Secretary shall assume the duties under the Bylaws, as amended, related to the minutes of the meetings of the Convention effective May 1, 2010.

2. Other Officers. The Amendments related to the Convention’s President, Vice Presidents, Executive Director-Treasurer and Parliamentarians shall become effective upon the adjournment of the Convention’s 2009 annual meeting.

Convention Committees – Transition

Motion 12

WHEREAS, in this annual meeting, the Convention has adopted amendments to its Bylaws affecting the Convention Committees (“Amendments”); and

WHEREAS, there are individuals serving as members of Convention Committees whose responsibilities, duties and terms under the existing Bylaws (“Old Bylaws”) will be changed by the Amendments; and

WHEREAS, to provide for an orderly transition from the Old Bylaws regarding the Convention Committees as they have been affected by the Amendments, it is in the best interests of the Convention to adopt the following transition plan for the Convention Committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Convention during this annual meeting adopt the following transition plan for moving from the Convention Committee structure under the Old Bylaws to the Convention Committee structure under the Bylaws as amended at this annual meeting (“New Bylaws”):

1. Committee on Committees. The terms of the members of the Committee on Committees, which would have expired upon the adjournment of the January, 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors under the Old Bylaws, shall now expire upon the adjournment of the Convention’s 2009 annual meeting.

2. Committees on Nominations.
(a) The members of the Committee on Nominations (including those elected at the Convention’s 2009 annual meeting) under the Old Bylaws shall become members of the Committee on Nominations under the New Bylaws. The 10 members of the Committee on Nominations with terms expiring in 2010 and 2011 under the Old Bylaws shall have their terms expire upon the adjournment of the January, 2011 meeting of the Board of Directors. The members of the Committee on Nominations with terms expiring in 2012 and 2013 under the Old Bylaws shall have their terms expire upon the adjournment of the January, 2012 meeting of the Board of Directors.



Proposed Amendments

BSCNC Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

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(b) The President and Vice Presidents of the Convention shall nominate and the Board of Directors shall elect the Chairperson and 6 members to the Committee on Nominations as provided in the New Bylaws each year beginning in January, 2010.

(c) During the service year beginning January, 2010, the Committee on Nominations shall have up to 26 members (20 from the Committee on Nominations under the Old Bylaws and 6 nominated by the Convention President and Vice Presidents and elected by the Board of Directors in January, 2010 under the New Bylaws). During the service year beginning January, 2011, the Committee on Nominations shall have up to 22 members (10 from the Committee on Nominations under the Old Bylaws and 12 nominated by the Convention President and Vice Presidents and elected by the Board of Directors in 2010 and 2011 under the New Bylaws). Commencing with the service year beginning January, 2012, the Committee on Nominations shall have 18 members - all of whom shall be nominated and elected under the New Bylaws.

3. Committee on Enrollment. The terms of the members of the Committee on Enrollment which would have expired upon the adjournment of the January, 2010 meeting of the Board of Directors under the Old Bylaws, shall now expire upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2009 annual meeting.

4. Committee on Convention Meetings (New Bylaws); Committee on Local Arrangements (Old Bylaws); Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher (Old Bylaws).

(a) Upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2009 annual meeting, the Committee on Convention Meetings shall be composed of the 9 members of the Committee on Local Arrangements whose terms expire upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2010 annual meeting under the Old Bylaws and the 12 members of the Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher (including those elected at the Convention's 2009 annual meeting) under the Old Bylaws. The terms of the initial members of the Committee on Convention Meetings shall expire at the same time as they would have as members of either the Committee on Local Arrangements or the Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher under the Old Bylaws.

(b) During 2010, the Committee on Convention Meetings shall have up to 21 members (9 members of the Committee on Local Arrangements and 12 members of the Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher under the Old Bylaws). During 2010, the chair of the Committee on Local Arrangements under the Old Bylaws and the chair of the Committee on Convention Program, Place and Preacher under the Old Bylaws shall serve as co-chairs of the Committee on Convention Meetings.

(c) The Committee on Nominations during 2010 shall nominate and the Convention during its 2010 annual meeting shall elect 10 members to the Committee on Convention Meetings with 2 members serving only one-year terms to expire upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2011 annual meeting, 2 members serving two-year terms to expire upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2012 annual meeting, and 6 members serving full three-year terms to expire upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2013 annual meeting.

(d) The Committee on Nominations during 2011 shall nominate and the Convention during its 2011 annual meeting shall elect 6 members to the Committee on Convention Meetings serving full three-year terms to expire upon the adjournment of the end of the Convention's 2014 annual meeting.

5. Committee on Resolutions and Memorials.

(a) Upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2009 annual meeting, the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials shall be composed of the 9 members of the Committee on Resolutions whose terms do not expire at the conclusion of the 2009 annual meeting of the Convention under the Old Bylaws and the 6 members of the Committee on Memorials (including those elected at the Convention's 2009 annual meeting) under the Old Bylaws. The terms of the initial members of the Committee

on Resolutions and Memorials shall expire at the same time as they would have as members of either the Committee on Resolutions or the Committee on Memorials under the Old Bylaws.

(b) During 2010, the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials shall have up to 15 members (9 members of the Committee on Resolutions and 6 members of the Committee on Memorials under the Old Bylaws). During 2010, the chair of the Committee on Resolutions under the Old Bylaws and the chair of the Committee on Memorials under the Old Bylaws shall serve as co-chairs of the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials.

(c) The Committee on Nominations during 2010 shall nominate and the Convention during its 2010 annual meeting shall elect 3 members to the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials serving full three-year terms to expire at the end of the Convention's 2013 annual meeting. During 2011, the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials shall have up to 13 members (6 members of the Committee on Resolutions and 4 members of the Committee on Memorials under the Old Bylaws and 3 members elected under the New Bylaws).

(d) The Committee on Nominations during 2011 shall nominate and the Convention during its 2011 annual meeting shall elect 3 members to the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials serving full three-year terms to expire at the end of the Convention's 2014 annual meeting. During 2012, the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials shall have up to 11 members (3 members of the Committee on Resolutions and 2 members of the Committee on Memorials under the Old Bylaws and 6 members elected under the New Bylaws).

(e) The Committee on Nominations during 2012 shall nominate and the Convention during its 2012 annual meeting shall elect 3 members to the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials serving full three-year terms to expire at the end of the Convention's 2015 annual meeting.

6. Historical Committee. The Historical Committee shall be composed of the same 12 members as elected by the Convention under the Old Bylaws. The terms of members of the Historical Committee elected for terms expiring upon the adjournment of the Convention's annual meetings in 2010, 2011 and 2012 shall expire at the same time as they would have under the Old Bylaws. For the 3 members of the Historical Committee elected to four-year terms expiring in 2013 under the Old Bylaws, the Committee on Nominations shall designate one member to serve only a one-year term expiring upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2010 annual meeting, one member to serve a two-year term expiring upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2011 annual meeting, and the last member to serve a full three-year term expiring upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2012 annual meeting.

7. Committee on Trustee Orientation. The terms of the members of the Committee on Trustee Orientation shall expire effective upon the adjournment of the Convention's 2009 annual meeting.

8. Vacancy. To the extent that any individual is serving on a Convention Committee under the New Bylaws as a result of being elected to serve on a Convention Committee under the Old Bylaws, the Committee on Nominations shall not fill any vacancy for an unexpired term resulting from his/her inability to complete his/her term as provided under this transition plan; provided that the Committee on Nominations shall fill any such vacancy necessary to maintain the Convention Committee's size as stated in the New Bylaws.

9. Dual Position. To the extent that any individual who is serving on a Convention Committee under the New Bylaws as a result of being elected to serve on a Convention Committee under the Old Bylaws is ineligible to continue to serve as a member of a Convention Committee and as a member of any board of the Convention, its institutions or agencies or an affiliated educational institution as a result of the Amendments, then such individual for transition purposes shall be able to complete his/her unexpired terms of service under both such Convention Committee and such board of the Convention, its institutions or agencies or an affiliated education institution.