

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT**

The board of directors (board) has the responsibility of acting on behalf of the convention when the convention is not in session. Matters that affect the direction and enhance the mission causes and ministry endeavors of North Carolina Baptists are the responsibility of the board. The board typically meets three times annually and is comprised of North Carolina Baptists representing cooperating churches from 10 regions across the state.

The executive committee of the board has the responsibility of acting on behalf of the board and the convention between sessions. The executive committee is responsible for the administrative, personnel and certain business actions of the convention, and the committee reports its actions and recommendations to the board and the convention. The executive committee met six times since September 2024. Members include the president and vice president of the board (who serve as the chairperson and vice chairperson of the executive committee), the officers of the convention, the chairpersons of the committees and special committees of the board, four at-large members of the board, the president of Baptists on Mission, the president of the North Carolina Baptist Associational Missions Conference, and the chairpersons of the Budget Special Committee and the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee.

This report includes actions taken by the board and executive committee during and since the conclusion of the September 2024 board meeting.

At the September 2024 meeting, the board of directors elected the following officers for 2025:

- President: Robert Hefner
- Vice President: Spence Shelton
- Board Secretary: Angela Kilby

The board of directors elected the following at-large members to serve on the 2025 executive committee:

- Jonathan Barbee
- Betsy Bolick
- Janet Demeny
- Twinkle Poindexter

The board of directors approved the following committee structure in 2025 to assist the board and staff in fulfilling the state convention's purpose to be a movement of churches on mission together:

- Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee
- Communications Committee
- Convention Relations Special Committee
- Ministry Strategies Committee
- Mission Catalysts Committee
- Operations Special Committee
- Articles & Bylaws Special Committee
- Budget Special Committee

The board committees and special committees elected the following chairpersons for 2025:

- Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee: Justin Deeter
- Communications Committee: Brooke Medina
- Convention Relations Special Committee: Aaron Swain
- Ministry Strategies Committee: Jerry Lewis
- Mission Catalyst Committee: Will Toburen
- Operations Special Committee: Jared Richard

The board president/vice president made the following committee appointments:

**Articles and Bylaws Special Committee:**

- Board member: Zeb Cook (2028 term), Apex Baptist, Apex
- Non-board member: Michael Barrett (2028 term), Pleasant Garden Baptist, Pleasant Garden
- Jacob Reed was appointed chairperson

**Budget Special Committee:**

- Board member: Jerry Lewis (2028 term), Grace Community, Marion
- Non-board member: Ryan Madison (2028 term), Cary First, Cary
- Justin Alexander was appointed chairperson

**Operations Special Committee non-board members:**

- Dave Magan (2028 term), Hickory Grove, Charlotte
- Woody Walls (2028 term), Beach Road, Southport

**Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee non-board member:**

- Benjamin Quinn (2028 term), Holly Grove, Spring Hope

**Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee:**

Three members of the executive committee:

- Justin Alexander, chair
- Jerry Lewis
- Aaron Swain

**Convention Committee Nominations**

The following convention committee members were nominated by convention officers James Allen Murray, president; Steven Wade, first vice president; and Matt Capps, second vice president, and approved by the board of directors:

**Committee on Nominations**

Terms ending in 2027:

- Mike Bailey, Southport, Southport
- Andrew Clark, Arron Lake, Fayetteville
- Chris Hefner, Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro
- Josh Wester, Cornerstone, Greensboro
- Chandler Donegan, Faith, Youngsville, was nominated chair

## **Committee on Convention Meetings**

Term ending in 2025:

- Chris Griggs, Welcome First, Lexington

Term ending in 2026:

- Dusty Black, Marshall First, Marshall

Terms ending in 2027:

- Josh Baker, Pea Ridge, Mill Spring
- Jason Ballard, Kings Mountain First, Kings Mountain
- Art Sauer, Riley's Creek, Rocky Point
- Larry Stephens, Piney Grove, Williamston
- James Weddington, Eastern Hills, Charlotte
- Ron Skinner, River of Life, Sunset Beach, was nominated chair

The board of directors approved a recommendation from the 2025 Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee to fill the 2029 terms on the Fruitland board representing the:

- Convention board of directors member: Nathan Brooks, Glorieta, Concord
- Alumni: Brandon McMinn, East Flat Rock First, East Flat Rock
- At-large member: Jim Sineath, Fruitland, Hendersonville

At the September 2025 meeting, the board of directors elected the following officers for 2026:

- President: Robert Hefner
- Vice President: Spence Shelton
- Board Secretary: Angela Kilby

Additional actions of the board of directors and executive committee were as follows:

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Authorized John Butler, director of Operations, to execute all necessary documents to allow N.C. Baptist Men to sell a small amount of property of a recent acquisition of a school property located in Spruce Pine to the adjacent property owner
- Accepted and approved the 2024 audit report of the financial statement of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and authorized the transfer of 20% of the net profit of the 2024 operations of the convention to the Contingency Reserve of the convention, per the bylaws, which is overseen by the executive committee of the board. Approved that the remaining 80% of the operating net profit be transferred to the Life Initiatives reserve of the convention for use in placing ultrasound units in mobile pregnancy care units of our convention partners
- Approved recommending to the messengers at the November annual meeting the removal of bylaw II.F.10.d.iii. from the convention bylaws as it relates to the Christian Action League which no longer exists

- Approved the *Biblical Recorder* board’s request for a study committee to look into a permanent relationship between the *Biblical Recorder* and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina that retains the identity and editorial freedom of the *Biblical Recorder*
- Authorized John Butler, director of Operations, to execute necessary documents to complete the sale of Tar Heel Lodge at 166 Reservoir Road, Black Mountain, NC to The Ridgecrest Foundation, Inc. for the amount of \$750,000. Approved that the net proceeds of the sale be placed in the Truett Conference Center and Camp Capital Projects Reserve to facilitate the construction of a new worship/multi-purpose facility on its property
- Adopted the 2026 proposed Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$30 million as presented in the budget summary to board members and will present the budget for consideration to the convention at the 2025 annual meeting
- Adopted the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) goal of \$2.8 million and allocations as provided to board members
- Adopted the recommendation that any Cooperative Program funds received in excess of the approved 2026 Cooperative Program budget be allocated 50% to Life Initiatives projects and 50% to Mission Engagement initiatives
- Approved the “Policy on EDT Search Process” as recommended by the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Authorized the director of the Operations Group to approve 2025 housing allowance requests for ordained staff members employed by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
- Approved a 1% year-end bonus for convention staff
- Approved merit bonuses for select staff based on stated criteria
- Affirmed the “Policy for Executive Director-Treasurer Search Committee” as proposed by the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee.
- Approved changes to the convention’s personnel Policy No. 137 as proposed by Human Resources
- Approved the recommendation to move Bradley Norris into the position of Director of Operations for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina
- Approved Michael Smith to fill the 2026 unexpired term of Iain MacSween on the Fruitland Baptist Bible College board of directors
- Approved Ronjour Locke to fill the 2028 unexpired term of Caleb Gibson on the N.C. Baptist board of directors
- Affirmed a \$30 million 2026 Cooperative Program budget, as presented in the Budget Summary and Detailed Budget document provided to the executive committee
- Affirmed a 2026 North Carolina Missions Offering goal of \$2.8 million and recommended this goal to the board as presented with the percentage allocations remaining unchanged
- Approved recommending to the board, at the September meeting, that any Cooperative Program receipts above the approved 2026 Cooperative Program budget be allocated 50% to Life Initiative projects and 50% to Mission Engagement initiatives
- Approved acceptance of the assets of New Hope Baptist Chapel in Williamston upon its dissolution

- Approved the hiring of Aaron Wallace to fill the role of Director of the Mission Catalysts group of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and granted an exception to the co-working clause of the convention employee handbook

Respectfully submitted,

*Robert Hefner, Board of Directors President*  
*Angela Kilby, Board of Directors Secretary*