

#OnMissionTogether

On  
Mission  
Together

2021 BOOK OF REPORTS



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Mission  
Together*

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*Executive Director-Treasurer*  
**TODD UNZICKER**



N.C. Baptists,

I'm looking forward to gathering with you for our annual meeting in Greensboro. Our theme this year is "On Mission Together," which reflects our desire to unite around the Great Commission.

On the night before Jesus gave His life for us, He prayed in John 17 that His disciples would be one. Jesus' prayer wasn't just for His disciples in that day, but it was also for all believers for all time.

John 17:23 serves as the supporting verse for the theme of this year's meeting. In that verse Jesus prays, "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me" (ESV).

In this passage, Jesus prays that we would be brought into complete unity so that the world may know and believe in Christ. That's what it means to be on mission together.

Sadly, "together" isn't a word that I would use to describe our society these days. And as a convention of independent, autonomous churches, we have our differences as well. Those differences could refer to things such as urban or rural, coastal or mountain, or large or small.

While we acknowledge our differences, we are reminded that our mission unites us and brings us together. Every church has a role to play in the kingdom of God. In God's economy, there are no small churches — only one, big Great Commission.

We do not seek after uniformity. Instead, we are after unity in the Great Commission. I look forward to celebrating what it means for us as a state convention to be a movement of churches on mission together.

We've got an exciting schedule planned for this year's annual meeting that includes times of dynamic worship, inspiration, preaching, ministry reports, breakout sessions and more. My friend H.B. Charles Jr., pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, will deliver

this year's convention sermon. I'm looking forward to hearing the message he has for us from God's holy, inerrant and infallible Word.

We've also allotted some time in our schedule on Monday evening for a meet-and-greet so that you can interact with me and your state convention staff. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible, and listening and learning how we can be on mission together.

Your state convention staff want to be the first and primary ministry partner for your church or your association. I believe that our best days as a convention are ahead of us as we work together to be a movement of churches on mission together.

On Mission Together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Unzicker". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

**Todd Unzicker**  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
Baptist State Convention of North Carolina

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MATT CAPPS**

*President, Board of Directors*

The board of directors 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. In 2021, the board convened one additional time for a special called meeting in April for the purpose of nominating Todd Unzicker to the convention for consideration as executive director-treasurer.

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 10 times since September 2020. 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 North Carolina Baptist Men/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 since the conclusion of the September 2020 board meeting.

**The board of directors elected the following officers for 2021:**

- President: *Matt Capps*
- Vice President: *Casey Norkett*
- Board Secretary: *Angela Kilby*

**The board of directors elected the following at-large members to serve on the executive committee for 2021:**

- *Noah Crowe*
- *Pat Kilby*
- *Rick Speas*
- *Terry Stockman*

**The board of directors' committees and special committees elected the following chairpersons for 2021:**

- Business Services Special Committee: *Timmy Blair*
- Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee: *Steven Wade*
- Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee: *Travis Suits*
- Communications Committee: *James Harrington*
- Convention Relations Special Committee: *Keith Stephenson*
- Evangelism and Discipleship Committee: *Charlie Martin*

The board president made the following committee appointments:

**Articles and Bylaws Special Committee**

- Non-board member: *Rick Langston (2022 term), Summit Church, Durham*
- Board member: *Allen Murray (2024 term), Centerville Baptist Church, Kelly*
- Non-board member: *Aaron Swain (2024 term), Freedom Church, Lincolnton*
- *Allen Murray was appointed as chairperson.*

**Budget Special Committee**

- Non-board member: *Griffin Gullede (2024 term), Faith Baptist, Youngsville*
- *Zeb Cook was appointed as chairperson.*

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

- *Shirley Sells (2024 term), Crosspointe Baptist Church, Concord*

**Fruitland Baptist Bible College Nominating Committee:**

Three members of the executive committee:

- *Jason Miller, chairperson*
- *Quintell Hill*
- *Micheal Pardue*

**Business Services Special Committee non-board members:**

- *Jeff Long (2024 term), Parkwood Baptist, Gastonia*
- *David Orcutt (2024 term), Central Baptist, Wendell*
- *Keith Richardson (2022 term), Providence Baptist, Raleigh*
- *Joyce Rogers (2022 term), Asheboro First Baptist Church, Asheboro*

**Committee on Nominations**

Nine new members of the Committee on Nominations were nominated by convention president Micheal Pardue, first vice president Quintell Hill and second vice president Jason Miller. During the February 2021 meeting, the board elected the following individuals to serve:

Term ending 2021:

- *Karin Blanchard, Sandy Ridge, Hickory, Region 8, unexpired term of Robin Fisher*

Term ending 2022:

- *Donald Hollifield, Coopers Gap, Mill Spring, Region 8, unexpired term of Brian Chilton*
- *Stan Hyon, Fayetteville Korean, Fayetteville, Region 3, unexpired term of Richard Sheriff*

Term ending 2023:

- *Kris Estep, Barberville, Waynesville, Region 9*
- *Dave Heller, Hallsboro, Hallsboro, Region 3*
- *Nick King, Campfield Memorial, Ellenboro, Region 8*
- *Brent Snyder, Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Region 7*
- *Dennis Thurman, Pole Creek, Candler, Region 9*
- *Jesse Watkins, Friendship Southern Baptist, Concord, Region 6*
- *Dustin Mace, Buffalo, Shelby, was elected as chairperson of this committee.*

Based on changes to the convention's bylaws that were approved by the messengers at the November 2017 annual meeting, board officers and board committee chairpersons for 2022 were elected at the September 2021 board of directors' meeting. Four at-large members of the executive committee will be elected in January 2022.

The board of directors elected the following officers for 2022:

- *President: Casey Norkett*
- *Vice President: Zeb Cook*
- *Board Secretary: Angela Kilby*

The board of directors' committees and special committees elected the following chairpersons for 2022:

- **Business Services Special Committee:**  
*Timmy Blair*
- **Christian Life and Public Affairs Special Committee:** *Steven Wade*
- **Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Committee:** *Travis Suits*
- **Communications Committee:** *James Harrington*
- **Convention Relations Special Committee:** *Chris Baucom*
- **Evangelism and Discipleship Committee:**  
*James Weddington*

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

- **Convention board of directors:** *Pat Kilby, First Baptist, Cary*
- **Alumni:** *Alberto Berrio, Ebenezer Baptist, Hendersonville*
- **At-large:** *Al Hood Jr., First Baptist, Murphy*

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

### Articles and Bylaws Special Committee

In September 2021, the Articles and Bylaws Special Committee presented to the board of directors six proposed changes to the bylaws of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina for consideration, all dealing with the issue of giving proper notice to our churches regarding various items. The board approved the proposed bylaw changes for the messengers to consider at the 2021 annual meeting. The six proposed changes can be found in the special edition of the Biblical Recorder, made available to the messengers in their messenger packet.

### Budget Special Committee

The board of directors:

- Adopted the 2022 proposed Cooperative Program (CP) budget of \$28 million as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and approved by the executive committee and will present the budget for consideration to the convention at the 2021 annual meeting.

- Adopted a challenge budget allocation of 50% to our Great Commission Ministry Partners (SBC) and 50% to convention ministry groups in the event that giving from churches exceeds the proposed Cooperative Program budget. The challenge budget will be presented to the convention for consideration at the 2021 annual meeting.
- Adopted the North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) goal which remains unchanged from 2021 as recommended by the Budget Special Committee and approved by the executive committee with the full support of the primary sponsor and beneficiary of the NCMO, Baptists on Mission, and will present the following 2022 allocations for consideration to the convention at its 2021 annual meeting:

|                                              |                    |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| N.C. Baptists on Mission                     | \$856,720          |
| Church Planting                              | \$596,000          |
| Mission Work Camps                           | \$313,080          |
| Mobilization Ministry Projects (Baptist Men) | \$124,200          |
| Associational Projects                       | \$210,000          |
| <b>TOTAL NCMO GOAL</b>                       | <b>\$2,100,000</b> |

The executive committee of the board of directors:

- Approved the 2022 Cooperative Program budget of \$28 million as presented by the Budget Special Committee.
- Adopted a challenge budget that any Cooperative Program receipts for 2022 in excess of the approved Cooperative Program budget be allocated as follows: 50% to the global ministry partners and 50% to convention ministry groups.
- Approved that the 2022 North Carolina Missions Offering goal and allocations remain unchanged from the 2021 offering goal.

### Business Matters

The board of directors:

- Approved a change in dates for the next three annual meetings of the convention as follows: for 2021, the dates were changed from Nov. 15-16, 2021 to Nov. 8-9, 2021; for 2022, the dates were changed from Nov. 14-15, 2022 to Nov. 7-8, 2022; and for 2023, the dates were changed from Nov. 13-14, 2023 to Nov. 6-7, 2023.
- Authorized the executive leader for Business Services to execute contracts with the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C., to host the referenced annual meetings.
- Approved a recommendation from the Business Services Special Committee for the construction

of up to 16 one-bedroom cabins adjacent to Caraway's main conference center as funds are available for the project.

- Approved the EDT Search Committee's recommendation that Todd Unzicker be the next executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and approved placing Todd Unzicker in nomination to be the next executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina before the messengers at a special called meeting of the convention.
- Approved the EDT Search Committee's recommendation to call a special meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina on Saturday, May 22, 2021, beginning at 1 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem for the purpose of electing an executive director-treasurer and authorized the convention staff to work with the convention's officers and convention's Committee on Convention Meetings in arranging and holding such special meeting.
- Authorized the sale of the Caraway Camp and Conference Center director's home at 5138 Caraway Mountain Road, Sophia, N.C., to Jimmy Huffman for \$230,000 with a permanent deed restriction giving the convention the right of first refusal to purchase the property if the Huffman family should choose to sell the property in the future and with the proceeds being placed in a Business Services reserve to be used for the construction of a permanent director's residence on the main campus at a future date. Authorized John Butler, executive leader for Business Services, to execute all necessary documents for the completion of the referenced sale.
- Authorized the sale at market value of the Garren House located at 3013 Fruitland Road, Hendersonville, N.C., with the proceeds being placed in a Fruitland reserve for future capital projects on campus. Authorized David Horton, president of Fruitland Baptist Bible College, to execute all necessary documents for the completion of the referenced sale.
- At the request of the N.C. Baptist Hospital and the Convention Relations Special Committee, approved that the board president appoint the current members of the Institutional Relationship Study Committee to comprise a study committee to satisfy the bylaw requirement for making a change in the relationship with the hospital and that the committee report back to the board at its May 2022 meeting.

The executive committee of the board of directors:

- Approved making a recommendation to the board of directors that the dates for the next three annual meetings be changed to: Nov. 8-9, 2021; Nov. 7-8, 2022; and Nov. 6-7, 2023.
- Approved a succession plan for announcing an EDT candidate.
- Approved updates to the "BSCNC Infectious Disease Preparedness and Response Policy".
- Approved the Committee on Nominations' recommendation that the following nominees fill current vacancies for the remainder of 2021 and be presented with the full slate of nominees for election by messengers at the November annual meeting to serve the remainder of the vacant term: Danny Justice, the BSCNC board of directors unfilled 2024 term, region 3; Andrew Ivester, the BSCNC board of directors 2022 unexpired term of Matthew Hirt, region 4; Lon Chenowith, the BSCNC board of directors unexpired 2022 term of Shanon Brower, region 8; Josh Evans, the BSCNC board of directors unexpired 2022 term of Jason Miller who resigned when elected as convention second vice president, region 9; and Jonas Perez, the Biblical Recorder board of directors unexpired 2024 term of Matthew Jacobs.
- Approved the "On Mission Together" structure as presented by Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Unzicker.

### **Financial Matters**

The board of directors:

- Accepted and affirmed the 2020 annual audit as presented by the external auditor.
- Authorized the transfer of 20% of the operating net income from 2020 to the contingency reserve (which totals \$21,352).

The executive committee of the board of directors:

- Approved merit bonus gifts for a limited number of convention staff. These bonuses were given at the executive director-treasurer's discretion in consultation with the executive leaders for exemplary performance in 2020. Funding for these bonuses came from interest income.
- Approved the transfer of \$250,000 from the church loan corpus reserve to the North Carolina Baptist Scholarship Fund at the North Carolina Baptist Foundation for 2021.

### **Personnel Matters**

The board of directors:

- Approved the executive committee's recommendation that Brian Upshaw serve

as the interim executive director-treasurer following Milton A. Hollifield Jr.'s retirement until a permanent executive director-treasurer was in place and that recently retired Lynn Sasser return to serve in an interim role as part of the executive leadership team.

The executive committee of the board of directors:

- Authorized the executive leader of Business Services to approve 2021 housing allowance requests for ordained staff employed by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.
- Heard Executive Director-Treasurer Milton A. Hollifield Jr.'s announcement that Brian Upshaw would fill the role of interim executive leader for the Evangelism and Discipleship group beginning Jan. 1, 2021.
- Recommended to the board of directors that Brian Upshaw serve as the interim executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.
- Authorized the board president to work with Human Resources and Business Services to finalize the job description and appropriate compensation level for the interim executive director-treasurer, within the current salary range in place for convention staff, subject to the board of directors' approval of Brian Upshaw to serve as the interim executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.
- Approved the recommendation that Brian Upshaw fill the position of executive leader of Administration and Convention Relations.
- Approved the "On Mission Together" directors as presented by Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Unzicker. They were: Chuck Register, director of the Mission Catalysts group; Brian Upshaw, director of the Ministry Strategies group as well as associate executive director-treasurer; Seth Brown, director of the Convention Relations group; John Butler, director of Operations; and Kathryn Carson, director of the Marketing and Communications group.
- Approved Bradley Norris as the Human Resources officer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Matt Capps, President*  
*Angela Kilby, Secretary*



## BUDGET

|                                          |                             |  |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRIES (SBC)</b> | <b>\$12,600,000 (45.0%)</b> |  |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|

|                                   | 2021        | 2022        |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| International Mission Board       | \$5,716,494 | \$6,351,660 |
| North American Mission Board      | \$2,584,386 | \$2,871,540 |
| SBC Seminaries                    | \$2,512,944 | \$2,792,160 |
| Other Ministries & Administration | \$ 526,176  | \$ 584,640  |

|                      |                              |  |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>NC MINISTRIES</b> | <b>\$11,050,000 (39.46%)</b> |  |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--|

|                                  | 2021                | 2022        |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Convention and Board Operations  | \$2,550,000         | \$2,750,000 |
| Convention Ministry Groups       |                     |             |
| Convention Relations Group       | <i>restructured</i> | \$696,450   |
| Marketing & Communications Group | <i>restructured</i> | \$ 841,504  |
| Operations Group                 | <i>restructured</i> | \$1,867,393 |
| Mission Catalysts Group          | <i>restructured</i> | \$2,139,360 |
| Ministry Strategies Group        | <i>restructured</i> | \$2,755,293 |

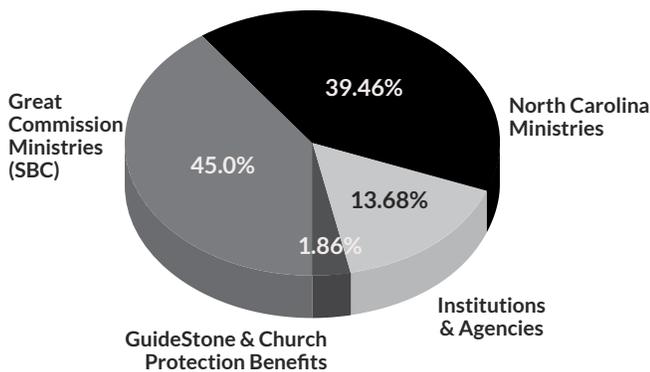
|              |                    |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$8,760,000</b> | <b>\$8,300,000</b> |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|

**INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES** **\$3,830,000 (13.68%)**

|                                            | 2021               | 2022               |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Christian Social Services</b>           |                    |                    |
| Baptist Children’s Homes of NC             | \$1,500,000        | \$1,600,000        |
| Baptist Children’s Homes, DDM Program      | \$300,000          | \$300,000          |
| NC Baptist Aging Ministries                | \$680,000          | \$700,000          |
| NC Baptist Hospital (FaithHealth Division) | \$240,000          | \$150,000          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>\$2,720,000</b> | <b>\$2,750,000</b> |
| <b>Agencies</b>                            |                    |                    |
| The Biblical Recorder                      | \$310,000          | \$300,000          |
| North Carolina Baptist Foundation          | \$70,000           | \$70,000           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>\$380,000</b>   | <b>\$370,000</b>   |
| Fruitland Baptist Bible College            | \$670,000          | \$710,000          |

**GUIDESTONE & CHURCH PROTECTION BENEFITS** **\$520,000 (1.86%)**

|                                                                   | 2021      | 2022      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Retirement and Protection Benefits<br>For NC Baptist Church Staff | \$555,000 | \$495,000 |
| Ministers’ Emergency Reserve                                      | \$25,000  | \$25,000  |



**TOTAL** **\$28,000,000**

# ADMINISTRATION & CONVENTION RELATIONS



**BRIAN UPSHAW**  
*Executive Leader*

Administration and Convention Relations fulfills a variety of responsibilities on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) in service of the convention's churches.

The Executive Director-Treasurer's (EDT) Office provides leadership and direction to the entire convention staff. It is the responsibility of the EDT to assist the BSCNC board of directors and convention committees in their work. The EDT also works closely with the officers of the board and officers of the convention as they seek to fulfill their tasks.

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., retired as executive director-treasurer on Feb. 28, 2021. Following Hollifield's retirement, Brian Upshaw was named interim EDT by the board of directors. Upshaw served as the interim executive director-treasurer from March 1, 2021, until Todd Unzicker was elected as EDT on May 22, 2021, during a special called convention meeting.

The Administration and Convention Relations Group also serves as a liaison with all institutions and agencies of the state convention. Specifically, the related entities of the convention are the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, the North Carolina Baptist Hospital, the North Carolina Baptist Foundation and the *Biblical Recorder*. In addition, this office continues to foster the convention's relationship with the five historically affiliated educational institutions.

The Administration and Convention Relations Group consists of three teams and/or offices, N.C. Baptists on Mission staff and Fruitland Baptist Bible College staff. These staff members and their assignments are identified within their respective reports.

## **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

The Communications Team supports and serves the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) and its ministry groups and teams by developing strategies, content, resources and other materials to support the state convention's efforts to assist N.C. Baptist churches in their divinely appointed mission. The team supports and promotes the work of the convention and its ministries through print, electronic, online, digital, video, email and social media channels. Following is a brief summary of some selected highlights of the Communications Team's work from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

### **Significant Accomplishments & Activities**

**EDT Search Updates:** The Communications Team launched a special webpage to keep N.C. Baptists informed about the search for the next executive director-treasurer (EDT) after Milton Hollifield announced his plans to retire from the position. The page included a timeline and details about the search process, bios on the search committee members, and a special email address to contact the committee and make recommendations. The Communications Team also partnered with the *Biblical Recorder* to provide regular updates from the search team, in addition to their calls for feedback and prayer.

**Convention Meetings:** The Communication Team worked with ministry groups and teams of the convention to provide planning, promotional and logistical support of various BSCNC sponsored events. Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19, many events were switched to online or hybrid events. Notably, the 2020 annual meeting moved from its customary two-day event at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, N.C., to a one-day meeting held Nov. 10, 2020, at First Baptist Church of Charlotte. In addition, the Communications Team also worked with the Committee on Convention Meetings and state convention leaders and officers to plan a special called convention meeting on May 22, 2021, at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem to elect a new executive director-treasurer. During the meeting, Todd Unzicker was elected as the new EDT following Milton Hollifield's retirement.

**Resource Development:** The Communications Team worked with convention staff to develop a number of resources designed to assist churches in navigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of those resources was the "Reimagine" project, which encouraged churches to "reimagine" how to carry out the mission of God in light of current realities. The resource is available at [www.reimaginenc.org](http://www.reimaginenc.org).

### **Future Goals & Initiatives**

The Communications Team is continually exploring best practices and new approaches to communicating with N.C. Baptists effectively. Preliminary planning is also underway for redesign of the state convention's website at [www.ncbaptist.org](http://www.ncbaptist.org) in the near future.

*Kathryn Carson, Team Leader*  
*Joey Prince, Team Leader Assistant*

## **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

The promotion of the Cooperative Program is assigned to

the Communications Team within the Administration and Convention Relations group of the BSCNC. The promotion of the Cooperative Program includes videos, articles and social media. The Cooperative Program office also helps existing unaffiliated churches to join the convention.

### **Significant Accomplishments & Activities**

From July 2020 to July 2021, even though consultations were limited because of COVID-19, consultations were conducted with two churches that wish to join the Baptist state convention as member churches. We are excited and thankful to see increased Cooperative Program participation and giving so far in 2021. The "52 Sundays" resource was created to prayerfully inform your congregation about how the Cooperative Program is fueling missions and ministry around the world, featuring a wider breadth of efforts that are supported through the Cooperative Program. The 2021 resource is offered in English and Spanish, and it may be accessed at [ncbaptist.org/52sundays](http://ncbaptist.org/52sundays).

### **Future Goals & Initiatives**

The Cooperative Program is the most strategic way N.C. Baptists can join together to fuel the Great Commission. We challenge Baptists across North Carolina to join in the effort to support the \$27 million budget approved by messengers to fuel and advance missions and ministry in North Carolina and around the world.

We hope to encourage Baptists across North Carolina to give generously to missions through the Cooperative Program in a way that demonstrates our desire to be a movement of churches on mission together. We hope to bring on many more churches into our family and educate our existing churches in the Cooperative Program to further our mission to reach more people with the gospel.

*Will Taylor, Cooperative Program Development*

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/ INFORMATION SERVICES**

The Information Technology/Information Services (ITIS) team works as part of the support network for our staff and convention work. We provide essential technological support to a vast number of functions. Most of our work is unseen since it happens behind the scenes of what other staff are doing publicly. We as a team want to see technology used for the glory of God. We have three major areas of activities; equipment, services and support.

### **Significant Accomplishments & Activities**

The ITIS team provides convention staff members with the necessary equipment to facilitate their effectiveness

in ministry. We offer services such as networking, email, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system, security cameras, building access, and Wi-Fi connectivity among many others. We are facilitating support to our staff's needs through software, hardware, training and assisting when they have problems.

During the pandemic, the ITIS team provided every staff member with a desk phone and laptop to allow them to continue working from home. Our webmaster, Lai Salmonson, was able to continue his website trainings via Zoom. System Administrator Russell Schwab, who also works with the Annual Church Profile (ACP), conducted remote trainings for associational clerks. Our internet connection has increased, which indicates an increasing number of our ministries are utilizing internet services. What does our data tell us? Ji Ae Park, our team leader assistant, is working with some software to learn ways of sharing what our data is saying. Ron Rasberry, our network administrator, wrote an online registration program for our convention meetings, which reduced the amount of contact for annual meeting check in.

### **Future Goals & Initiatives**

How might we use the technologies that are available to us to advance the kingdom of God? The pandemic pushed us out of our comfort zone to see some new horizons and opportunities. In a modern world full of technology, we, the church, need to use technology for God's glory.

*John D. Jones, Team Leader*

*Ji Ae Park, Team Leader Assistant*

### **OFFICE OF PRAYER**

The Office of Prayer exists to serve, resource and partner with N.C. Baptist congregations, associations, institutions and ministries in mobilizing prayer toward revival, spiritual awakening and impacting lostness through disciple-making. Never before has the church and America been in such need of revival and spiritual awakening as it is today.

### **Significant Accomplishments & Activities**

**“Pray for 30 Days” Call to Prayer:** Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Office of Prayer continued the “Pray for 30 Days” call to prayer in October 2020, marking the ninth consecutive year of the emphasis. The theme was “God's Great Hope” based on Romans 15:13 and I Peter 1:3. Churches and individuals may still access related resources by visiting [prayfor30days.org](http://prayfor30days.org) or [praync.org](http://praync.org). Since the resources are not specific to any month or year, they can be used throughout any year to pray toward revival and spiritual awakening.

**“Praying on the Mountain” Prayer Journey:** In partnership with the Truett Baptist Association, Truett Conference Center and Camp and the “Praying on the Mountain” call to prayer, the Office of Prayer facilitated a group of pastors, associational missionaries and prayer ministry leaders as they prayed in five locations for spiritual awakening from May 7-8, 2021. The “Praying on the Mountain” call to prayer was birthed in the heart of the Rev. Fred Lunsford, a 95-year-old, retired pastor, former director of missions and World War II hero. A documentary video and more information is available at [www.prayingonthemountain.org](http://www.prayingonthemountain.org).

**Pastor Prayer Initiatives and Team:** A team of pastors and associational leaders continued to meet throughout the pandemic via conference calls or Zoom on a regular basis to pray, plan and seek the Lord concerning the multiplication of networks praying for revival and spiritual awakening across North Carolina. In-person and online pastor prayer gatherings were conducted in many locations including the Metrolina, Buncombe, Cabarrus, New South River, Raleigh, Little River, Yadkin, Elkin and Union associations.

**Prayer Journey Bus Tours:** Prayer Journey bus tours are designed to open spiritual eyes and unite believers and ministry leaders in prayer toward lostness, revival and spiritual awakening. Although several tours were canceled in 2020, two were rescheduled in 2021 including the Union Association in May and the Metrolina Association in August 2021.

**Prayer Resources:** Biblical prayer resources to assist believers and churches in prayer for revival, spiritual awakening and the mission are available through the Office of Prayer at [www.praync.org](http://www.praync.org). These include: 30-day devotional prayer guides, “Prayerwalking Made Simple” booklets, training resources, and various biblical prayer booklets and bookmarks that help believers pray for lostness, revival, spiritual awakening and personal holiness.

**Conferences, Gatherings & Summits:** Due to the pandemic, many of the scheduled state, regional, associational and local church prayer gatherings and spiritual awakening emphases were postponed or canceled, including the “Fanning the Flames” and “Awaken” prayer conferences. However, numerous local church one-day and multiday spiritual awakening conferences and emphases were held in person at churches, including Mt. View Baptist, Dennyville Baptist, South Oak Ridge Baptist, Beulaville Baptist, Sandy Ridge Baptist, Harmony Baptist, West Oxford Baptist and Parkwood Baptist.

*J. Chris Schofield, Director*

*Fatima Roma, Ministry Assistant*

## FRUITLAND BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

While reflecting on the last year in the life of Fruitland Baptist Bible College (FBBC) and the COVID crisis, Dr. David Horton, president, made an insightful observation. When facing a crisis, institutions can focus upon pain and danger or focus upon the providence of God and opportunity. While COVID-19 brought pain and danger into the lives of people all over the world, the hand of God was also at work upon the campus of FBBC. God produced some truly astonishing accomplishments in the middle of a global pandemic.

In the first months of 2020 before the COVID crisis manifested itself, Horton was impressed to initiate a singular focus upon prayer. In the following months he spent many hours seeking the Lord. As a result, Horton contacted Fred Lunsford and Greg Mathis and planned a prayer event called "Praying on the Mountain" in which almost 700,000 believers participated in 2020. That is the story of Fruitland Baptist Bible College, prayer is at the heart of everything we do.

Following are significant accomplishments during the year:

- Retired the indebtedness on the Kenneth Ridings Chapel for biblical preaching.
- As a result of the COVID pandemic, all in-person instruction was moved to online classes. The tireless efforts of our faculty and staff to accomplish such a feat is to be commended.
- Provided additional technical assistance to students, faculty and administration as well as additional tutoring to the academic community to help facilitate online education.
- Our Hispanic theological education program designed for Spanish speaking students moved online. As a result our Hispanic students can now take all of the courses required for an associate degree online.
- Our Montagnard theological education program moved online. As a result, our Montagnard students can now take all of the courses required for an associate degree online.
- By moving both our Hispanic and Montagnard programs online, Fruitland Baptist Bible College has truly become a global provider of theological education.
- Hosted a week of Deep Impact summer camp to impact the lives of middle and high school students in western North Carolina.
- Hired the first director of institutional advancement.

- Due to the generosity of friends, alumni and N.C. Baptists, FBBC experienced their highest level of financial support in the history of the school.

*David Horton, President*

## BAPTISTS ON MISSION

At Baptists on Mission, our purpose is to glorify God by involving Christians in meeting human needs in Jesus' name. We do that by offering a wide variety of opportunities for volunteers to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Those opportunities include areas such as aviation missions where we fly patients to receive much-needed medical care, partnership missions, prayer ministries, medical, dental, construction, disaster relief, disaster recovery and more. Proverbs 3:27 reminds us, "Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to do it." We want to help the people in your church be on mission, to offer hope to those in need. Because serving others in Jesus' name is at the heart of who we as Christians are supposed to be. Baptists on Mission volunteers serve in 19 ministries that include the following:

### State, National & International Mission Projects

God is changing lives through mission trips sponsored by Baptists on Mission in North Carolina through mission camps, Impact N.C., disaster rebuilds and more, and to places such as Pennsylvania, Hawaii, New England, the Rocky Mountain region, the Appalachian coalfields, Alaska, Guatemala, Kenya, Armenia, Romania, Hungary, Cuba and South Africa. Many hundreds of volunteers serve in these partnerships every year.

The British missionary William Carey said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." Here are some of the things that we as N.C. Baptists have been doing to minister to people affected by COVID-19 and to glorify God.

**Ministering to Isolated People:** We worked through N.C. Department of Public Safety's Division of Emergency Management to identify people who were at high risk and had food or medicine needs. More than 600 families were connected with local churches, and these churches ministered to them regularly in Jesus' name.

**Food Boxes:** We are so thankful to have received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide Farmers to Families food boxes to families across our state. Through this grant, we distributed over 1.2 million food boxes to people in need across our state. That is approximately 30 million pounds of food given in Jesus' name through churches across our

state. That is approximately \$50 million worth of food. What a great way to glorify God. We were able to help churches and associations minister in their communities and bless others in Jesus' name. We were also able to work with city and county leaders like the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Jones County and Robeson County to provide thousands of boxes to people in need. Approximately 350 churches and community centers signed up to help distribute this food. These churches and community centers stretch across our state from Cherokee County in the west to the Atlantic Ocean in the east. Our disaster relief volunteers, our disaster relief leaders, drivers and our staff worked so hard to make this possible. God has been so good to us and has provided so many opportunities to minister in His name.

### **Disaster Relief**

God has blessed us with excellent disaster relief equipment and volunteers. North Carolina Baptists have five large disaster feeding units. The two largest units are capable of preparing and serving more than 30,000 meals per day. We now have more than 250 disaster recovery trailers (owned by local churches and associations) used for clean up and repair work after a disaster. We also have six large shower units, three laundry units, a childcare unit, several large recovery units, large generator units and lots of other disaster relief equipment that the Lord has provided.

In September 2018, Hurricanes Florence slammed our state and affected thousands of families. Since then, as N.C. Baptists, you have provided over 1 million hot meals and over 50,000 volunteer days of labor to hurting people. The rebuilding from Hurricane Florence will last at least another year. Our goal is to help 2,000 families get back in their homes and to do this in Jesus' name. God blessed us with three rebuild centers where we can house, feed, and coordinate the work of thousands of volunteers. So far, we have helped more than 1,000 families get back in their homes. People in great need are hearing and seeing the love of Christ, and many people are coming to commit or to recommit their lives to Jesus.

### **Medical/Dental Missions**

Baptists on Mission offer the use of the mobile medical/dental units to Baptist churches, associations and other service organizations within North Carolina who wish to reach out to people in need. Approximately 4,000 people are seen on the two mobile units every year. Patients served through this ministry include the impoverished, Hispanics and other ethnic groups, migrant workers, fair workers, the homeless, the elderly, and more.

### **Health Screening Ministry**

A new health screening ministry mobile unit arrived at the Cary office in February 2020. The new unit offers more space for individual cubicles, thus ensuring better patient privacy and a more reliable resource for the screening clinics. Because health disparities are prevalent in more impoverished neighborhoods, our focus is on underserved, uninsured, migrant, homeless and refugee populations throughout North Carolina. We can bring free health screenings directly to the most vulnerable patient populations and link them to follow-up resources in their own communities.

Health disparities are prevalent in more impoverished neighborhoods. By taking healthcare to the most disadvantaged populations we help improve community health navigation, connecting local community health centers with patients seen at the mobile clinics. The unit's health screening tests include: Hemoglobin A1C for diabetes screening; finger stick glucose; Cholestech LDX for total cholesterol and HDL results; body mass index calculation; depression screening; basic eye exams; and vital signs assessment. This ministry provides not only basic health screening clinics but spiritual assessments and counseling as well. Our hope is that by meeting a physical need, a spiritual door will be opened, and the love of Jesus can be shared.

### **Student Missions**

Deep Impact helps North Carolina Baptist churches develop a comprehensive, coed youth missions strategy to produce committed followers of Christ. This strategy includes pre-packaged mission weeks, free online mission studies, weekend mission retreats, hands-on mission training and much more. Almost 2,000 students are involved in Deep Impact every summer. Due to COVID-19, many Deep Impact activities were moved from the summer to the fall in 2020. However, World Missions Week was still able to be held at Fort Caswell from July 6-11, 2020, with safety protocols in place. The week gave attendees hands-on missions experience and learning opportunities.

### **DI Kids**

One of our newest efforts is Deep Impact (DI) Kids, a missions weekend or week for children and their leaders. DI Kids missions weeks, mini-weeks and weekends are pre-packaged mission experiences sponsored by Baptists on Mission. They provide elementary-age students and their leaders and parents with the opportunity to share the love of God with people in North Carolina. The children enjoy a great camp experience with a mission focus. Involving children in missions is an excellent beginning to develop disciple-making students and adults with love for missions. Due to COVID-19, DI Kids activities moved from the summer to the fall in 2020.

### **Other Ministries**

In addition to the ministries described above, other ministries of Baptists on Mission designed to equip, motivate and mobilize volunteers to be involved in missions are Agriculture Missions, Aviation Ministry, Baptist Builders, Baptist Educators, Family Foundations, College Missions, Compassion Ministry, Church Renewal, Prayer Support, Sports and Recreation, Men's Ministry, Student Missions and Children's Missions.

### **Missions Conference**

The annual missions conference sponsored by Baptists on Mission was canceled in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Typically held in April, the conference includes music, testimonies, speakers, breakout sessions, mission fair exhibits, volunteer suppers and much more. The desired end result is for participants to be spiritually renewed and inspired to become involved in missions locally and worldwide. Over 1,600 people attend this conference every year.

### **Regional Missions Rallies**

Each spring and fall, Baptists on Mission sponsors regional rallies in all 10 regions of our state. All rallies in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021 were canceled due to COVID-19. These meetings are designed to challenge North Carolina Baptists across the state to greater mission involvement and promote the North Carolina Missions Offering in September. The rallies are open for all men, women and youth interested in missions.

### **Baptists on Mission Magazine**

This publication is mailed twice each year to all church mission leaders on each level, mission volunteers, Baptists on Mission ministry groups, youth directors, ministers of education and pastors. Information is provided through this magazine to promote upcoming mission projects and events and to report on recently completed projects.

### **Mission Camps**

Every year an average of 5,000 volunteers respond to needs through the mission camps in both Red Springs and Shelby. These mission camps are a great way to get your church involved in life-changing mission projects at a very affordable price.

### **Staff**

Your Baptists on Mission staff is committed to helping North Carolina Baptist churches involve their members in missions. They are: Richard Brunson, executive director-treasurer; Lynn Tharrington, administrative assistant; Julie Dolinger, mobile dental ministry coordinator; Crystal Horton, health screening ministry coordinator; Mark

Abernathy, consultant for partnerships and men's ministry; Tom Beam, consultant for disaster relief and mobilization; Jordan Caddell, consultant for student missions mobilization; Dollie Noa, consultant for children and family missions; Paul Langston, missions mobilization consultant; K Brown, videographer and communications consultant; David and Janet Brown, Shelby Mission Camp coordinators; Larry and Teresa Osborne, Red Springs Mission Camp coordinators; Tracey Ford, financial assistant; Melanie Crawford, events assistant; Marjorie Forster, financial assistant; Chelsie Carpenter, disaster relief assistant; Dewey and Kathie Aiken, Appalachian coalfields field coordinator; Teresa Jones, Roma partnership coordinator; Bill Martin, Florence rebuild coordinator; and Rick Trexler, college missions contract worker.

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **CHRISTIAN LIFE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The Christian Life and Public Affairs (CLPA) Committee seeks to provide resources and opportunities to educate and inform North Carolina Baptists on important issues facing the state and nation. We exist to address Christian social ethics, conduct research, perform studies and provide seminars to benefit the churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC).

### **Significant Accomplishments & Activities**

Since June 2020, the CLPA has focused on three major areas. First, the committee wrapped up a yearslong study of the opioid crisis under the direction of former chairman Bob Jordan. Jordan led the committee to locate and produce resources for our churches that would bring awareness to and help for the crisis that plagues our nation. Second, with a new committee in the fall came two new foci. The committee has spent this year researching pastor/staff health among our churches. One team from the entire committee is focusing on how to assist pastors/staff members in our churches with emotional health as the pandemic has revealed and exacerbated a problem that includes isolation/loneliness, anxiety, depression and other emotional health issues. Another team on the current committee is focused on researching and providing our churches resources to address cultural issues related to religious freedom. With the Equality Act having passed the U. S. House of Representatives, the committee believes it is vital that we provide resources to prepare for and address the current and impending attacks on religious freedom and how these will impact our BSCNC churches.

### **Future Goals & Initiatives**

The team studying pastor/staff emotional health has set a few goals for this year: (1) to contact, listen to, and compile information regarding general well-being of as many pastors/staff members as possible; (2) research and provide details of available resources to assist churches and pastors/staff; and (3) explore the possibility of the BSCNC providing retreats for hurting pastors/staff. The team studying religious freedom has also set goals: (1) bring awareness of the impact on our churches of the current attacks on religious freedom; (2) compile and disseminate resources that are helpful to churches to prepare for the future related to religious freedom and cultural engagement.

Steven Wade, Chair

### **CONVENTION RELATIONS SPECIAL COMMITTEE**

Board members elected to this committee act as a liaison between the board of directors and the related entities of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. These related entities are the *Biblical Recorder*, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH), N.C. Baptist Hospital and the N.C. Baptist Foundation. Representatives from each of these entities provide a report to the committee at each scheduled board meeting. The desire of each entity is to assist the Baptist state convention in its support of the missions and ministries of all the cooperating churches across the state. The committee then reports back to the full board about the related entities. Representatives from each of these related entities are available and welcome the opportunity to speak in your church. The following information highlights some of the activities of these groups.

#### ***Biblical Recorder* (BR)**

Seth Brown, Executive Editor

The primary object of the *Biblical Recorder* is to assist churches in working together to make disciples of all nations. The primary means of accomplishing this task is through publishing reliable news and stories that inspire and build trust. Over this past year, the *BRnow.org* website proved invaluable for communicating key information during the pandemic and saw a substantial increase in traffic. A major shift at the *Biblical Recorder* was moving from the traditional newspaper to an all-new monthly magazine which started January 2021. The *Recorder* plans to continue investing in business and marketing strategies to increase subscriptions and advertising sales revenues, investing in staff development and in innovative technologies with the goal of helping N.C. Baptists stay on mission together.

#### **Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH)**

Brenda Gray, Executive Vice President of Development and Communications

Keith Henry, Chief Operating Officer

The Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina has 27 locations with three of those in Guatemala. Each year, the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of children are being met through the leadership of Michael C. Blackwell and the compassionate staff of the Baptist Children's Homes. The mission of Baptist Children's Homes is to share the hope of Jesus Christ and see lives changed by providing the highest quality Christian services to children, adults and families during a time of crisis.

One avenue for accomplishing this task is Christian Adoptive Services which has become an official ministry of the Baptist Children's Homes. Christian Adoptive Services provides placements for fostering, fostering to adopt and full adoptions. At any given time in North Carolina, there are 16,000 children removed from homes and placed in foster care. The hope is that more than 4,000 churches across the state will blanket North Carolina with Christian foster families. Also, foster care training is available for churches and individuals. The North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM), a ministry of Baptist Children's Homes, continues to encourage "Foster Care Grandparents" to help support foster care parents. Baptist Children's Homes is grateful for the impact of the Cooperative Program dollars received, the annual Thanksgiving offering, the annual food drive and funds raised through the "Ride to Clyde."

#### **N.C. Baptist Foundation**

Clay Warf, Executive Director

The year 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the North Carolina Baptist Foundation, the oldest foundation in the United States and the oldest state Baptist foundation in the Southern Baptist Convention. The foundation currently manages \$184 million and \$65 million in certificates of participation, an 11-year-old ministry of the foundation. The foundation has distributed more than \$200 million to ministry causes over the course of the foundation's 100-year history. Christian estate planning is also a major focus of the foundation. Executive Director Clay Warf notes that for most Baptists, estate planning will be their greatest act of Christian stewardship by remembering the Lord's work in their last will and testament.

Many churches use the foundation to manage and invest money for them and then use income from the investment to do ministry. The foundation performs social screening for its investments and there are no

investments connected to the alcohol, pornography, gambling or abortion industries. Churches and entities may also contact the foundation for loan inquiries through the North Carolina Baptist Financial Services Ministry. Currently, the foundation has loans totaling over \$45.5 million, all to N.C. Baptist churches. The foundation provides many financial services, but they are not just in the business of managing money. Their primary business is encouraging and promoting faithful Christian stewardship.

### **North Carolina Baptist Hospital (Wake Forest Baptist Health)**

Brian K. Davis, Director, Community and Congregation Engagement

The FaithHealth Division of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center is the anchor of spiritual care for Wake Forest Baptist Health, but the work of the division is not limited within the walls of the hospital. The FaithHealth Division leads efforts in both community and population health to address the physical, spiritual, social and emotional health of individuals and families. FaithHealth accomplishes much of these efforts through partnerships with churches, associations and denominational groups across North Carolina.

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has brought both challenges and opportunities for the work of the FaithHealth Division with congregations, associations and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. North Carolina Baptists can be proud of the leadership and services that Wake Forest Baptist Health has brought to the fight against COVID-19. Those include efforts to provide both clinical care and vaccination efforts to the most vulnerable in our state, and efforts to provide accurate and reliable information regarding the virus, its treatments and its mitigation for the benefit of individuals, families and communities.

The FaithHealth Division has five departments engaged in ministry inside the hospital and across the state. They are: chaplaincy; CareNet (counseling); the Center for Congregational Health; Community Engagement/FaithHealthNC; and FaithHealth Community Nursing.

FaithHealth Community Nursing is the newest addition to the FaithHealth Division and is the direct result of the strategic combination between Wake Forest Baptist Health and Atrium Healthcare. Previously, Faith Community Nursing was a department within Atrium Healthcare, but it has moved to the FaithHealth Division as the department better aligns with the mission of the FaithHealth Division than its previous location within Atrium Healthcare. This is just one example of

how the expansion of FaithHealth across the four state geographic region of Atrium Health (the name of the new combined enterprise) will benefit the physical, spiritual, social and emotional health of communities, families and individuals.

The Convention Relations Special Committee is provided reports on the work of each of these departments throughout the year. For more information on the specific ministry of each of the departments within the FaithHealth Division, please review the annual report from Wake Forest Baptist Health in this annual report.

The Community and Congregation Engagement office manages the promotion and disbursement of various patient financial assistance funds, which include the Mother's Day Offering and the Baptist Minister's Subsidy. Thank you for your support of the annual Mother's Day Offering as these funds help patients that do not qualify for other forms of assistance from "falling through the cracks" and suffering enormous financial hardship. The Mother's Day Offering prevents patients from experiencing financial ruin and is a wonderful expression of the love and provision of Christ Jesus to patients who are unable to pay their medical bills. For more information on the Mother's Day Offering, visit [www.mothersdayoffering.org](http://www.mothersdayoffering.org).

*Keith Stephenson, Chair*

## **RELATED ENTITIES (INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES)**

### **BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA**

#### **A Word from the President**

Only God in the midst of a global pandemic could expand and elevate the many ministries of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH). I am in awe of how the Lord has led us through the last year and a half and opened doors to meet the ever-changing needs of children and families in new ways. We have celebrated as North Carolina Baptists have come alongside us to help serve 195,000 lives in 2020! Through the willing hearts of Christian couples, we currently have 110 foster families throughout North Carolina to complement our long-standing cottage homes for children. The missing piece to our rapidly growing foster care ministry fell into place mid-2020 when we acquired Christian Adoption Services allowing us to add adoption to BCH's continuum of services. Through the prayers and support of North Carolina Baptists, we are now located in 30 communities throughout North Carolina, South

Carolina and Guatemala. Our mission field has expanded! Our ability to provide healing and hope has increased! Through God's providence and the unwavering support of North Carolina Baptists, there are even greater things in store as we carry out the mission of "sharing hope... changing lives." The heartbeat of Baptist Children's Homes is Jesus Christ, and North Carolina Baptists are ensuring His rhythm of hope permeates the hearts and lives of every child and every person we are privileged to serve. Friends, this is only the beginning — we cannot wait for what comes next!

— Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO

### **BCH perseveres despite pandemic**

In March 2020, Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) entered an unprecedented time navigating life during the pandemic. Immediately, BCH President/CEO Michael C. Blackwell stepped to the front to assure friends, residents and staff members that just as BCH has in other times overcome great challenges, BCH would persevere and come through this time stronger than ever.

Fortunately, many safety protocols to protect the BCH family at statewide locations had long been in place. Because of the ministry's readiness and the quick response in implementing even more precautions, BCH effectively remained safe. As soon as public schools were closed, BCH's staff members embraced "Stay Home... Stay Safe." Cottage parents added to their daily roles serving as teachers, activity directors and guidance counselors. Cottage parents helped the children succeed online using remote learning.

Despite the fact that many North Carolina Baptist churches faced their own challenges, they did not forget BCH. Their strong giving and support brought BCH through a tough year.

### **BCH acquires adoption organization**

BCH trustees took historic action adding a new, key component to BCH's comprehensive array of services. The 135-year-old nonprofit assumed ownership of Christian Adoption Services (CAS) giving BCH the ability to aid families with domestic and international adoptions.

BCH and CAS were already working together through an official partnership that was established in July 2019. Taking action and adding CAS was a natural step forward. Having both ministries allows a child to be placed in the option that will best serve his or her needs.

"Boys and girls need to be cared for by dedicated families who can give them the love and protection they deserve," Blackwell said. "Bringing in the proven

expertise of Christian Adoption Services expands our ability to offer children hope."

### **Church foster/adoption partnerships grow**

The number of churches partnering with BCH to impact the lives of children in their communities through foster care and adoption is growing. BCH staff members provide training and licensing classes to couples who desire to become foster parents at participating churches. BCH helps churches to provide ongoing ministry, practical support and community for the couples and the children they foster and/or adopt. Many of these boys and girls, who have been removed from their families by their county's Department of Social Services, not only need caring homes but have never heard the gospel.

Recently, other organizations have relaxed their guidelines regarding who can and cannot become foster parents and adoptive parents through their programs. Baptist Children's Homes crafted the following statement to reaffirm its commitment to adhering to biblical standards:

"Since 1885, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina's commitment to provide the highest quality care to vulnerable children and families has not wavered. We continue to stand on our founding principles and convictions by offering Christ-centered services. Our foster and adoptive families are recruited through our network of churches, and we place children in homes with a mother and a father or a single parent. We will continue to fulfill our mission of sharing hope...changing lives by striving to honor God in all that we do."

BCH filmed a foster/adopt breakout session, which debuted as a part of the 2020 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Along with the video, BCH launched a new [www.bchfosteradopt.org](http://www.bchfosteradopt.org) website to provide information to churches and couples praying about being involved with foster care and adoption.

BCH currently has 110 family foster homes and has cared for more than 300 children, some who have been adopted, through its growing foster care and adoption ministry.

### **Greater Vision expands to Eastern NC**

The Bob and Carolyn Tucker Greater Vision Outreach Ministry added a new location. Just as the initial outreach began at Mills Home in Thomasville, BCH's original location, the new Greater Vision was established at Kennedy Home in Kinston, BCH's second location. Many community families found themselves in financial crisis because of the impact of COVID-19. Greater Vision Thomasville and Greater Vision Kinston were able to

provide necessities to offset their needs. Both locations impacted 152,770 lives through the following ways:

- 152,550 meals served.
- 77 families (220 household members) served by the self-sufficiency program.
- 83 partnering agencies who distribute items to additional individuals and families in crisis through their own networks.

### **NCBAM offers “One Hope” to aid isolated aging adults**

Providentially, North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry’s (NCBAM) “One Hope” outreach, which addresses isolation among seniors, was in place shortly before the COVID-19 pandemic began. In March of 2020, as older adults were encouraged to isolate themselves, calls to NCBAM’s Hope Line increased 923%. NCBAM met the demand by adding two lines and weekend service. In June, the Hope Line implemented an outbound Friendly Call Service. NCBAM produced printed and audio versions of daily devotions for overcoming loneliness, began a bilingual outreach, and established a new website: [www.onehopeNCBAM.org](http://www.onehopeNCBAM.org). NCBAM also heightened its Servant Care outreach to retired Baptist ministers and their spouses or surviving spouses.

NCBAM was quick to provide virtual solutions for seniors as well as senior-adult leaders. Its State Leadership Conference was livestreamed and followed by three regional virtual events. The ministry produced 20 videos to engage seniors with fall-prevention exercises, and offered numerous online workshops for Hope Line volunteers and the general public.

### **NC Baptist ride breaks fundraising record twice**

The “Ride to Clyde” motorcycle charity ride, sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, held two rides in less than a year. Both rides broke fundraising records.

The first event on Oct. 10, 2020, a one-day, abbreviated ride that was delayed several months due to COVID-19, raised just more than \$90,000 for BCH’s ministries. Usually, bikers ride from the coast to BCH’s Broyhill Home in the mountains of Clyde, N.C., over the course of three days.

The 2021 ride returned to its customary month and three-day format seeing bikers ride from May 6-8. Once again, bikers achieved a new milestone by raising nearly \$145,000.

### **The most important statistic: lives forever changed**

In the past five years, 725 lives accepted Christ as Savior. N.C. Baptists make it possible for the gospel to be shared

in every aspect of Baptist Children’s Homes’ ministries.

*Michael C. Blackwell, President/CEO*

*Nancy Hall, Chair, Board of Trustees*

### **BIBLICAL RECORDER**

*The Biblical Recorder’s* primary goal is to help churches work together to make disciples of all nations by publishing reliable information and inspiring stories that build trust.

Our journalists are passionate about the Great Commission and committed to North Carolina Baptist partnerships. We are part of the family, and we are here to serve.

The year 2020 presented every ministry with tough challenges, but our staff sees obstacles as opportunities. Churches and communities across the state were struck with uncertainty and grief during the COVID-19 pandemic. We searched for ways to serve N.C. Baptists amid those hardships.

*The Biblical Recorder* successfully applied for the Paycheck Protection Program offered by the United States Small Business Administration. Those grant funds were instrumental in keeping our ministry moving forward.

Our website, [BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org), was a key tool for communicating information about N.C. Baptists during the height of the pandemic. Web traffic saw an all-time record over the summer. Other products, such as a weekly newsletter and text messaging service, allowed us to report breaking news and information.

The most significant progress, however, was made with our print product. In order to re-engage with our print readers, the *Biblical Recorder* developed an all-new monthly magazine in place of the traditional newspaper. Planning began in the fall of 2020 for launch in January 2021. The transition put new tools in the hands of our staff to keep N.C. Baptists in the loop.

*The Biblical Recorder* also deepened its partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, as a search team sought for the convention’s next executive director-treasurer. We worked hard to provide the latest information, as well as requests for prayer and feedback, during the search process.

The *Biblical Recorder* staff is as excited as ever about serving churches across the state.

In the coming months and years, we plan to continue

investing in business and marketing strategies that increase subscriptions and advertising sales revenue. We plan to continue investing in staff development to ensure the quality and quantity of our products align with our ministry goals and create value for our subscribers and advertisers. And we plan to continue seeking out innovative technologies to publish the information and inspiration N.C. Baptists need to stay on mission together.

*Seth Brown, Executive Editor  
Chris Hefner, Board Chairman*

## **NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

### **Our Mission Since 1920**

As an agency of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, we are “committed under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to serving North Carolina Baptists and others in generating an increased awareness of Christian estate stewardship principles as a means of financially undergirding Baptist churches, institutions and mission endeavors on a permanent basis.”

### **Our Motto**

Fostering Generosity...Facilitating Kingdom Growth

### **Highlights**

Following are highlights of how the Lord blessed our ministry in the past year.

- 24 new accounts established.
- \$4.5 million in contributions.
- Distributed \$8.1 million to charity and \$1.8 million to individuals.
- Awarded 204 scholarships to N.C. Baptist students totaling more than \$400,000.
- Awarded 55 special ministry grants to N.C. Baptist churches and associations totaling \$130,055.
- Ended 2020 with \$184 million under management.
- N.C. Baptist Financial Services closed 13 loans totaling \$4.6 million.
- Held \$66.5 million in Certificates of Participation.

The foundation is in the third year of a partnership with PhilanthroCorp to provide estate planning services for N.C. Baptist pastors and others. In the following report, you can see the potential kingdom impact when encouraging and facilitating estate planning with a focus on remembering kingdom causes.

- Provided funding for some 32 individuals to be taken through the estate planning process.
- This has resulted in some \$10 million in planned charitable gifts, with almost \$8 million designated for Baptist causes.
- The majority of those charitable gifts coming to the

N.C. Baptist Foundation in the form of permanent endowments and charitable trusts

### **Strategic Planning**

- Continue to study the feasibility of establishing a capital campaign ministry for N.C. Baptist churches.
- Make church loans in all 100 counties in North Carolina. To date we have made loans to churches in 55 counties.
- Offer grants to new church starts.
- Conduct one day seminars across our state on the subject of legal issues for pastors and church staff.

### **Conclusion**

In 2020, the foundation celebrated its 100th anniversary and the blessing of distributing \$200 million to mission and ministry causes over our first 100 years. With God’s continued blessings and N.C. Baptists’ faithful stewardship, we anticipate distributing the next \$200 million in just the next 20-25 years. To God be the glory, great things HE has done! And we are confident of even greater things HE will do in the years ahead.

### **2020 Charitable Distributions**

The following table illustrates areas of ministry receiving support from foundation accounts in 2020:

|                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Christian Education                             | 42% |
| Churches                                        | 36% |
| Home & Foreign Missions (includes WMU)          | 4%  |
| Baptist Hospital                                | 4%  |
| Children’s Homes                                | 4%  |
| Associations                                    | 2%  |
| Baptist State Convention (includes Baptist Men) | 2%  |
| Retirement Homes                                | 2%  |
| Foundation                                      | 2%  |
| Guidestone                                      | 1%  |
| Other                                           | 1%  |
| Biblical Recorder                               | <1% |

*Clay Warf, President  
Fred Graf, Board Chairman*

## **NORTH CAROLINA BAPTIST HOSPITAL FAITHHEALTH DIVISION**

The FaithHealth Division of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center is the anchor of spiritual care for Wake Forest Baptist Health (WFBH). But the work of the division is not limited within the walls of the hospital. The FaithHealth Division leads efforts in both community and population health to address the physical, spiritual, social, and emotional health of individuals and families; and FaithHealth

accomplishes much of these efforts through partnerships with churches and associations and denominational groups across the breadth of North Carolina.

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic has brought both challenges and opportunities for the work of the FaithHealth Division with congregations, associations and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC). North Carolina Baptists can be proud of the leadership and services that Wake Forest Baptist Health has brought to the fight against COVID-19, efforts to provide both clinical care and vaccination efforts to the most vulnerable in our state, and efforts to provide accurate and reliable information regarding the virus, its treatments, and its mitigation for the benefit of individuals, families and communities.

### **WFBH Staff Encouragement Efforts**

The longevity of the pandemic continues to take a toll upon the social and emotional health of employees across Wake Forest Baptist Health hospitals. In an effort to provide encouragement and support, members of the FaithHealth Division staff have joined other WFBH staff to plan various events and efforts focused on staff encouragement, ministry and support. The FaithHealth Division connected congregations and associations to assist the chaplain managers at each of the WFBH campuses to provide ministry, support and encouragement in their respective locations. Two examples of the fruit of these partnerships are:

**The Piedmont Baptist Association:** The Piedmont Baptist Association (PBA) mobilized two congregations, Green Street Baptist Church and Westchester Baptist Church (both in High Point) to sponsor a staff encouragement event through a financial donation to the frontline health care workers at High Point Regional Medical Center (HPRMC). Due to the inability for church volunteers to be present on campus, this donation allowed chaplain managers to facilitate the effort. Following the success of the first effort, PBA will be providing a meal to all the staff at HPRMC in order to express appreciation for the efforts of HPRMC staff throughout the pandemic. Of the five WFBH hospitals, HPRMC often endured some of the most difficult burdens during the pandemic when the number of COVID positive patients in care nearly exceeded their capacity to house these patients. But the creative leadership and staff worked diligently to prevent the overburdening of the staff at HPRMC, as became all too familiar a sight in other metropolitan areas, during the surge of the COVID-19 virus in the fall of 2020 and winter of 2021. This simple act of encouragement and love is speaking volumes to the staff of this hospital.

We cannot say “Thank you” enough to Michael Barrett, associational mission strategist for PBA, and the churches of the association for their expressions of Christ’s love and care to the HPRMC staff.

### **Embrace Women’s Evangelism and Discipleship:**

Working with Ashley Allen, senior consultant for Embrace women’s evangelism and discipleship at the Baptist state convention, seven congregations gathered items to provide a comfort care package for employees at Lexington Medical Center in Lexington, N.C. Items donated included: lotion, lip balm, and various candies. Seven churches and one association donated items, or funds to purchase those items; they were: High Baptist Church, Lexington; Center Hill Baptist Church, Lexington; Cornerstone Baptist Church, High Point; Hillcrest Baptist Church, Greensboro; Full Throttle Biker Church, Pleasant Garden; Maplewood Baptist Church, Yadkinville; Deep Creek Baptist Church, Yadkinville; and Liberty Baptist Association, Thomasville.

### **Mother’s Day Offering**

The totals for the 2021 annual Mother’s Day Offering are still being tallied at the writing of this report. The impact of the pandemic on the 2020 Mother’s Day Offering continues to impact the purpose of the offering: to assist patients that do not qualify for other patient assistance programs with their burdensome medical bills accrued at N.C. Baptist Hospital. Most churches were not meeting in person during May 2020, therefore the 2020 receipts for the offering were just over \$40,000. Those funds were exhausted quickly, and many patients in need were placed on a waiting list for assistance. If your congregation did not receive a Mother’s Day Offering in 2021, it’s not too late to do so. Please visit [www.mothersdayoffering.org](http://www.mothersdayoffering.org) for promotional information and directions for making online contributions.

The theme and text for the 2021 Mother’s Day Offering is, “That they may see and know...” coming from Isaiah 41:20, which reads: “That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the Lord has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it.” The theme and supporting verse emphasize that Mother’s Day ministries provide a blessing from the “hand of the Lord” as He has moved upon the hearts of His people to generously support this work.

### **BSCNC Ministry Partnerships**

Continuing the efforts launched in April 2020, the FaithHealth Division established several new partnership initiatives with the BSCNC working with numerous consultants on the BSCNC staff. The follow is an overview, not an exhaustive list of those efforts:

N.C. Baptists on Mission: FaithHealthNC has worked with N.C. Baptists on Mission (NCBM) to facilitate COVID-19 testing clinics and vaccination efforts, as well as “Operation Find Your Spot” – an effort during the first quarter of 2021 to mobilize churches to assist those with limited internet access find vaccination locations. FaithHealthNC and NCBM have also partnered to assist patients with home repair needs. In a developing partnership, NCBM and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture are partnering with FaithHealthNC through CareNet to improve access to counseling for farmers and ranchers across North Carolina. This partnership has the potential to provide critical emotional care for patients in some of the state’s most rural communities where access to counseling is very limited.

**Embrace:** FaithHealthNC worked with the Baptist state convention’s Embrace women’s evangelism and discipleship ministry to adopt-a-hospital (for non-WFBH hospitals across the state) mobilizing churches to minister to frontline healthcare workers and staff an encouragement event for WFBH healthcare workers, as noted earlier in this report.

**Church Revitalization:** FaithHealth staff connected BSCNC consultants with an assessment to use with pastors focused on the pastor’s bio-psycho-social health.

**Convention Staff Coaching and Consultation:** With the increased pressures facing pastors, BSCNC staff have needed a trusted partner to turn to for support as well. Through the FaithHealth Division, specifically the Center for Congregational Health and CareNet, BSCNC staff have found resources to assist them both professionally as they assist churches and personally as the pandemic has challenged them in both arenas of life.

**Expansion of Baptist Minister’s Subsidy (BMS):** Formerly known as the Baptist minister’s “discount” that applied only at N.C. Baptist Hospital, the subsidy is now available at all Wake Forest Baptist Health hospitals. Associational mission strategists (AMS) were provided a copy of the updated program in February 2021. Please contact your AMS for more details. In summary, the BMS provides a 25% subsidy toward the final out-of-pocket expense a qualifying Baptist minister receives at a WFBH hospital or qualifying clinic. Once the minister’s insurance has paid, the BMS will then pay 25% of the remaining bill. Again, feel free to contact your AMS for a copy of the policy or my office for more information.

**FaithHealth Expands Across Atrium Geography**  
A strategic part of the new combination between

Atrium Health and Wake Forest Baptist Health is the expansion of specific WFBH services across the geography of the new Atrium enterprise which now includes North Carolina, upstate South Carolina, central Georgia, and pending approval of the proposed merger with Floyd Health, northwest Georgia and northeast Alabama. Included in this expansion is the work of the FaithHealth Division. We will be leading the effort to expand, where partnerships are present, and to create, where partnerships are absent, FaithHealth partnerships with congregations and denominational entities across the four states served by Atrium. The purpose of these partnerships will be to improve community health through fulfillment of the FaithHealth strategy to help patients access care through, “The right door, at the right time, ready to be treated and never alone.”

### **CareNet**

The COVID-19 pandemic has fostered an increased demand for counseling due to the escalating presence of depression, anxiety, abuse and neglect in the lives of individuals and families. In the initial weeks of the pandemic, CareNet moved all services online and saw a drastic increase in clients served. As we are able to slowly return to face-to-face counseling, it’s obvious that we will maintain the online format as it allows CareNet specialists to be accessed by clients regardless of where the client may live across the state. CareNet continues to develop plans to expand counseling centers into northeastern North Carolina and western North Carolina. If your congregation or association is interested in hosting a new CareNet center in one of these regions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Bryan Hatcher, president of CareNet. Hatcher can be reached at [bhatcher@wakehealth.edu](mailto:bhatcher@wakehealth.edu).

If we can be of assistance as you seek to minister to the members of your congregation and community at one of the five WFBH hospitals please do not hesitate to contact us. If you have questions regarding the Baptist Minister’s Subsidy, we are always glad to address those as well. Thank you for your partnership in ministry.

*Gary Gunderson, Vice President  
Brian K. Davis, Director, Community and Congregational  
Engagement  
FaithHealth Division  
Wake Forest Baptist Health*

## **AFFILIATED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

### **CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY**

The 2020-2021 academic year brought plenty of challenges, but health initiatives proved successful

and some traditions were reinstated after the initial interruption of events brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. Campbell continues to seek out opportunities for students, faculty and staff to make an impact in our community and world.

## **Accomplishments & Activities**

### **Student, faculty clinic volunteers give COVID-19 vaccinations**

The Campbell Community Care Clinic has provided free primary care and specialty referrals to uninsured patients of the Harnett County Community since 2015, and now the Campbell student and faculty volunteers are answering the call to give COVID-19 vaccinations.

Mount Pisgah Free Will Baptist Church in Erwin was the first community organization to work with the community care clinic to host a vaccine event. Pharmacy, physician assistant and medical school faculty and students volunteered at the church on Feb. 6 and gave more than 300 shots.

### **10th Annual Christmas Store feeds nearly 60 families at Thanksgiving**

Fifty-seven families and 151 children in Harnett County had a happier Thanksgiving thanks to Campbell University's 10th annual Community Christmas Store, slightly repurposed to meet pandemic-era requirements. The store, created to help families struggling to make ends meet over the holidays, provides gifts to local children by working closely with community partners (churches, schools, etc.) to identify families in need of extra help. Participants purchased hundreds of gifts from an Amazon Christmas Store list, and various departments across the university collected items for food boxes. More than 100 Campbell faculty, staff and students volunteered their time and resources to wrap gifts and prepare food boxes, complete with Thanksgiving ham.

### **Resilience, wellbeing addressed at Virtual Ministers' Health Summit**

Studies show that stress matters, and Matt Bloom, associate professor at the University of Notre Dame and principal investigator at the Wellbeing at Work program, has seen firsthand the negative consequences of chronic stress in the workplace. Stressors at work can be particularly difficult to process in a time of social distancing and relative isolation for many.

In an effort to address issues of stress, exhaustion, anxiety and burnout, and provide pastors with resources and tools that will help them take better care of themselves and their congregations, Campbell University Divinity

School hosted the fifth annual Ministers' Health Summit virtually this year. The retreat promotes wellness, self-care and education for ministers across the state and region. This year, it took place entirely online over the course of two days and boasted the largest turnout to date, with more than 250 participants.

## **Future Goals and Initiatives**

### **Mobile Units to expand Campbell's health care reach in the state**

In one of his first appearances as new dean of the Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Brian Kessler laid out the main goals of the school during a May dedication ceremony for the university's new mobile health clinics: to provide holistic, evidence-based osteopathic medical education that is patient-centered; develop outreach sites in rural and underserved areas of the state; and to collaborate with hospitals to provide health care and education services to the region.

The two mobile clinics — each a veritable hospital and medical school on wheels — will go a long way in helping Campbell achieve two of those goals. The mobile units were made possible by the \$6 million grant Campbell University received from the North Carolina General Assembly in 2020, according to Dr. Britt Davis, vice president for advancement. Davis thanked Lisa Outlaw and John Lekovec of the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office at the ceremony.

Campbell President Dr. J. Bradley Creed said the mobile units are helping Campbell make a difference in the lives of its students and in the communities they serve.

"A school like Campbell has a moral obligation to the area in which it's located and beyond that, like concentric circles moving out," Creed said. "And so we do this as an educational institution to help our state make life better for people who are lacking primary care."

### **Campbell Law to launch pro bono clinic focusing on family law litigation**

Campbell Law School has announced its newest pro bono clinic — the Gailor Family Law Litigation Clinic. The clinic will address challenging family law issues including divorce, property distribution, paternity, child custody, child support and elder law among other family law issues where it is often difficult to find representation for low-income individuals. The needs assessment just completed by the Chief Justice's Commission on Access to Justice found this to be the greatest area of unmet need for legal services among North Carolinians of modest resources.

The Gailor Family Law Litigation Clinic is made possible through the generous donation of \$250,000 from family lawyer Carole Gailor, making her the first woman to have a clinic named after her at Campbell Law. The clinic will begin to offer expanded services starting in the fall of 2021.

Campbell Law is continually developing and expanding its clinical programs. All five legal clinics – Stubbs Bankruptcy, Innovate Capital Business Law, Blanchard Community Law, Restorative Justice and now Gailor Family Law Litigation – provide students with practical, hands-on experience while offering valuable services to low-income members of our community.

*J. Bradley Creed, President  
Benjamin N. Thompson, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **CHOWAN UNIVERSITY**

Chowan University is a Christian educational institution founded in 1848 by Baptist layman Godwin Cotton Moore and Baptist families. The university was named Chowan – which means “people of the south” – in reverence to the Native American Algonquin Chowanoke tribe. The Chowan University community seeks to believe in and to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. This goal is accomplished through the mentoring, ministry and teaching of Christian faculty and staff, and mission and service experiences on campus, in the community, in the United States and around the world.

### **Resuming In-Person Instruction in Fall of 2020**

The opening of the fall semester 2020 was noticeably different in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The university made adjustments to the semester to support health and encourage learning. To support the transition of in class delivery methods, Chowan hired an instructional designer who was tasked with overseeing the design, quality, as well as training of faculty, to support all instructional delivery formats (face-to-face, synchronous hybrid, asynchronous hybrid and online).

### **Campus Ministry**

Chowan Campus Ministry kicked off the school year with its annual campuswide ministry project. As many senior adults were struggling with isolation and loneliness during the pandemic, Campus Ministry chose to adopt the Hertford County Office on Aging and delivered meaningful “goody bags.” While some students packed bags, others made cards with notes of encouragement and safety messages. Chowan Ministry chaplains assisted in delivering these bags at the meal distribution site.

In November, Campus Ministry hosted “Chowan Cares” week and found ways to safely “do missions” during the pandemic. During this week students were invited to the “Make-One, Take-One” sock tie-dyeing event. Participants rubber banded socks and squirted dye to make one-of-kind designs for themselves and others. The colorful socks were sent to Christ House, a medical residential facility with a mission to care for men experiencing homelessness in Washington, D.C. Christ House is a place where Chowan students have previously served on mission experiences and through internships.

Another highlight for “Chowan Cares” week was ministering to Preble Street, an organization that assists those experiencing homelessness in Portland, Maine. Preble Street is the site of past mission trips for students. Unsure of the next time a team could return, students were encouraged to make Thanksgiving cards for the organization. In response, students, faculty and staff lovingly handcrafted lovely cards filled with messages of encouragement to be delivered with the holiday meal.

“Share the Well” week is an annual February tradition hosted by Campus Ministry. This year it was held on Feb. 8-12, 2021. The theme for the week comes from John 4 where Jesus encounters the woman at the well and offers her “living water.” “Share the Well” week gave the entire campus the opportunity to learn, pray, and “share the well.” One of the hands-on mission projects was packing food for the Backpack Buddies program. Students packed shelf-stable milk, cereal and other food items to be shared with local elementary students in Hertford County. This mission project was made possible through the North Carolina Baptist Foundation grant for special projects.

### **SeniorFEST 2021**

Chowan’s annual SeniorFEST was held virtually this year and was pleased to host participants from across North Carolina and Virginia. The opening session was led by comedy magician, Matt Fore. Participants were invited to attend breakout sessions on generosity planning, dementia and a reminder that “God is still here” via Zoom. The North Carolina Baptist Foundation assisted with sponsorship for SeniorFEST.

### **The Chowan Christian Service Association**

The Chowan Christian Service Association (CCSA) provides students with an opportunity to learn and serve in Jesus’ name. It does so by providing tuition scholarships for students called to the ministry and mission trip scholarships for students serving on a Chowan mission team. CCSA assisted 11 students this year with three students graduating in May 2021.

### **Assisting Ministers with Education Opportunities**

Through a long-held commitment to the ministers in our area, the ordained ministers grant allows ordained ministers who do not have a bachelor's degree to receive an education. For \$150 a semester, an ordained minister can take up to three classes (nine credit hours). These students are also eligible to apply for the Chowan Christian Service Association scholarship for book assistance.

### **Dedication of Cross of Christ Chapel**

The Cross of Christ Chapel Dedication was held on the evening of Sept. 6, 2020. The timing of this outdoor chapel could not be more perfect. This sacred place allows for more people to gather safely to the peaceful solitude by Lake Vann. It quickly became a favorite spot for campus ministry programs, reflection and meditation for the entire campus community.

### **Record-Breaking Giving**

The university saw significant increases in both the number of donors as well as total giving for the fiscal year 2020-2021. Through the generous support of alumni, friends, churches and community members, Chowan University received more than \$3.57 million from a record 1,815 donors.

The goal for total gifts was \$2.5 million. Among many programs and funds, several people were inspired to support the new worship center chapel. The chapel campaign was initiated in October of 2020 and will house the first dedicated worship center facility on campus. The goal for constructing the chapel is \$2.5 million with over \$2 million raised to date. A groundbreaking was planned for Sept. 9, 2021.

The pandemic brought unforeseen hardships on our students and the Agape Fund, a benevolent fund, was established to meet those unexpected crises that arise. These needs are as extensive as unforeseen medical care to challenges with gas money to get home. The pandemic has been an opportunity to live our mission and express our values in order to navigate times of uncertainty.

Although athletic competition was anything but normal, the donors to the athletic program understood the new challenges and came forward to give back in a big way. Over 700 donors gave \$146,000 this year. This is one of the largest numbers of donors to support the Hawks athletic program.

To help bolster the university's profile and for people to give, a new program was launched that catapulted the number of returning and new donors to record levels. In its first year, the "Chowan Gives Day of Giving" program

was a social media campaign that grossed over \$151,000 from 545 donors. During this one day, the university almost doubled the total number of donors from the previous year.

### **New Master's and Bachelor's Degree Offerings**

The university began offering new master's degrees, which were approved by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

- In the spring of 2021, the university began offering a Master of Arts in teaching with two specializations: elementary education and secondary education (social studies, mathematics, English and comprehensive science).
- In the spring of 2021, the university began offering a Master of Arts in organizational leadership that provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary for upper-level management positions and expertise to further their organizations' mission.
- In the fall of 2021, the university will begin offering a bachelor's degree in mass communication.

### **Graduation Days**

After a year's delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the class of 2020 made the pilgrimage back to Murfreesboro on May 8, 2021 for a much anticipated commencement ceremony. Graduates were delighted to enjoy the in-person walk across the stage. On May 9, the class of 2021 took their turn with their graduation ceremony.

### **Keep Chowan in Your Prayers**

Please keep Chowan in your prayers as we continue to teach and minister to the students God has given us on their journey to become gospel global citizens. Stay current with the latest Chowan happenings at [www.chowan.edu](http://www.chowan.edu), or follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn at @chowanuniversity. Come see us in Murfreesboro. We would enjoy showing you our beautiful campus in our historic town.

*Kirk E. Peterson, President*

*Kemper Baker, Chair, Board of Trustees*

### **GARDNER-WEBB UNIVERSITY**

At Gardner-Webb University (GWU), we believe our love for God is best expressed through our love for humanity. As communities continued to fight the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020-21, Gardner-Webb met the challenges and adapted. In these unusual circumstances, GWU students, alumni, faculty and staff demonstrated God's calling to serve the community.

## Significant Accomplishments & Activities

### Gardner-Webb and Atrium Health Open New GWU Student Health Clinic

Gardner-Webb University and its partner, Atrium Health, celebrated a historic day for the campus on July 16, 2020, with a ribbon cutting for the new GWU Student Health Clinic. Leaders of the two entities also praised the experience and leadership of the clinic's new provider — a familiar face on campus and in the community — Dr. Jill Houser, previously an assistant professor in the Hunt School of Nursing.

### Gardner-Webb Breaks Enrollment Records in Fall and Spring Semesters

Gardner-Webb welcomed the third largest freshman class in school history for fall semester 2020. The 471 members of the class of 2024 began their first fall semester on Aug. 19, 2020. Gardner-Webb's total fall enrollment — in undergraduate, degree completion and graduate programs — is approximately 3,500, with nearly 1,200 students living on campus.

For the spring 2021 semester, Gardner-Webb's students came from the most diverse geographical areas in school history. According to Dr. Jeff Tubbs, vice president for planning and institutional effectiveness, the students represented 23 foreign countries, 91 North Carolina counties and 43 states, breaking school records in each category.

### Gardner-Webb Serves Community While Observing COVID-19 Protocols

An integral part of life on the Gardner-Webb campus is serving the community. While observing COVID-19 protocols, faculty, staff, students and athletic teams participated in several events during the fall 2020 semester, including:

- Making cards for children in foster care and for the elderly at a local nursing home.
- Volunteering at Rutherford Housing Partnership, Shelby Mission Camp, Lafayette Street United Methodist Church, Habitat for Humanity and Younglife.
- Collecting items for inmate care packages, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, Angel Tree gifts, food for children and homeless care packages.

### Gardner-Webb Welcomes New Administrators

Gardner-Webb welcomed five new administrators in 2020-21. They are:

- Nate J. Evans, vice president of advancement.
- Lesley Villarose, vice president for student development and dean of students.
- Eric S. Plemmons, associate vice president of human resources.

- Tim Shuey, vice president of finance and administration.
- Dr. Shawn E. Holt, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

### School of Education Programs Achieve Perfect Score for Four Consecutive Semesters

In April 2021, Dr. Prince Bull, dean of the Gardner-Webb School of Education announced that for four consecutive semesters, students had received a perfect 100% pass rate on the edTPA. For the spring 2021 edTPA examination, the school was 22 of 22 passing with eight candidates at the highly qualified (HQ) level. This performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system is used by teacher preparation programs throughout the United States. Success on the edTPA demonstrates a student candidate's readiness for a full-time classroom teaching assignment. Students must pass edTPA requirements in order to obtain a clear N.C. teaching license.

### Future Goals and Initiatives

#### GWU Faculty Approves Reduction in Undergraduate Hours Required for Graduation

In November 2020, the Gardner-Webb faculty approved a reduction in the number of undergraduate credit hours required for graduation from 128 to 120. The result benefits traditional undergraduate students and provides a more transfer-friendly pathway for students transitioning to GWU from other universities. The revisions go into effect in the 2021-2022 academic year.

#### School of Divinity Transitions Master of Divinity Degree to 78 Hours

Beginning with the fall semester 2020, the Gardner-Webb School of Divinity transitioned its 90-hour Master of Divinity degree to a 78-hour program. Recognized by The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS), the accredited program streamlines the curriculum, which combines core requirements with six concentration areas. This adjustment maintains academic excellence and further promotes the overall goal of the School of Divinity to serve the church.

#### Gardner-Webb Forms Partnerships with Several Community Colleges

Throughout the fall semester 2020 into the spring semester 2021, Gardner-Webb officials announced new agreements with community colleges to create seamless pathways for students transferring to GWU. The Bulldog Bound co-admission agreements were extended to:

- Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute (Hudson, N.C.).

- Gaston College (Dallas, N.C.).
- Cleveland Community College (Shelby, N.C.)
- Richmond Community College (Hamlet, N.C.)

### **Tuition Freeze Announced for Third Year**

In February 2021, Gardner-Webb announced a freeze on tuition for the third year in a row for traditional undergraduate students enrolled in the Boiling Springs campus program. The freeze applied to incoming freshmen, transfer students and current undergraduates for fall 2021.

### **GWU President Plans to Continue Informative Series After Successful 2021 Beginning**

From February to April 2021, Gardner-Webb offered an informative series called “Webb Connections.” GWU President Dr. William M. Downs hosted the programs that featured a panel of experts. Because of COVID-19 safety guidelines, a small audience was allowed. Each program was recorded live and made available online for everyone to view. The programs covered topics related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery, healing race relations, science and faith, and Christian higher education. Downs plans to continue the informative series in the coming semesters.

*Jennifer Marion Mills, Chair, Board of Trustees*  
*Dr. William M. Downs, President*

## **MARS HILL UNIVERSITY**

Mars Hill University, an academic community rooted in the Christian faith, challenges and equips students to pursue intellectual, spiritual and personal growth that is grounded in a rigorous study of the liberal arts, connected with the world of work, and committed to character development, to service and to responsible citizenship in the community, the region and the world.

### **Significant Accomplishments & Activities**

The university continued to adapt to the fluidity of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 academic year. The traditional 13-week semesters were split into two, seven-week blocks, in order to facilitate appropriate social distancing of students and faculty. The university did not begin in-person classes for the fall semester until Sept 17, 2020, instead holding the first three weeks of classes through remote learning. Fall break was canceled, and the semester ended at Thanksgiving break. Coupled with the addition of an online January term, this allowed Mars Hill to avoid having students in close, on-campus housing during peak weeks of the traditional flu season, when susceptibility to COVID-19 could have been elevated.

All fall intercollegiate athletic competitions were canceled, with traditional fall sports seasons added, in abbreviated form, to the spring calendar. Mars Hill’s spring commencement ceremony included graduates who completed their degree requirements in the fall and who ordinarily would have had a separate commencement in December. State mandates regarding event attendance were being relaxed, but the university opted to maintain its plans for an outdoor, socially-distanced ceremony. Graduates were recognized in groupings based on majors and processed to the stage to receive their diplomas at staggered intervals throughout the afternoon. The class of 2021 included 196 graduates. Of those, 17 received their master’s degrees, with the rest earning bachelor’s degrees.

Thanks to the efforts of our COVID response team, Student Health Center, athletic training staff — along with cooperation and consultation with regional medical experts and other institutions, a team of Student Health ambassadors, and a strong commitment by volunteers and other members of our campus community — the university completed the academic year with a minimum of complications. The efforts of our athletic training staff in conducting COVID-19 testing and contact tracing for not only our student-athletes, but also the entire campus community, earned them special recognition with our athletic conference’s service award. Students from the university’s Judge-McRae School of Nursing put their education to immediate use, helping with COVID-19 vaccination clinics in our region.

### **Future Goals & Initiatives**

We are going into the 2021-22 academic year with a focus on continuing to offer a safe environment for our students, faculty and staff as the pandemic continues.

Mars Hill University added several new majors and minors that will be available to students in the 2021-22 academic year. The new major in interdisciplinary studies will offer a custom solution for students who find it difficult to narrow their focus to just one major, who are excited by several academic disciplines or topics, or who would like to customize a major to help them prepare for specific career goals. Another new major offers an option specifically for students who want to work in the world of nonprofit organizations and community development. The community and nonprofit leadership major is designed to prepare students with the knowledge, skills and attributes to work in the private nonprofit and public sectors in entry-level positions. Along with that new major, a current certificate program, the certificate in community engagement, is being revamped into a minor. The minor

in community leadership is an interdisciplinary program in which students gain an understanding of their own special leadership abilities and how to use those abilities to lead in community organizations. Other new minors are in pre-law studies and musical theater. We also are broadening access to those wishing to obtain a Mars Hill University degree, offering online options for all graduate programs and adult studies programs.

Thanks to a generous donation, Mars Hill added a new scholarship opportunity which will begin with the fall 2021 semester. Nine students will make up the inaugural class of Blackwell Scholars. The Blackwell Scholarship is an academic and merit-based award which recognizes students who are involved in leadership and citizenship activities in their high schools and want to continue in those types of roles at Mars Hill University. Along with a significant financial award, Blackwell Scholars will work with on-campus mentors to help them develop leadership skills, broaden connections on campus, and engage in important events and projects on- and off-campus.

The university added a new intercollegiate athletics program for women. The acrobatics and tumbling team will begin competition in the spring semester of 2022. Acrobatics and tumbling is a popular emerging sport, and Mars Hill will compete in Conference Carolinas.

We also are looking to the future of our institution as a beacon in the mountains of western North Carolina. As we continue to elevate the student experience at Mars Hill University and help students discern their calling, we are in the early stages of a campaign to make a significant investment in that effort. A big part of that effort will be a new student center in the heart of campus. The new facility will help improve student recruitment, help with enrollment growth and retention, increase student success and serve as a broader community resource.

*Tony Floyd, President*

*Mike Kelly, Chair, Board of Trustees*

## **WINGATE UNIVERSITY**

Wingate University's 125th academic year since its founding in 1896 was highlighted by an enrollment of 3,653 students, of whom 2,679 were undergraduate students and 974 were graduate and professional students. These students were enrolled in 35 undergraduate majors, 35 minors, 12 career concentrations and nine pre-professional courses of study as well as master's degree programs in accounting, business, education, sport management and physician assistant studies, and doctoral programs in education, pharmacy, physical therapy and occupational therapy. International students numbered 110 individuals from 35 countries around the globe.

## **Graduation Events**

The 2021 spring graduation events were held both in-person and virtually from May 14-16. Wingate grads in the graduate programs included 38 graduates from the Porter Byrum School of Business, 101 from the College of Professional Studies and 179 from the Levine College of Health Sciences. A total of 526 students received undergraduate degrees. Speaking to the graduates virtually in a taped address, commencement speaker Dr. Mandy Cohen, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) offered three tips for students to be the change they want to see in the world. The tips were: to believe in yourself and embrace the belief others have in you; to be uncomfortable and use times of difficulty for growth to move forward; and to listen more.

## **Virtual Lyceum Events**

During the 2020-2021 academic year the office of Student Ministries offered a series of virtual Lyceum events to students. Topics ranged from religion and politics to interpreting Revelation in light of an understanding of the society and timeframe in which it was written.

## **COVID response**

The Office of Student Ministries played a vital role in the university's work treating and providing vaccines for COVID. The office was tasked with answering the Wingate COVID hotline, which often had concerned students, staff and parents wanting answers. Approaching these concerns, which often manifested as anger and fear, with grace and care help to calm people and better realize the comfort found in God. It also helped everyone realize that our highly qualified medical staff and God were able to take care of us.

## **Church Outreach to Students**

While organizations and churches had to minister to students virtually, there was one local church that did an outstanding job of working with a group of students. Provision Church in Monroe was able to provide outreach and ministry to several swimmers through virtual and later in-person Bible studies.

## **Service and Ministry Work**

Plans for significant service and ministry work are in process through a collaboration with Student Ministries and various Health Science graduate programs at Wingate. Student Ministries has led two mission trips to Kingston Jamaica. The work there involves caring for several group homes for mentally and physically handicapped men, women and children. The goal, moving forward, is to utilize medical and therapy expertise of Wingate's graduate programs in occupation therapy,

physical therapy, pharmacy and physician assistant at the homes in Kingston. This would help improve the quality of life for both the residents of the homes and those tasked with caring for them.

*Dane Jordan, Director of Student Ministries*

## **CONVENTION CO-LABORER**

### **WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION OF NORTH CAROLINA**

Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC) fulfills our mandate of "Making Disciples of Jesus who Live on Mission" by partnering with churches to challenge, prepare, and equip Christians to be radically involved in the Great Commission. Since our founding in 1886, we remain committed to being biblically-rooted, missions-focused, church-based, world-aware, and denominationally-supportive. We live out Jesus' command as we seek to engage all ages through missions education, discipleship and compassion ministries. We are always available to speak about mission opportunities or to train church/associational leaders. We especially enjoy speaking during our Focus Week of Prayer for the Heck Jones Offering, named to honor our first leaders, Fannie Heck and Sally Bailey Jones, which supports the missions and ministries of WMU-NC. Current

WMU-NC staff include: Amy Boone, executive director/treasurer; Cheryl Daniel, accountant/human resources; Evan Kelly, administrative assistant; Rebecca Lindhout, adult consultant; Sara Lamkin, preschool and children consultant; Amanda Martinsen, leadership development consultant and resource coordinator; and Jenn B, creative content editor. In April, Julie Keith retired after 22 years with WMU-NC as student, collegiate and young women consultant and was honored with a reception, gifts and much appreciation for her service and dedication.

### **Significant Accomplishments and Activities**

#### **Supporting the Great Commission**

We did not allow the effects of the pandemic to stop the relentless call of the Great Commission as we sewed masks, helped with food distribution, initiated the MT 11:28 project for frontline workers, contacted 1,704 N.C. churches with hand-written letters about the Lottie Moon offering and made 300 phone calls to N.C. churches for the Annie Armstrong offering. The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, Prayers for International Missions, Heck Jones Offering and North American Missions were all held through Zoom.

### **Missions Extravaganza**

The organization's 130th annual meeting, held virtually April 24, 2021, explored the theme "Relentless." Maintaining focus on missions and living out a relentless faith, Bible teacher and keynote speaker Kendra Graham challenged attendees to see the church as a verb, not a noun. Worship leader Susan Lafferty inspired attendees with music and touching stories from her time on the mission field. Highlights included 16 breakout conferences featuring our sending agencies' missionaries and a Missions Market of WMU-NC's Baptist partners. Participants were also given the opportunity to watch each part at any time within 90 days of the launch.

### **Leadership Development/Resources**

WMU-NC hosted a monthly virtual leadership luncheon for leaders, with time to fellowship, network and grow in specific skills. Moving from in-person to virtual increased opportunities and attendance with over 100 leaders from six different states taking part. In 2020, WMU-NC's annual "Abound" summer leadership training featured a series of 20 online training videos for leaders. In December 2020, WMU-NC released its first printed 31-day devotional book "How Great Our Joy." Filled with Scripture, missionary testimonies, coloring pages, seasonal recipes and daily devotions, it was designed to celebrate the joy we have in Christ. In the spring of 2021, a seven-day Holy Week devotional was published on WMU-NC's social media pages. In April of 2021, WMU-NC launched "Beyond the Moment," a podcast on creating a missional lifestyle in the midst of everyday moments. Adult Consultant Rebecca Lindhout and Leadership Development Consultant Amanda Martinsen were hosts.

### **Students/Collegiate/Young Women**

Growing and discipling leaders, WMU-NC selects teen girls nominated by their leaders who have a heart for missions. The 2020-21 Acteens panelists are: Grace Carter, University Hills, Metrolina Association; Sarah Dillard, Great Marsh, Robeson Association; and Emily Young, Galeed, Bladen Association. In 2021, virtual meetings included Student Missions Day on March 6 and Carolina Girls on May 1. You may still view these missionary testimonies and speakers as well as hands-on outreach ideas and prayer experiences on our Facebook page. "SHINE" for young women ages 18-35 has been revamped into "myMISSION NC" and the state leadership team includes: Hannah Boehmer, Maddy Davis, Meghan Gagliano, Haley Harrison, Layne Harrison and Amanda Monroe. "Check-in" Zoom calls for college students and young women have been held with topics such as "Transitions," "Using Your Passions and Spiritual Gifts in Missions" and "Encouraging Scriptures for Difficult Times."

### **Camp Mundo Vista**

We are grateful for the ministry partnership with Jimmy Huffman and Caraway Conference Center. Although the global pandemic affected attendance, God provided five newly retired men from First Baptist Church of Asheboro to make improvements during this opportune time. They cleared trees to allow for the beautiful mountain views around the camp, added porch and outdoor seating to the dining hall, organized a mechanical and wood shop, created a gathering place called “The Legacy Room” beneath Hobbs Hall, built a state-of-the-art firing range for air rifles and archery, and remodeled a cabin into an apartment that will house a volunteer couple to be host/hostess during camp. WMU Staff and leadership developed a Missions Legacy Room to provide displays, mission artifacts, maps and prayer stations so that campers will get to “meet” five missionary families from North Carolina.

### **Adult Ministries**

Our sixth annual Military Wives Retreat was held in August 2020. The retreat featured keynote speaker Mary Gray and focused on the power of prayer. Our monthly military wives Zoom connection group was formed as a result of need expressed at this retreat. Beginning in February, a “Monthly Missions Shake Up” video was posted to social media to help churches educate members about featured missionaries, make meetings more interactive and experiential, and serve through ministry projects. In December, over 1,500 red boxes filled with toiletries, candy, socks, gloves and a gospel message were delivered to prisons and the majority to the N.C. Correctional Institution for Women.

### **Preschool and Children**

A virtual Children’s Missions Camp was held Aug. 8, 2020. Children’s Missions Days were held in person at Camp Mundo Vista on Oct. 9, 2020, and virtually on March 6, 2021. We heard from prior missionaries to Turkey, current missionaries serving in Spain and with Trans World Radio. Mission project ideas, discipleship Bible studies and prayer guides were also provided.

### **Christian Women’s Job Corps**

Christian Women’s Job Corps of North Carolina (CWJC-NC) provides job skills and life skills to women who are living in poverty (broken relationships with God, self, others and creation). Each of the 11 North Carolina sites and our sister site in South Africa is customized to the needs and resources of its community. Despite COVID-19, CWJC-NC offered level one training in August 2020 and June 2021 by Zoom. Besides N.C. attendees, there were five from Texas, one each from Georgia and South Carolina, and one who serves with

the International Mission Board (IMB) in Mozambique who took the training while in quarantine in Brazil.

### **Baptist Nursing Fellowship**

Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF) members held their annual meetings Nov. 13-14, 2020, and April 9-10, 2021, where participants earned continuing education credit toward license updates. They provided personnel for Camp Caraway and Mundo Vista and planned missions service involvement in communities.

### **ProjectHELP: Refugees**

The current critical issue ProjectHELP emphasis is refugees. On June 18, 2021, we provided a Day of Prayer for Refugees through Zoom, hearing first hand from missionaries working with refugees and praying specifically for their needs. We sponsored 45 children and youth from North Raleigh International Baptist Church for a week at Camp Mundo Vista in July 2020.

### **Hispanic WMU**

Hispanic WMU groups continue to grow. A strong volunteer leadership team has offered many trainings for N.C. churches to engage all ages in missions education, has established partnership training for the state of Ohio, and has recorded videos for the different missions age-group organizations that are being used nationwide. On Nov. 7, 2020 they celebrated the World Day of Prayer.

### **Sisters Who Care**

Sisters Who Care has been busy sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the least of these as they have partnered with Christian Life Home, Dorothy Mae Hall Foundation, Cycle Forward Campaign, and Red Rubies Foundation Book Drive. A great accomplishment is a monthly broadcast with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina’s Dr. Jae Richardson’s podcast called the “Fresh Anointing Show” and workshops for churches on Alzheimer’s, The Road to Shalom: Women Pursuing Peace and other critical issues.

### **Future Goals and Initiatives**

Goals for Leadership Development are to grow the reach and engagement of the “Beyond the Moment” podcast, continue monthly leadership luncheons, and engage new leaders in training opportunities.

Goals for Students/College/Young Women are to develop and disciple Acteen Panelists; offer more regional missions days for students to provide interaction with other youth as well as missionaries, discipleship training for reaching peers and hands-on outreach to the community; communicate opportunities for “MyMISSION NC” through social media and the web site, as well as

Zoom Bible studies and compassion ministries; and host a statewide “MyMISSION NC” conference.

Goals for Camp MundoVista are to increase the number of girls camp and mother/daughter events, and create innovative camp and retreat programming for children and adults year-round.

Goals for Adult Ministries are to grow the Red Box Ministry. For the first time ever, red boxes will be delivered to Anson Prison, bringing this ministry up to 3,000 women reached for Christ at Christmas 2021. We want to grow our partnership with Anson Prison to include a “Red Box Library,” selected resources to encourage women in their faith while incarcerated and to partner with other “transition” facilities in North Carolina to provide “Red Box” libraries across the state. We want to create resources to help churches engage with the Great Commission through “Monthly Missions Shake Up,” renew partnerships with ministers’ wives to be led by Duronda Hood; and extend our military and motherhood ministries to include quarterly meet ups and mission projects. Because we recognize that children will not see themselves as missionaries unless their parents do, we are launching a new “Missions and Motherhood” ministry. This ministry will be kicked off at Mundo Vista with our “Missions and Motherhood: Mom Camp” on Nov. 12-14, 2021. The purpose of this retreat is to give mothers the tools to confidently serve as missions leaders in their homes and ignite a passion for missions in their families.

Goals for Preschool and Children are to offer Children’s Missions Days in more areas of the state so that a larger audience of children can hear about God’s work in the world and how they can participate in the Great Commission. New curriculum “Missions Journey: Kids” provides options for all churches to provide missions education and discipleship. We also want to facilitate ways for children to meet, pray for and support missionaries. Please check with Sara Lamkin about resources and contact information for missionary families who can interact or speak with your children.

Goals for CWJC are to support those who have completed initial certification level one training to launch new sites and to implement new initiatives to introduce CWJC and our mission to a larger audience of churches and individuals who want to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors.

Goals for Sisters Who Care are to host a statewide Sisters Who Care Conference in 2022 at Wake Forest Baptist Church and to facilitate a mission trip to Red Springs Mission Camp in July 2022.

Goals for Mission Teams are to renew partnerships for mission trips put on hold due to the global pandemic and to explore more short term mission opportunities within driving distances.

*Amy Boone, Executive Director-Treasurer*  
*Deborah Taylor, President*

# BUSINESS SERVICES



**JOHN BUTLER**  
*Executive Leader*

The staff of the Business Services Group is committed to using our knowledge, expertise and resources to fulfill the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina's (BSCNC) stated mission: "to assist churches in their divinely appointed mission."

The Business Services Group has the dual assignment of assisting churches as well as assisting the convention staff who, in turn, assists churches. As churches in North Carolina change and diversify, the work of the Business Services Group reviews and revises its systems and processes in order to more effectively assist the churches and convention staff. The reports that follow provide a snapshot of how we support our movement of churches on mission together in 2021 through the Business Service Group.

The Business Services Group is responsible for the following convention services and ministries:

- Baptist building operations
- Property/casualty insurance
- Accounting
- Budgets
- N.C. hunger ministry grants through Global Hunger Relief
- Legal matters
- Investments
- Printing/mailing
- Human resources
- Benefits
- Annuities
- Camps, assemblies and conference centers
- General business operations

We are guided and supported by the expertise of the Business Services Special Committee of the board of directors and are grateful for the time and effort invested by committee members.

The Business Services Group exists only because of the faithful giving of North Carolina Baptist churches. Without your gifts, we would be without resources to manage as stewards in God's kingdom. Thank you for your support and your sacrifices – together we can do far more than we can on our own. God is using our people, our properties and our resources to enable men, women, and children to return to Him and experience life in Christ.

*John Butler, Executive Leader*

*Penny Cozadd, Executive Leader Assistant*

## **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS SERVICES (CABS)**

The Compensation and Benefits Services (CABS) office provides answers to general questions about retirement, insurance and other financial and tax needs of our churches. Our goal is to keep our local N.C. Baptist associations and churches in compliance with the tax laws and up-to-date on changes that affect them. The following information is a summary of those efforts.

### **Federal Tax Legislation**

Congress has continued to make an effort to stimulate the economy by passing several pieces of legislation that continue to have a positive impact for our churches and their members. Most beneficial to N.C. churches was the passing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which provided eligible taxpayers with a second stimulus check. It also made significant changes to the Paycheck Protection Program and the Employee Retention Credit.

### **Retirements**

The CABS office works with church staff and lay leaders to assist them in structuring pastor and staff compensation packages to include retirement benefits. Many pastors and staff members do not see the benefits of participating in the Church Retirement Plan, and they will opt out of the plan if given an opportunity. Therefore, a continued effort is being made to challenge churches to assist their pastors and staff by directly contributing to their retirement plans. In 2021, Don McLeod, who was North Carolina's GuideStone relationship manager, retired after many years of faithful service to North Carolina churches. In addition, CABS ministry assistant Mary Landis retired this year.

### **Convention Protection Benefits**

GuideStone and the state convention continue to offer survivor and disability benefits to all qualified staff members of N.C. Baptist churches participating in the Church Retirement Plan through GuideStone. In 2020,

87 church staff members and their families received \$620,000 from the state convention's protection benefits.

### **Health Insurance Laws and Products**

GuideStone remains a leader in providing detailed information regarding the impact that new tax and healthcare laws have on our churches and their staff. Timely and thorough updates of changes in the healthcare laws and insurance products are available on the GuideStone website at [guidestone.org](http://guidestone.org).

### **Church Staff Compensation**

Because of the impact that COVID-19 and the stay-at-home orders have had on our churches, the 2020 Lifeway Compensation Study was postponed, and the next survey is scheduled to begin in January 2022. Results of the 2018 Southern Baptist Compensation Study are available online by visiting [compstudy.lifeway.com](http://compstudy.lifeway.com). However, a church utilizing the results of the 2018 Compensation Survey should consider using a general cost-of-living adjustment to make current compensation and benefit decisions for its staff.

### **Mission Dignity**

GuideStone Financial Resources continues to provide financial assistance to elderly ministers and widows of ministers who live under financial duress and need ongoing and/or one-time assistance through Mission Dignity. In 2020, individuals and entities from North Carolina contributed \$436,000 to Mission Dignity, which helped 159 North Carolina households through \$713,000 in total distributions. This office continues to challenge our North Carolina churches and their members to consider making Mission Dignity a part of their budget. Our goal is for North Carolina churches to financially support those faithful servants living in North Carolina.

*Davis Blount, Senior Consultant*

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

The Office of Human Resources (HR) is committed to selecting the best possible employees to work with the convention and its churches — Baptist Christians committed to facilitating our becoming a movement of churches on mission together.

Although the past year has presented many challenges due to COVID-19, the Office of Human Resources has worked to help the BSCNC continue to operate effectively and ensure that all essential services are continuously provided and that employees are safe within the workplace. Our goal is to protect the health, safety and well-being of our staff.

HR is committed to keeping the convention up to date in ways to improve our workplace and in following federal and state laws regarding employment issues. We are happy to share with churches ways to care for their employees and to learn where to find resources regarding employment law.

*John Butler, Acting Director*

## **GLOBAL HUNGER RELIEF (FORMERLY WORLD HUNGER MINISTRY)**

Hunger needs around the world continue to open doors for Southern Baptists to offer hope to communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Global Hunger Relief Offering, we are bringing hope to North Carolina, North America and nearly every nation on this earth. Each October, hundreds of North Carolina Baptist churches support this special offering, enabling us to put food on the plates of hundreds of thousands of children and adults.

The impact of the COVID-19 virus on our communities this year has elevated the importance of supporting this vital ministry. Our churches with food pantries and food distribution networks worked hand in hand with N.C. Baptists on Mission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to facilitate the largest distribution of food to those in need in the history of our great state.

This year through our joint efforts with more than 100 churches and associations, the Hunger Office distributed more than \$215,000 to feed hungry men, women and children in North Carolina. Ministries include: Backpack Buddies; Kids Café; food pantries; crisis centers; and lunch buddies. We have also helped maintain community gardens with many North Carolina Baptist churches through our hunger grants. We challenge our churches to join us on mission together to our communities and our world by supporting the Global Hunger Relief Offering.

*John Butler, Executive Leader*

## **CAMPS AND CONFERENCE CENTERS**

### **CARAWAY CONFERENCE CENTER AND CAMPS**

Caraway Conference Center and Camps is a ministry that assists North Carolina Baptist churches in their efforts to enhance, grow and equip their congregations through camps, retreats, meetings and training events. Caraway facilities accommodate adults, children and youth.

Caraway is centrally located in the state near Asheboro. It

sits on 1,100 beautiful acres in the Uwharrie Mountains. Through Christian hospitality, the Caraway staff will help to facilitate all types of events to have an impact for the kingdom of God.

Caraway also provides summer camping programs for boys and children, grandparents and grandkids, fathers and sons, mothers and sons, and fathers and daughters. Caraway also hosts the Fall Festival of Fellowship for senior adults each year in partnership with the North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM).

Caraway also has operational responsibility for Camp Mundo Vista under contract with Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina (WMU-NC). Mundo Vista is a great resource for N.C. Baptist churches for retreats and training events. In cooperation with WMU-NC, Caraway conducts girls and mother/daughter camp experiences, and also hosts many WMU-NC events.

Caraway is owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and is a vital resource for being a movement of churches on mission together.

*Jimmy Huffman, Director*

### **TRUETT CONFERENCE CENTER & CAMP**

Truett Conference Center & Camp is one of the "best kept secrets" in the beautiful setting of western North Carolina. Located in Hayesville, Truett is owned and operated by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Our campus is adorned in the spring and summer with rhododendrons, azaleas and day lilies, and we enjoy the cool crisp air in the fall and winter for four seasons of God's creative beauty.

The summer is an exciting time when the mountain "comes to life." The air is crisp, clean and filled with the sounds of laughter as campers from all across North Carolina and neighboring states ascend on the property for exciting times of adventure, recreation and worship. With the variety of camps Truett has to offer, children, teens and grandparents flood the mountain each summer in anticipation of what the next adventure is going to be. There is always excitement happening here.

In the fall, winter and spring, adult and teen groups from all around the state and neighboring states will come to revive, refresh and renew as they unplug from the hustle and bustle of our busy world and take time to listen to how God is speaking to them. Each individual is able to find peace and solace in the majesty of what God has created in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Remember, a day, weekend or week at Truett will echo in your heart and mind with experiences and memories that will last a lifetime. Visit our website at [www.truettcamp.org](http://www.truettcamp.org) to see what is happening next. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to seek God's face and the direction for Truett Conference Center and Camp and make improvements to ensure that each person's stay is even more enjoyable than the last.

*Kenny Adcock, Director*

### **FORT CASWELL COASTAL RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

The year 2021 has been a season of renewal for so many, and at Fort Caswell, that is especially apparent. By God's grace, as our guests begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are here to serve. We are blessed to be a place where so many guests can break free from lockdowns, meet with one another, and worship the Lord.

But being ready to serve means being ready to meet every need. For us, that means we must remain committed to maintaining and improving Fort Caswell's facilities. In 2020, we took advantage of downtime to make improvements, and for the first half of 2021 we continued that effort.

With more time to work on projects to improve facilities, it must be acknowledged how important the impact of volunteers has been in completing them. In every area of our campus — from grounds and facility maintenance and beyond — if you know where to look, you'll see the difference made by their hands. In donating their time and labor year after year, these skilled laborers materially impact the reach and longevity of ministry at Fort Caswell. It's a special blessing to see them return year after year, even in the most trying of circumstances, because God uses them to richly bless so many of His people.

As the unprecedented experience of the pandemic fades into the background, these 288 acres, in many ways, face a world that will never be the same. But our Lord Jesus remains the same yesterday, today and forever. And in His service, Fort Caswell remains committed. Here, as we saw in the lives of campers who returned this summer, the light of Jesus Christ shines brightly for all to see. We look forward to hearing new stories from our guests of how impactful their time at Fort Caswell has been. Fort Caswell is truly a fortress in trying times, where people continue to find peace and security in God's love.

*Brian Hemphill, Director*

# CHURCH PLANTING & MISSIONS PARTNERSHIPS



**CHUCK REGISTER**

*Executive Leader*

The Church Planting and Missions Partnerships Group (CPMP) is comprised of five ministry teams. These teams include: Associational Partnerships, designed to relate to the 77 local Baptist associations across North Carolina; Church Planting, partnering with local churches, associations and church planting networks to facilitate church planting across the state; Collegiate

Partnerships, assisting local congregations in the development and implementation of strategies launching a reproducing gospel presence on every North Carolina college campus; the Office of Great Commission Partnerships, focused on helping N.C. Baptists reach unreached and unengaged people groups in North Carolina, North America and around the world; and the Strategic Focus Team, tasked with guiding North Carolina Baptist churches and associations to engage the 250 high density pockets of lostness across the state.

During the year, the CPMP group embraced the challenges of ministry in the midst of the COVID pandemic. New strategies and methodologies were developed as our teams worked to encourage and serve church and associational leaders, assist new church plants with training and coaching, support collegiate leaders as they developed new strategies for collegiate ministry and encourage and support local churches in missional engagement.

### **Selected Ministry Highlights**

- Led multiple pastoral cohorts addressing the subject “How to be the Church in a Post-pandemic World.”
- Worked collaboratively to develop the “Reimagine” website, a resource for churches aimed at post-pandemic ministry in the local church.
- Participated in a major Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC) staff initiative to contact and pray with every pastor of an N.C. Baptist church.
- Launched a new initiative with the Evangelism and Discipleship Group to provide pastoral care for N.C. Baptist pastors through pastoral field visits.
- Welcomed 61 new congregations to the BSCNC family, 68% of which are non-Anglo majority congregations.

- Hosted over 100 conferees in conferences addressing Legacy Churches.

*Chuck Register, Executive Leader of Church Planting and Missions Partnerships*

*Lauren McCall, Executive Leader of Church Planting and Missions Partnership Assistant*

## ASSOCIATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The COVID-19 pandemic radically changed the landscape of church and associational ministry. Associational mission strategists (AMSs) across North Carolina remain positioned on the frontlines and serve a crucial role in the life of our churches. They are a vital, significant and strategic force in the effort to help churches recover following the pandemic, plant new churches and assist in the revitalization and replanting of existing congregations. Associational Partnerships (AP) offers opportunities for encouragement, training and resourcing to help associational mission strategists, staff and teams enter and engage their field with a fresh, intentional and deliberate evangelistic thrust, a disciple-making approach and a strategic missional focus.

### Structural Change, Concentration and Strategy

The structure of AP changed from having one full-time consultant to three part-time consultants in order to better serve the 77 associations across North Carolina with three distinct areas: west, central and east. Lester Evans serves 37 associations in regions 7-10 in the west. Lynn Sasser serves 24 associations in regions 4-6 in the central area. Roy Smith serves 16 associations in regions 1-3 in the east.

Our assignment concentrates on the following three emphases: church health and revitalization, church planting and leadership development.

Our strategy for this assignment includes:

- **Relationships:** Establish, encourage and strengthen relationships and partnerships between AMSs and the BSCNC staff by creating a platform for prayer, facilitating regional and statewide cohorts and offering opportunities for deeper fellowship, communication and collaboration.
- **Leadership Development and Connections:** The theme of the 2021 Associational Missions Conference was “Courageous and Compelling Leadership” with Dr. Jeff Iorg as speaker. Connections were encouraged with the Network of Baptist Associations (NOBA), the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL), North American Mission Board Labs, and the AMS

Conference and Certificate Program established by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for equipping resources and assistance to associations.

- **AP Strategy Resources and Ministry Support:** Activities included: associational search team training and resourcing; strategic partnership requests; MissionInsite; On Mission connections; North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) promotion; associational assessment and strategy review.

Our goal is to work closely with our associations to encourage, resource and produce healthy churches and stronger associations who reach people with the gospel and make disciples.

*Lester Evans, Lynn Sasser and Roy Smith, Associational Partnerships Consultants*

*Lauren McCall, Associational Partnerships Assistant*

## CHURCH PLANTING TEAM (CHURCH PLANTING NC)

The Church Planting NC (CPNC) team exists to catalyze a reproducing church movement in partnership with local North Carolina Baptist churches in cities and towns from the mountains to the coast. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, new church funding was frozen for a number of months, but we still celebrated the addition of 25 new plants and 36 new affiliates from July 2020 through June 2021. During that 12-month timeframe, those churches joined with our existing plants to report: \$89,752.07 in Cooperative Program giving; \$61,676.02 in associational giving; 880 professions of faith; and 144 baptisms. Also, 68% of our new churches from January 2020 to the present are of non-Anglo majority population.

Our consultants and contractors did an excellent job adjusting to the new normal of the pandemic, reconfiguring our events for online participation. Following is a summary of those events.

- Contactor Mark Gray organized the first Legacy Churches Conference in November with a total attendance of 37.
- We held another Coaching MAP training for planter coaches in March with a total of 15 new coaches, bringing the total number of trained volunteer CPNC coaches to 41.
- In May, CPNC hosted the first “Start Here” CPNC orientation since the shutdown. We saw a great turnout of 73 people.
- In June, we hosted “Legacy Churches: Celebrating Adoption and Restart,” with a total attendance of 64.

We look forward to pursuing an exciting future as we become a movement of churches on mission together. As we do so, future goals include:

- Developing a new online tracking and reporting system.
- Continue improving the way that we deliver online training.
- Launching “Sending Churches Cohorts” training churches for residencies.
- Developing new partnerships with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS), Fruitland Baptist Bible College and Liberty University to place more church planting residents in plants across our state.
- Church planter wives coaching.
- Continue working toward a multiplying church movement in North Carolina within the next five years.

*Mike Pittman, Church Planting NC Team Leader*

*Trent Anthony, Church Planting NC Team Leader Assistant*

## **COLLEGIATE PARTNERSHIPS TEAM (NO CAMPUS LEFT)**

The mission of the Collegiate Partnerships team is to empower local churches to make and multiply disciples among college students. Its vision is to see every college student in North Carolina with access to the gospel.

The academic year of 2020-2021 continued to be challenging with many disruptions on college campuses across the state. The team also went through more transition with the resignation of Chelsea Holden and the addition of Ethan Nunn as team leader assistant. Alex Hugo also transitioned from team leader assistant to consultant.

In response to the challenges of COVID, the Collegiate Partnerships team made several shifts to help churches reach students in a chaotic year. First, we continued our podcast series focusing on making strategic shifts to reach students regardless of where they are, and also thinking through a plan to reach students on a shortened time frame in case colleges closed again during the fall of 2020.

We also envisioned and began to use our “College Student Plan” for churches. The first area of emphasis was on high school transitions to college. We accomplished this by creating online cohorts for church staff. Later, as the pandemic abated, we implemented in-person roundtables. This allowed us to coach multiple churches in group settings and also allowed for networking by churches.

The Collegiate Partnerships team also:

- Published “What Now?” a discipleship book for new student believers.

- Published its annual top 20 strategic campuses list.
- Partnered with two churches to help fund new initiatives for reaching students at High Point University and Gardner-Webb University.
- Contributed material for both the “Reimagine” project and the N.C. Baptist Disciple-Making Conference.
- Sponsored seven staff from several churches to attend the College Metro conference as well as assist in organizing the conference.
- Continued to promote our Boston partnership with Kings Hill Church.

The Collegiate Partnerships team is looking forward to the academic year 2021-2022 and is actively working with churches to prepare for the fall semester to reach more campuses. We plan to create and host more roundtables about different aspects of the “College Student Plan” as well as the importance of prayer in reaching campuses.

*Tom Knight, Interim Team Leader*

*Ethan Nunn, Team Leader Assistant*

## **GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERSHIPS**

Great Commission Partnerships exists to mobilize and empower churches to make disciples among unreached people groups and in least-reached places in North Carolina, throughout North America and around the world. We do this through a catalytic focus on multifamily housing, the “Peoples Next Door” initiative, and by helping churches to form partnerships with church planters and missionaries in North America and around the world.

### **Ministry Challenges**

During the year, Great Commission Partnerships faced multiple challenges to our work. First, COVID-19 swept around the world hitting the United States in March of 2020. Due to this global pandemic, many countries closed their borders to U.S. travelers and forced the return of hundreds of our international missionaries due to health and safety concerns. Such actions led the International Mission Board to place a hold on all international short-term mission teams working with our missionaries abroad. Second, in October of 2020, the office said goodbye to Zac Lyons, consultant for Great Commission Partnerships, who provided excellent leadership to the office since 2016. Zac departed to join the pastoral staff of one of our missions-focused N.C. Baptist churches.

## Ministry Progress

During the year, ministry continued to progress among the 165 unreached people groups living in North Carolina. The office employs catalysts to assist N.C. Baptist churches in disciple-making among Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus. North Carolina's multifamily housing population continued as a major focus of our ministry. Currently, estimates place the number of North Carolinians living in multifamily housing spaces at 3.3 million. According to the North American Mission Board, 95% of the residents in the United States living in multifamily housing are unchurched. The office employs three catalysts to assist N.C. Baptist churches in disciple-making among residents of multi-family housing spaces across the state.

## Ministry Opportunities in North Carolina and Beyond

Opportunities for missional engagement abound for North Carolina Baptists. With 5.8 million lost people living in our state, 75 unreached people groups resident in North Carolina yet unengaged with the gospel, and over 3 million unchurched residents living in multifamily housing, the fields in North Carolina are truly "white unto harvest." In addition, globally over 155,000 people slip off into eternity without Christ on a daily basis. In the latter half of 2021, the International Mission Board anticipates global borders to begin to reopen to U.S. travelers. In the face of staggering lostness and as the world begins to reopen from COVID restrictions, the Office of Great Commission Partnerships stands ready to assist N.C. Baptists with developing and implementing missional strategies as we become "a movement of churches on mission together."

*Chuck Register, Interim Team Leader*

*Lauren McCall, Great Commission Partnerships Assistant*

## STRATEGIC FOCUS TEAM

The Strategic Focus Team (SFT) helps churches take a missionary approach to North Carolina's 250 pockets of lostness. The SFT tracks pocket engagement progress through four phases which are defined as follows:

- Awaiting — conducting demographic research.
- Catalyzing — establishing pocket engagement partnerships with churches and associations.
- Engaging — churches are intentionally praying, building relationships and sharing the gospel in pockets.
- Impacting — new disciples are reproducing in pockets.

Strategy coordinators, living in each of the state's major population centers, work in close relationship with

several hundred churches and numerous associations in an effort to establish sustainable, multiplying disciple-making in some of North Carolina's least reached places.

## Significant Accomplishments & Activities

- The COVID-19 pandemic provided unique challenges and opportunities. The SFT took part in planning and leading:
  - "Reaching Others in an Age of Social Distancing" webinar.
  - "Be the Church" cohorts.
  - The "Reimagine" project.
  - Pastor renewal efforts.
- Worked closely with the Church Strengthening Team to introduce and establish revitalization cohorts across the state.
- Worked closely with the Communication Team to update the pockets of lostness map. This map includes new interactive features and updated descriptions.
- Raised awareness of North Carolina's least reached places through our monthly e-newsletter. Circulation grew from 1,200 to 2,600 monthly recipients.
- Worked closely with Great Commission Partnerships (GCP) and the Communications Team to produce the "Pray Together, Go Together" daily prayer guide. For this prayer emphasis, GCP and the SFT distributed several thousand printed guides, sent daily email prompts to 139 individuals and daily text prompts to 357 individuals.
- Held 44 "Pray Together, Go Together" prayer walk events.
- Saw the following pocket engagement progress this year:
  - All pockets have cleared the "awaiting" phase.
  - Pockets in the "catalyzing" phase diminished from 127 to 123.
  - Pockets in the "engaging" phase grew from 71 to 88.
  - Pockets in the "impacting" phase grew from 23 to 39.

## Future Goals & Initiatives

The SFT is excited to help catalyze a movement of churches on mission together in the coming year through the following efforts.

- Expand pocket engagement effort to more churches.
- Increase the number of pockets in the Engaging and Impacting phases
- Help current church partners establish ministry pipelines that equip disciples and develop leaders who will engage pockets.
- Work closely with the Church Planting Team and approved church planting networks to mobilize church planters toward North Carolina's pockets of lostness.

*Cris Alley, Team Leader*

*Kailyn Eskridge, Team Leader Assistant*

# EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP



M. LYNN SASSER  
*Executive Leader*

The central focus of the Evangelism and Discipleship Group is to engage our state convention's strategy of "impacting lostness through disciple-making." We work toward that end as we help strengthen and revitalize churches by assisting them in developing a "disciple-making culture" that results in lives that are transformed by the power of God.

The previous year with the COVID pandemic brought considerable challenges for our staff as we sought to resource and encourage our churches and church leaders. However, with those challenges came considerable opportunities to come alongside many N.C. Baptist churches to assist them.

The "Reimagine" project was conceived, designed and delivered to help N.C. Baptists apply New Testament principles to present-day modes of church practice. It was timely because many of the "normal" church practices were deemed impossible during the pandemic, thus creating an opportunity for many churches to reimagine their future and rediscover their biblical mission. The emphasis was to never surrender the core teachings found in the biblical theology of the church, rather to learn how to innovate church practices in order to uphold what is timeless in a timely way. Resources for reimagining many ministries can be found at [reimaginenc.org](http://reimaginenc.org).

Our staff is organized into two teams, the Disciple-Making Team and the Church Health and Revitalization Team. Their stories follow.

*M. Lynn Sasser, Executive Leader*  
*Patti Cardwell, Executive Leader Assistant*

## DISCIPLE-MAKING TEAM

Disciple-making encompasses both evangelism and discipleship through a proclamation of the gospel in a way others can understand and turn from their sin and place their faith in Jesus. It is a journey of becoming more like Jesus and helping others do the same both in and outside of the church context. The Disciple-Making Team assists churches in fulfilling this Great Commission in their local ministry context.

“Pivot” and “virtual” became two words that changed the dynamics of the Disciple-Making Team in 2020-2021. Our flagship event, the Disciple-Making Conference, became a hybrid event held both in-person at Friendly Avenue Baptist Church in Greensboro on Feb. 23, 2021, with an option for virtual viewing. The theme was “Reimagine,” and there were 329 people who attended in person, representing 163 churches. Vance Pitman, senior pastor of Hope Church in Las Vegas, Nevada, Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Will Mancini, founder of the Future Church Co., were the keynote speakers. Virtual breakouts from experienced leaders were available online the following day.

*Brian S. Upshaw, Team Leader*

*Austin Pulliam, Team Leader Assistant*

## ADULT EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP (DISCIPLENC)

Adult Evangelism and Discipleship seeks to help every believer enjoy Jesus and lead others into fellowship with Him. COVID-19 forced us to rethink our entire strategy to help establish catalytic disciple-makers that could function as epicenters of training and encouragement across the state. We took three churches into a cohort-style “collective” that combined content, strategy, process, group learning and pointed coaching to help them curate new rhythms of engagement while reimagining what a disciple-making strategy is for their respective churches.

The goal after the collective is over is that each church would have both a comprehensive disciple-making strategy built around the core missionary task and a champion within their church to help spearhead the efforts. To scale, those champions are then invited onto our coaching team to apprentice the next series of collectives so that they will be able to coach other churches to do the same as they continue to practice and grow into their own work. So far, each church has reported different “wins” that we are recording to

help us optimize what we are building for the future collectives. It’s been such a refreshing, challenging and encouraging environment.

*Josh Reed, Senior Consultant*

## CHILDHOOD EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP, VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL & BIBLE DRILL

Childhood Ministry seeks to equip churches for excellence in ministry and to help families embrace their God-given role as disciple-makers at home with children from birth through fifth grade. Following are highlighted areas of the Childhood Ministry this year.

- Virtual Leadership Development was a key ministry initiative for Childhood Ministry in 2020-2021. On March 20, 2021, 175 people participated virtually in the “TELL” Conference, a children’s ministry training conference that focused on the areas of teach, equip, love and lead. Baptist state convention contract consultant Beth Whitman led “Make It Matter” Vacation Bible School (VBS) training on April 20, 2021 with 65 participants. Both trainings are available on our Childhood Ministry Vimeo channel. VBS Snapshots provided weekly VBS training videos during spring 2021. Children’s Ministry Connections offered the chance for children’s ministry leaders to connect by Zoom to discuss topics relevant to children’s ministry during COVID-19.
- Foundations of Children’s Ministry online ministry classes trained and equipped 18 new children’s ministry leaders this year in the areas of evangelism, safety and security, discipline, family ministry, vision, mission and more. The goal of Foundations of Children’s Ministry is to help new children’s ministry leaders gain skills and knowledge to lead children’s ministry well from the start of their ministry career.
- Bible Drill, led by Baptist state convention consultant Deborah Robson, was challenged greatly this year due to COVID-19 safety protocols. Regional and state drill competitions were held in-person for youth, high school and speakers only.

*Cheryl Markland, Senior Consultant*

*Janet Packard, Ministry Assistant*

## CHURCH WEEKDAY EDUCATION

The Church Weekday Education (CWE) ministry helps create opportunities for building relationships and sharing the gospel with families through a child care ministry.

The past year was difficult for many CWE ministries due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many directors faced temporary closures, reduced numbers of children and staff shortages, as well as financial difficulties. The CWE office of the Baptist state convention continually provided updates to directors and staff on safety and sanitation protocols, government financial assistance, resources and supplies, and on the pandemic itself. Most meaningful to many directors were the “Weekday Conversations.” This online cohort met monthly to discuss questions, share ideas and challenges, and receive support and encouragement while dealing with stress, exhaustion and the unknown. Several presentations involved specialists in the areas of social media, self-care, and financial resources and information. These informal gatherings hosted up to 25 directors from various CWE ministries across the state.

The 2020 CWE annual training conference was canceled due to COVID-19, but an in-person training was planned for Aug. 6, 2021, for directors, with additional virtual trainings to be offered for teaching staff. As many churches begin to explore the possibility of offering a CWE ministry, it is important for those churches with an existing ministry to offer support and encouragement to those who have continued to face the challenges of the past year.

*Mary Sweat, Consultant*  
*Janet Packard, Ministry Assistant*

### **EMBRACE AND WOMEN’S EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP**

Embrace women’s ministry seeks to encourage women to walk humbly with Christ and build strong families capable of creating a legacy of faithfulness. In June 2020, Embrace offered an online class, “How to Study Your Bible,” to provide women with the tools of inductive Bible study, including observation, interpretation and application. In October 2020 and February 2021, we offered “Engaging Women with the Gospel” as four one-hour sessions on Zoom. Embrace was one of 25 state convention women’s ministries that hosted “OneDay,OneFocus” on Oct. 29, 2020. Other notable events included:

- **Embrace Roundtables:** On March 13, 2021, Embrace hosted four virtual women’s ministry roundtables led by women’s ministry leaders from N.C. Baptist churches. Participants who joined the roundtables were led in discussions centered around post-pandemic women’s ministry, including evaluation of their women’s ministries’ strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats as related to impacting lostness through disciple-making.

- **Embrace Women’s Retreats:** The in-person 2020 women’s fall retreat was changed to a three-hour virtual retreat, “In the Secret: At Home Together,” hosted online on Oct. 24, 2020. The in-person retreat was rescheduled until March 26-27, 2021, but it too was changed to a virtual retreat, which was held March 27, 2021 with 143 online registrations. Both retreats were based on Jesus’ words to His disciples in Matthew 6:6, “But you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door and pray to your Father who is in secret and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”

*Ashley Allen, Senior Consultant*

### **FAMILY EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP (FAITH AT HOME)**

The Faith at Home ministry helps equip busy families to be confident disciple-makers in their homes. A highlight of this year’s ministry was the creation of the Faith at Home NC webinar series. The first webinar was a conversation with Daniel Dye, lead pastor of Peninsula Baptist Church in Mooresville, about how churches can create and use a milestone ministry for family ministry. Dye has graciously allowed Faith at Home NC to offer churches their “Milestone” digital resource. The second webinar featured Jason Gaston, a pastor at Biltmore Church in Asheville, and Ron Hunter, CEO of D6 Family Ministry, giving practical ideas that help N.C. Baptists take the next steps in implementing and growing family ministries in their churches. The third webinar featured Merrie Johnson, senior consultant for youth evangelism and discipleship with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, and Tom Howe, founder Unleashed by Design, introducing the new ministry resource, “Parenting Based on Strengths.”

*Mark Smith, Senior Consultant*  
*Janet Packard, Ministry Assistant*

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUPS**

The Sunday School ministry helps churches create a disciple-making culture in their congregations through Bible study groups that typically meet together on Sunday mornings at a church facility. Because of COVID-19, many Sunday School classes and small groups moved to online meetings or not meeting at all. In order to equip our associations and churches, we led Sunday School associational and church conferences and workshops by utilizing online platforms. We partnered with Lifeway to connect our churches to digital curriculum for learners

and teachers. Online personal consultation became the new normal. Sunday School and small groups could be summed up in one word... Zoom.

*Rick Hughes, Senior Consultant*

## **YOUTH EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP (BEDOTELL)**

Youth Evangelism and Discipleship, also known as BeDoTell, desires to see young people grow to radically commit their lives to Christ. Our purpose is to make disciples of youth who make disciples of others. Some significant accomplishments and activities were:

- **Summer Youth Camp:** COVID-19 forced a rapid pivot from in-person camp at Fort Caswell for the summer of 2020 to the creation of a virtual camp experience that churches could purchase and offer their youth at a site of their own choosing. There were 102 churches that purchased a license to offer “The Pause: Learning to Seek God” camp curriculum. Some churches chose to come on their own to Fort Caswell, and others offered camp at their own churches.
- **Fall Retreat:** The 2020 fall retreat “Fearless” was held Nov. 13-15, 2020, at Fort Caswell. It brought 544 participants representing 27 churches. There were 15 dedications to the faith and 24 rededications.
- **Youth Ministry Leaders Network:** Another new initiative was started to create local networks of youth ministry leaders. The initial network meetings were held in Jacksonville and Raleigh with the hope that leaders will collaborate to create regional ministry opportunities and offer support and encouragement to fellow leaders.

*Merrie Johnson, Senior Consultant*  
*Katie Pegram, Ministry Assistant*

## **CHURCH HEALTH & REVITALIZATION TEAM**

The Church Health and Revitalization Team seeks to strengthen and revitalize churches through meeting the needs of pastors and addressing church systems. This is done through pastoral ministries, leadership, music and worship, church revitalization, and Hispanic, Asian and African American ministries. Following are two significant initiatives in 2020-2021.

- The Leading Well Pastors’ Cohort provided an online community to offer support, equipping and encouragement for pastors to lead well during the

COVID-19 crisis. These monthly online meetings saw as many as 40 participants in each session. Guest speakers included Thom Rainer, Gary Mayes, Brian Upshaw, Eddie Thompson and Lynn Sasser. Each of these speakers covered applicable topics such as how to manage change, how to lead through conflict and how to lead joyfully during a pandemic.

- The Pastoral Renewal project was launched by the Church Health and Revitalization Team. This project came out of a desire to minister to pastors who are feeling discouraged or burned out. The *ncbaptist.org/pastoral-renewal* webpage was developed for pastors and church leaders to request pulpit supply, sabbatical assistance and locate retreat centers that offer discounts to pastors. We have connected with over 50 churches and leaders so far to see how we might assist them in caring for their pastors.

The Church Health and Revitalization Team will continue to strengthen and revitalize churches by caring for pastors and providing resources that will equip churches to renew their mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

*Sandy Marks, Team Leader*  
*Hannah Nelson, Team Leader Assistant*

## **AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRY**

The African American Ministry walks alongside churches, pastors, ministers and their families, providing a safe space and a listening ear. Our objective is to commit to helping congregations align their vision, mission, values and strategies toward the goal of creating a disciple-making culture.

During 2020-2021 we strived to reach and minister to the pastors and their churches and provide training during the pandemic. By doing this, the African American Ministry produced 162 episodes with over 2,294 downloads. We also produced Pastor’s Symposium and town hall meetings to help keep pastors motivated and provide the necessary support in the midst of the difficult challenges they faced during the pandemic. We partnered with Woman’s Missionary Union’s Sisters Who Care, giving them a platform to spread the gospel. The African American Ministry has also reached people overseas, such as France, Colombia, Japan, India, Nigeria and Brazil.

Our future goals and initiatives include:

Providing small group leadership training for the pastor and their leaders. Small group leadership training is designed to train 15-20 key leaders of the church to

equip, motivate and empower them to become active in their church and community outreach.

Hosting a small group pastors and wives retreat to offer pastors and their spouses a time of exhortation, encouragement and empowerment.

Providing pastor's Collective IQ gatherings. A collective IQ of fellow pastors serving together to open the mysteries of God and discover solutions to their ministry issues while at the same time supporting and encouraging each other.

*Jae Richardson, Contract Consultant*

### **ASIAN MINISTRIES**

Asian Ministries' strategy is to advance the gospel proclamation in local churches, build disciple-making strategies, connect immigrants and their descendants for the purpose of the Great Commission and develop a leadership pipeline.

Amid the pandemic, God has raised up leaders online. On Sept. 12, 2020, more than 42 Burmese leaders from North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Georgia gathered through Zoom for two hours of training. Pastor K Naw Baw (Burmese coordinator) led the Bible study. Pray the Lord will continue to raise up Burmese leaders to reach Burmese communities for Christ.

Pastor Tamran Inayat (Pakistani/Urdu coordinator) has been faithfully ministering to Urdu speaking people all around the world in more than 38 countries with the gospel of Christ Jesus. He broadcasts through Facebook every week proclaiming the gospel and hundreds of people have accepted Christ and been baptized.

On May 29, 2021, a Burmese family conference was held at Green Street Baptist Church in High Point. Pastor Baw facilitated the event, and Sammy Joo served as the main speaker. A total of 101 people, including children, participated in the event.

Since 2020, the "21st Century (21c) Moses" YouTube channel has had more than 450 videos posted, more than 300 subscribers and more than 24,000 views. The channel's goal is to provide daily Bible memorization, exposition and application to its viewers when studying God's Word.

The Asian Ministry plans to provide helpful resources to train the next generation of Asian Americans through

spiritual discipline such as Bible reading, Scripture memory and prayer.

*Sammy Joo, Senior Consultant*  
*Hannah Deaton, Ministry Assistant*

### **CHURCH REVITALIZATION**

Church Revitalization partners with local churches in their pursuit to make disciples who make disciples by aiding in prayer, coaching, consulting and resourcing. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, this has been a year of excellent growth for the ministry of church revitalization. We increased our existing cohorts from 10 to 20 different cohorts of pastors that meet across the state. We have seven coaches that work alongside the senior consultant to lead and engage revitalization pastors and churches across the state. Following are two highlighted areas of ministry this year.

- **Revitalization Leadership Intensives:** In the spring of 2021, we developed and launched six one-day intensives to provide churches and associations with tools for the next year to launch a revitalization cohort for church engagement. The purpose of these events is to multiply revitalization through the timely equipping of associational mission strategists, pastors and key church leadership in specific revitalization and missionary tasks. We held six different events which engaged 80 churches and 150 church leaders.
- **Replenish Retreat:** The Replenish Retreat brought 35 pastors and their families to Fort Caswell from May 3-5, 2021. The retreat was designed to help pastors replenish their marriage, their ministry and their mission. The retreat was such a success that plans were made for another event in the fall of 2021.

The Church Revitalization ministry team will continue to work toward helping pastors and churches grow in their spiritual health in 2021 and beyond.

*Terry Long, Senior Consultant*  
*Hannah Nelson, Team Leader Assistant*

### **COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CHAPLAINCY**

Chaplaincy's goal is to help more N.C. Baptists recognize the opportunities before us and prepare to enter this harvest field that lies at our doorstep.

In 2019, emergency chaplaincy helped develop a basic chaplaincy training program to prepare chaplains to

serve anywhere in the community. It has been well received by N.C. Baptists, and enrollment numbers continue to increase.

In 2020, emergency chaplains established a certification program for public safety chaplains that they now offer across the state. We are working to promote both the training and the certification program to N.C. Baptists and are helping connect those chaplains to a local law enforcement agency, fire department or EMS agency where they can serve.

In addition to this, we expect to assist Emergency Chaplains in the establishment of crisis response ministries to serve three additional counties over the next year. There are also plans to add more advanced training courses to train jail, healthcare and disaster chaplains in the near future.

*Ralph Thompson, Contract Consultant*

## **HISPANIC MINISTRIES**

Hispanic Ministries seeks to reach the Hispanic population of North Carolina. We have developed a contextualized process for disciple-making and leadership development as we continue to engage Hispanic pastors across the state. During the year, we organized two major conferences: one on disciple-making in the Hispanic context and another on pastors' spiritual and physical health. The pandemic's effect on churches made these topics particularly relevant. Furthermore, we are hosting events in different regions so more pastors can attend since Hispanic churches are spread across the state and many pastors are bivocational. A large number of pastors attended both events. Hispanic leaders across the state continue to receive training, thanks to strategic partnerships and to new or strengthened relationships with some of our denominational institutions, such as the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and Fruitland Baptist Bible College.

*Amaury Santos, Senior Consultant*  
*Maria Luoni, Ministry Assistant*

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The Leadership Development ministry provides consulting and resourcing for congregations and associations. This includes the creation and delivery of materials, training and processes for the purpose of strengthening and revitalizing churches through leaders who make and multiply disciples. The materials cover the four leadership components of making disciples: character, capacity,

context and competence. Following are highlights of two significant leadership development activities.

- **Online Trainings:** We conducted Zoom online trainings in August and October of 2020 on "Cultural Mastery," in February 2021 on "Lead Like Jesus," and in April 2021 on "The Emotionally Healthy Leader." Many leaders were able to use what they learned to connect with all kinds of people and cultures at a deeper level and develop relationships that have opened the doors for them to share the gospel and do ministries together.
- **Revitalization Leadership Intensives:** We collaborated with the Church Revitalization team by participating in their Revitalization Leadership Intensives. Many associations across the state were exposed to "The Emotionally Healthy Leader" material as part of the revitalization process.

Our goal is to provide timely, affordable and reproducible leadership training resources that will help strengthen and revitalize churches that will be on mission to reach and disciple people to Christ and see lives and communities transformed.

*Kenneth Tan, Senior Consultant*  
*Maria Luoni, Ministry Assistant*

## **MILITARY CHAPLAINCY**

North Carolina boasts one of the largest U.S. military populations; therefore, the Military Chaplaincy Ministry works with churches and associations to identify, train and mentor leaders who are called to minister to military communities in their own neighborhoods. We serve as liaisons to our active/reserve/guard military chaplains in North Carolina.

Military Chaplaincy Ministry received an increase in requests for marketplace military/veteran helping programs. To fill the need, we coordinated with services and programs such as Eaglerock Camp for Military Families, YMCA Camp Harrison, NCNG Yellow Ribbon program, Tarheel Leadership Network, Purple Heart Homes, WP313 Workplace Discipleship Network, Army Strong Bonds events, Charlotte Christian College and Seminary, Duke Hospital Chaplaincy program, and REACHVA.

Military Chaplaincy Ministry has had an increase in requests for prayer and discipleship resources. As a result of isolation and lack of resources, we fielded issues and concerns such as housing, medical care, career, entrepreneurship, marriage and parenting, and

provided counseling and resourcing via luncheons, Zoom conferences, phone calls and emails, assisted by the American Bible Society, NCSG State Chaplain's Office, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, veteran church planters and pastors across the state, and many military and veteran organizations. Training included Ridgecrest Chaplain's Conference, FranklinCovey, K-Love Crisis Intervention and Livingworks ASIST (suicide intervention training), which enhanced our ministry reach.

Our future goals and initiatives include networking with N.C. Baptist chaplains and churches, maintaining professional relationships with military organizations and providing a presence and support for military chaplains conducting ministry within our state.

*Chaplain (MAJ) Thomas Watson, Contract Consultant*

### **PASTORAL MINISTRIES**

The Pastoral Ministries office exists to provide a variety of assistance to pastors and churches. Coaching, counseling, conflict resolution, professional ministry consultations and other resources are available. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our 2020 training events and consultations with churches took place on Zoom. Following are resources available to pastors.

- The Ministry Match system is an online tool that aids churches in filling open ministerial positions. The system is used by both churches and ministers. Both parties complete a detailed profile, and the system refers candidates to churches based on their common needs. Currently, we have 3,399 ministers and 1,492 congregations in our matching system. The system can be accessed at [ministrymatchnc.org](http://ministrymatchnc.org).
- The Interim Pastor Institute is designed to equip interim pastors to work with churches in times of transition between pastors. This involves 40 hours of live interactive training held at various times throughout the year. During 2020, we completed one live training. To date, we have trained and certified over 75 interim pastors.
- New Minister Orientation is an annual, one-day event held at the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina offices in Cary. The goal is to introduce newer pastors to the state convention and highlight the resources that are available to them as they begin their journey.

*Eddie Thompson, Senior Consultant*  
*Hannah Nelson, Team Leader Assistant*

### **SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

Special Ministries exists to provide training and resources to equip N.C. churches minister to individuals and families with special needs. We assist churches in four areas of special needs: Blind Ministries, Deaf Ministries, Developmental Disabilities and Literacy Missions. Following are two notable ministry efforts during COVID-19:

- An English as a second language (ESL) virtual workshop was held via Zoom in August 2020, led by contract consultant Jeanette Walters. This workshop covered the mission and purpose of ESL, how to organize the ministry in and through your church, lesson planning, advertising for students, sharing your faith and drills on how to teach second language students from beginner to intermediate levels.
- While the Deaf Ministry was not able to hold its regular conference this spring due to COVID-19, contract consultant Bo Sherrill organized a virtual interpreter training program through Zoom on May 21-22, 2021. Sixteen people registered to attend the online training with guest teacher Mary High. Participants earned 0.5 credit of CEU for attending this workshop. This new format proved to be an effective and successful way to train our deaf interpreters across the state.

*Sandy Marks, Team Leader*  
*Hannah Nelson, Team Leader Assistant*

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

The Worship and Music Ministry of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, also known as Renewing Worship, seeks to help churches and their leaders revitalize their times of worship as they create environments seeking transformation and discipleship. We provide in-person and online training, numerous resources, including weekly blog posts, consultations and large-scale music experiences across the state.

The past year has been an exciting year of continually discovering the changing needs of the churches and delivering multiple webinars, online worship leader fellowships, blog posts, consultations and other resources to help our churches respond well to the new needs to minister, disciple and evangelize in different ways from the past. We coordinated a multistate effort to launch an international virtual worship conference that was attended by nearly 1,600 people with over 70 breakout classes and speakers from around the world. We also offered an online national children's choir leadership

conference. In conjunction with Fruitland Baptist Bible College, we offered a Worship Leader Boot Camp online course that provided college credit and a certificate.

In the future, we plan to launch Worship Leader Roundtables with regional events pulling together worship leaders and senior pastors for fellowship, encouragement and resourcing. The Worship Leader Boot Camp, attended by thousands in the past years, will be updated and offered in various places across the state in several formats. As the convention moves forward with new initiatives, we will flex to find the best ways to assist our churches in reaching this world for Christ.

*Kenny Lamm, Senior Consultant*

*Sherry Thompson, Ministry Assistant*

# CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Convention committees exist to fulfill very specific functions on behalf of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. There are four convention committees. They are: the Committee on Nominations; the Committee on Convention Meetings; the Committee on Resolutions and Memorials; and the Historical Committee.

The Committee on Nominations recommends to the messengers of the convention's annual meeting individuals to serve on three of the committees. However, the Board of Directors elects individuals to serve on the Committee on Nominations. In addition, special committees may be appointed to evaluate and recommend action on various issues within North Carolina Baptist life.

The Committee on Nominations is comprised of individuals nominated by the convention's president and vice presidents for election by the board of directors. The board of directors approves these recommendations in January each year. Members of the Committee on Nominations serve until their successors are elected.

The remaining convention committees are nominated by the Committee on Nominations and elected by the messengers during the annual meeting of the convention. These committees are:

- Committee on Convention Meetings.
- Committee on Resolutions and Memorials.
- Historical Committee.

The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina seeks recommendations from North Carolina Baptists for persons to serve on the convention committees. The convention desires diversity among the recommendations that will represent churches of various sizes and types, various professional and educational backgrounds, ethnic and racial diversity, gender, geographical areas, different age groups, and both lay persons and ministers. To recommend an individual to a place of service, visit [ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://ncbaptist.org/recommend).

The convention's bylaws state that "all Convention committees shall report either by oral report or written report at the annual meeting of the Convention." Those committees reporting orally are listed in the Annual Meeting program and the written reports follow. Messengers will vote during the Annual Meeting on the Committee on Nominations' slate of nominees as presented in its written report.

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations is charged with the task of reviewing the numerous recommendations provided by North Carolina Baptists for service on the board of directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), the committees of the convention and the boards of the related entities (North Carolina Baptist Foundation, Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, the *Biblical Recorder* and North Carolina Baptist Hospital).

We begin our work with the recommendations sent by N.C. Baptists and those provided by our respective entity heads. We carefully consider whether each candidate meets the qualifications for service as outlined by the convention bylaws. When exhausted, or in the event too few recommendations have been received for a specific place of service, the committee seeks to find candidates who meet the same requirements. Each name is prayerfully discussed and voted on in committee meetings. We then bring the approved names to the floor of the annual meeting for election by the convention.

The full report from the Committee on Nominations can be found on the BSCNC's annual meeting website ([ncannualmeeting.org](http://ncannualmeeting.org)), in the October 2021 edition of the *Biblical Recorder*, on the *Biblical Recorder* website ([BRnow.org](http://BRnow.org)) and in the BSCNC Book of Reports.

It has been an interesting two years for the members of the Committee on Nominations. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic derailed all but two of our scheduled in-person meetings. Like many of the rest of you, we became all too acquainted with virtual meetings via the online meeting platform Zoom.

In God's providence, we were able to resume our in-person meetings in 2021, but were faced with an additional challenge: Half of the committee consisted of first-year members. Nevertheless, they rose to the occasion. N.C. Baptists have good reason to be proud of the 2021 Committee on Nominations, as well as the names to be presented for election.

It is not too early for N.C. Baptists to begin thinking about whom they will nominate to positions of leadership in 2022. N.C. Baptist churches are diverse in terms of both gender and ethnicity. Please think and pray about the recommendations you will make from large churches, small churches, rural churches, urban churches, new churches, historic churches, men and women, young and old, and potential leaders from across all cultural and ethnic groups. You may submit your recommendations online at [ncbaptist.org/recommend](http://ncbaptist.org/recommend) or through the N.C. Baptist mobile app.

N.C. Baptists, we need you! Simply nominating someone to a position of leadership is itself an important act of leadership. Your input is essential to the ongoing effectiveness of the missions and ministries of the BSCNC as we seek to be a movement of churches on mission together.

*Dustin Mace, Chair*

## 2021 Committee on Nominations Members

Dustin Mace, Vale, Chair  
Karin Blanchard, Hickory  
Betsy Bolick, Boone  
Joey Canady, Hampstead  
Kris Estep, Waynesville  
Amy Harrison, Mebane  
Dave Heller, Whiteville  
Donald Hollifield, Mill Spring  
Nicholas King, Ellenboro  
Heath Lloyd, Reidsville  
Matt Miles, Conway  
Heather Morris, Mint Hill  
Brent Snyder, Newland  
Dennis Thurman, Candler  
Patrick Warutere, Raleigh  
Jesse Watkins, Midland

The Committee on Nominations report follows the BSCNC's bylaws directive to "nominate persons for election by the Convention to the committees listed in Article I.C.1 (b) – (d) of these Bylaws, such other committees as may be assigned to it, the chair of such Convention committees, the Board, the members of the boards of trustees and directors to be elected by the Convention of the Related Entities, and such other nominations as may be delegated to the committee by the Convention."

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

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

### Region I

- William "Tom" Collins, 2022-2025, Conway (U), Conway, West Chowan Association, Lay Person, Male

## Region 2

- No vacancies

## Region 3

- Kevin Davis, 2022-2025, Antioch (O), Lumberton, Robeson Association, Minister, Male
- Danny Justice, 2024 unfilled term, Burgaw (U), Hampstead, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, Minister, Male
- Jacob Lewis, 2022-2025, Haw Bluff (U), Bladenboro, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, Minister, Male
- Matthew Tarpley, 2022-2025, Lake Waccamaw First (O), Lake Waccamaw, Columbus Association, Minister, Male
- Rebecca Wroten, 2022-2025, Mount Pisgah (U), Supply, Brunswick Association, Lay Person, Female

## Region 4

- Zeb Cook, 2022-2025, Apex (O), Apex, Raleigh Association, Minister, Male
- Virgil Dwyer Jr., 2022-2025, Ives Memorial (U), Raeford, Sandhills Association, Minister, Male
- Zach Nelson, 2022-2025, Open Door (O), Wake Forest, Raleigh Association, Lay Person, Male
- Andrew Ivester, 2022 unexpired term of Matthew Hirt, Faith (U), Durham, Yates Association, Minister, Male

## Region 5

- Clint Darst, 2022-2025, King's Cross (U), Greensboro, Piedmont Association, Minister, Male
- Iain MacSween, 2022-2025, Friendly Avenue (O), Greensboro, Piedmont Association, Lay Person, Male

## Region 6

- No vacancies

## Region 7

- Jerry Durmire, 2022-2025, Sulphur Springs (O), Hiddenite, Alexander Association, Lay Person, Male
- Kenny Pardue, 2022-2025, Union (O), Hamptonville, Brier Creek Association, Minister, Male

## Region 8

- Lon Chenowith, 2022 unexpired term of Shanon Brower, Liberty (U), Forest City, Sandy Run Association, Minister, Male
- Janet Demeny, 2022-2025, Peninsula (O), Mooresville, South Yadkin Association, Lay Person, Female
- Greg Dry, 2022-2025, Cornerstone (U), Maiden, South Fork Association, Minister, Male
- Chris Fox, 2022-2025, Bethany (O), Forest City, Sandy Run Association, Minister, Male

## Region 9

- Josh Evans, 2022 unexpired term of Jason Miller, Crabtree (U), Waynesville, Haywood Association, Minister, Male

## Region 10

- John Bailey, 2022-2025, Marble Springs (O), Murphy, Truett Association, Minister, Male
- Sergio Barranco, 2022-2025, Highlands First (U), Cullowhee, Macon Association, Minister, Male

## Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

- W. Kenneth "Kent" Fann, 2022-2025, Freedom (U), Salemburg, New South River Association, Lay Person, Male
- Kenneth Haigler, 2022-2025, Wrightsboro (O), Wilmington, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, Lay Person, Male
- Jerry Jordan, 2022-2025, Lakeview (U), Albemarle, Stanly Association, Lay Person, Male
- Justin M. Lee, 2022-2025, The Vine Fellowship (U), Clinton, Eastern Association, Lay Person, Male
- Mike Leslie, 2022-2025, Ninevah (O), Waynesville, Haywood Association, Minister, Male
- Joann Lutz, 2022-2025, Boiling Springs (O), Boiling Springs, Greater Cleveland Association, Lay Person, Female
- David Powell, 2022-2025, Salem (O), Elkin, Surry Association, Minister, Male
- David B. Smith, 2022-2025, Lenoir First (O), Granite Falls, Caldwell Association, Minister, Male
- Ryan Thomsen, 2022-2025, Providence (O), Raleigh, Raleigh Association, Lay Person, Male

## Biblical Recorder

- Karen Kershner, 2022-2025, Holly Springs (O), Sanford, Little River Association, Lay Person, Female
- John McIntyre, 2022-2025, Wrightsville Beach (U), Wilmington, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, Minister, Male
- Jonas Perez, 2024 unexpired term of Matthew Jacobs, Faith (U), Salisbury, Rowan Association, Minister, Male
- Marc Reynolds, 2022-2025, Little River (U), Hendersonville, Transylvania Association, Minister, Male
- Mike Stamper, 2022-2025, Arlington (U), Rocky Mount, North Roanoke Association, Minister, Male
- Marti Tidwell, 2022-2025, Charlotte First (O), Concord, Metrolina Association, Lay Person, Female

## North Carolina Baptist Foundation

- Bruce E. Cannon, 2022-2025, Bear Creek (O), Bakersville, Mitchell Association, Minister, Male

- Michael C. Cummings, 2022-2025, Charlotte First (O), Charlotte, Metrolina Association, Minister, Male
- Robert D. Howard, 2022-2025, Southport (O), Southport, Brunswick Association, Lay Person, Male
- Melanie Wallace, 2022-2025, Hephzibah (O), Wendell, Raleigh Association, Lay Person, Female
- Glen Warren, 2022-2025, Clement (O), Hurdle Mills, Beulah Association, Minister, Male

#### **North Carolina Baptist Hospital**

- Stephen Robertson, 2022-2025, Calvary (O), Winston-Salem, Pilot Mountain Association, Lay Person, Male

#### **Committee on Convention Meetings**

- George “Caleb” Batts, 2022-2024, Hampstead (O), Hampstead, Cape Fear Network of Baptist Churches, Minister, Male
- Daniel Long, 2022-2024, King First (O), Pilot Mountain, Pilot Mountain Association, Minister, Male
- Matt Love, 2022-2024, Euto (O), Marshville, Union Association, Lay Person, Male
- Bob Lowman, 2022-2024, Idlewild (O), Charlotte, Metrolina Association, Minister, Male
- Peter McDonald, 2022-2024, Midway (U), Columbus, Polk Association, Minister, Male
- Lor Xiong, 2022-2024, Icard First (U), Connelly Springs, Catawba Valley Association, Minister, Male
- David Richardson, 2022 Chair, Peace’s Chapel (U), Stem, Flat River Association, Minister, Male

#### **Committee on Resolutions and Memorials**

- Julius Muchangi, 2022-2024, North Raleigh International (U), Raleigh, North Carolina Miscellaneous, Minister, Male
- Jean Munyambabazi, 2022-2024, United Awakening (U), High Point, Piedmont Association, Minister, Male
- Jeff Salisbury, 2022-2024, Bay Leaf (O), Raleigh, Raleigh Association, Minister, Male
- Lance Cole, 2022 Chair, Ruffin Stacey (U), Reidsville, Dan Valley Association, Minister, Male

#### **Historical Committee**

- Brent Aucoin, 2022-2024, Durham First (O), Wake Forest, North Carolina Miscellaneous, Lay Person, Male
- Charles Haley, 2022-2024, Hickory Rock (U), Louisburg, Tar River Association, Minister, Male
- Paul Sanchez, 2022-2024, Starnes Cove (O), Candler, Buncombe Association, Minister, Male
- Bob Tatum, 2022-2024, Minneapolis (U), Minneapolis, Avery Association, Lay Person, Male
- Mark Thompson, 2022 unexpired term of Ryan Bliss, Centerview (O), Hubert, New River Association, Minister, Male

- Chivous Bradley, 2022 Chair, Pleasant Hill (U), Rutherfordton, Green River Association, Lay Person, Male

#### **COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS AND MEMORIALS**

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials has the responsibility of reviewing all properly submitted resolutions and presenting those resolutions to messengers for consideration at each year’s annual meeting. The committee also has the responsibility of preparing a report memorializing ministers and lay leaders who have died in the precious year and recommending names of individuals to whom the “Annual of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina” will be dedicated.

#### **Resolutions**

A resolution has traditionally been defined as an expression of sentiment or concern, as compared to a motion, which calls for action. A resolution is not used to direct a specific action other than to communicate the sentiment or concern that is being expressed.

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials received a single resolution for consideration for the 2021 annual meeting. The resolution was submitted by David R. Oyster. The committee is pleased to present the following resolution to the messengers for consideration at the 2021 annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

#### **“Resolution on Prayer and Spiritual Awakening”**

WHEREAS, our American society has been drawing further away from God and the gospel of Jesus Christ for several decades; and

WHEREAS, the many societal evils that we see continuing to worsen are the direct result of this drawing away from God; and

WHEREAS, a nation-wide spiritual awakening to the gospel of Jesus Christ is gravely needed for the continuation of our Christian heritage in America; and

WHEREAS, our churches share a significant responsibility for this societal drawing away from God through our general prayerlessness, and the failure to practice evangelism and true discipling; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of churches in the United States, including N.C. Baptist churches, need revival, renewal and revitalization; and

WHEREAS, the Bible clearly teaches the necessity of

repentance on the part of God's people for God to send a spiritual awakening; and,

WHEREAS, the Bible also teaches the necessity of God's people to pray and seek God and His kingdom first; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina in annual meeting on November 8-9, 2021, strongly encourage the pastors of N.C. Baptist churches to teach and lead their congregations to pray fervently in every worship service for a nation-wide spiritual awakening to the gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that N.C. Baptist pastors be challenged to teach and encourage the members of their churches to pray daily for a nation-wide spiritual awakening to the Gospel and to practice repentance, confession, and surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, thereby receiving forgiveness and cleansing from sin, resulting in renewed commitments to obedience by the empowering of the Holy Spirit; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that this earnest prayer effort continue until God sends a nation-wide spiritual awakening to the gospel of Jesus Christ and throughout that spiritual awakening.

### **Memorials and Dedication**

The Committee on Resolutions and Memorials met on July 13, 2021 to consider those names of the men and women who had faithfully served North Carolina Baptists over the years and had received their eternal rewards during the time period of July 2020 through June 2021. In appreciation and honor, the committee presents the following person to whom we dedicate this 2021 Baptist State Convention of North Carolina annual. Because of the depth of Dr. James Royston's ministry in the lives of North Carolina Baptists, the committee believes we should dedicate the annual solely to him.

#### **James "Jim" Royston**

James "Jim" Royston, former executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina (BSCNC), died Tuesday, June 29, following a recurrence of cancer. He was 73.

Royston led the work of the state convention from 1998 until he resigned in 2005 to return to the pastorate. A native of Johnson City, Tenn., Royston served in a variety of ministry roles in North Carolina and his home state of Tennessee.

Early in his ministry, Royston served on staff at the Mecklenburg (now Metrolina) Baptist Association and later became pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntersville, N.C., in metro Charlotte.

Immediately prior to becoming the BSCNC's executive director-treasurer, Royston served as pastor of Colonial Heights Baptist Church, in Kingsport, Tenn., from 1991 to 1997. After leaving the state convention, Royston served as senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Mooresville, N.C.

Newly elected Executive Director-Treasurer Todd Unzicker praised Royston's legacy of faith.

"Jim served N.C. Baptists faithfully, and the faith that he proclaimed is now a reality in his own life," Unzicker said. "We look forward to building upon his legacy as we become a movement of churches on mission together."

Milton A. Hollifield Jr., who served on the convention staff with Royston and followed him as the BSCNC's executive director-treasurer, described Royston as a caring, creative and forward-thinking leader.

"Jim loved the Lord, loved his family, cared for people, strengthened local churches and was committed to the work of the state convention," Hollifield said. "I was blessed to have the opportunity to work very closely with him. Much of what I know about serving as executive director-treasurer is what I learned from Jim."

Hollifield, who retired in February 2021, also credited Royston with emphasizing church planting in the state. When Royston left the state convention in 2005, an average of 75 new churches were started every year. Just prior to his departure, Royston worked to provide training for church planters in seven different languages.

Lynn Sasser, a longtime executive leader with the state convention, served on the search committee that recommended Royston to become executive director-treasurer. Royston and Sasser first met in seminary, where they developed and maintained a close friendship through the years. Royston later hired Sasser to the convention staff in 1999.

"Jim was a great friend who was always available for conversation," Sasser said. "He was a great leader who served well in every position he was called to."

John Butler, the BSCNC's current executive leader for Business Services, served as president of the state convention's board of directors in 2004 and 2005 during Royston's final two years as executive director-treasurer.

"Jim was a statesman, a gifted mediator and a friend to everyone," Butler said. "He cared more about people than programs and more about the mission than getting credit for the mission's success. His legacy of missions

and ministry partnership will not be forgotten.”

Greg Mathis, pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, echoed Butler’s sentiments. Mathis served as president of the state convention in 1997 when Royston was nominated and elected executive director-treasurer.

“I remember Jim as being very committed to the ministry of the Baptist state convention,” Mathis said. “His heartbeat was for missions and evangelism.”

Current state convention staff member Merrie Johnson served on staff with Royston when he pastored Colonial Heights Baptist Church in Tennessee. Royston recommended Johnson when Hollifield was searching for someone to lead the state convention’s youth evangelism and discipleship ministry. Johnson has now led that work in North Carolina for 20 years.

“Dr. Royston was one of the most unifying leaders I’ve ever had the privilege to work with,” Johnson said. “He knew how to motivate people toward kingdom purposes which allowed everyone to come together around the goal of impacting the church and the community.”

Royston graduated from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., where he earned a master of divinity and a doctor of ministry. He also received an honorary doctorate from Campbell University.

In addition to his ministerial service, Royston enjoyed carpentry and worked on a number of projects with Habitat for Humanity and N.C. Baptist Men, now known as Baptists on Mission.

Royston was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Jeannie; a son, Jeff, and his wife, Kelly; a daughter, Jennifer Fielden, and her husband, Kevin; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; a brother; three sisters; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

#### **IN MEMORIUM**

Peggy Presnell .....Waynesville  
Alison Lusk ..... Pinnacle  
Douglas McClain .....Lincolnton  
Gene Phillips .....Huntersville  
William Smith .....Burgaw  
Doris Clark .....Durham  
Robert Davis .....Smithfield  
Floyd Annas .....Sawmills  
Donnie Howell .....Wilson  
Robert Eskridge II ..... Cary

Frances Cooke .....Cary  
Lonnie Webb ..... Bolivia  
Annie McDonald .....Winston-Salem  
Burton Campbell ..... Rock Hill, S.C.  
Hal Aldridge ..... Raleigh  
Virginia Beal ..... Knightdale  
Fred McGehee .....Raleigh  
Donald Ingle .....Granite Falls  
James Royston .....Kingsport, Tenn.

#### **2021 Committee on Resolutions and Memorials**

*Joel Stephens, Midland, chair*  
*Lance Cole, Reidsville*  
*Tim Hodges, Vilas*  
*Ken Jones, Lincolnton*  
*Bill Sturm, Conover*  
*Marty Tobin, Greensboro*  
*Chris Webb, Pembroke*  
*Bob Weathers, Shallotte*  
*Ben Whitmire, Weaverville*

#### **HISTORICAL COMMITTEE**

The Historical Committee is charged with the responsibility of collecting and preserving the history of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. It supports the work of the N.C. Baptist Historical Collection at Wake Forest University and encourages churches, associations, institutions and agencies affiliated with the convention to preserve their historical documents, artifacts, correspondences and records.

In some years the committee may also sponsor an historical writing competition, encouraging church and associational historians to submit books and compilations for special recognition at the convention’s annual meeting in November.

The committee is continuing to work with Brent Aucoin, professor of history at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, to produce an updated history of North Carolina Baptists from World War II to the present.

#### **Historical Committee Members**

*Chivous Bradley, Rutherfordton, Chair*  
*Susan Bales, Clayton*  
*Jonathan Blaylock, West Canton*  
*Francis Kyle, Roanoke Rapids*  
*John Fidler, Zebulon*  
*Woody Freeze III, Durham*  
*Marc Sanders, Whitsett*  
*Jonathan Lawler, Youngsville*  
*Nick Smith, Waynesville*  
*Brenda Stephenson, Rocky Mount*





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*On Mission Together*

NORTH CAROLINA BAPTISTS