

Book of Reports

2023



**SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION**

2023 South Carolina Baptist Convention “Let’s Go!” Schedule

Shandon Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina

November 13–14, 2023

Session 1 - Darkness

November 13, 2023 - Monday Evening

6:00 PM	Worship
6:11 PM	Call to Order <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
6:12 PM	Organization of the Convention <i>Brian Sherwood, Registration Secretary - SCBaptist</i>
6:14 PM	Adoption of Order of Business <i>Ryan Goodroe, Convention Vice President - SCBaptist</i>
6:16 PM	Welcome - Shandon Baptist Church <i>Daniel Dickard, Senior Pastor - Shandon Baptist Church</i>
6:18 PM	Greetings - Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina <i>Dr. Donald E. Greene, President - Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina</i>
6:23 PM	Report - Committee on Committees <i>Cory Horton, Chair - Committee on Committees</i>
6:28 PM	Report - South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging <i>Tom Turner, President and CEO - South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging</i>
6:33 PM	Report - Nominations Committee <i>Lisa Willard, Chair - Nominations Committee</i>
6:43 PM	Report - SCBaptist Introduction <i>Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer - SCBaptist</i>
6:50 PM	Report - South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union <i>Jess Archer, Executive Director-Treasurer - South Carolina Woman's Missionary</i>
7:00 PM	“Let’s Go!” - Theme Introduction <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
7:20 PM	Worship
7:30 PM	Message <i>Paul Chitwood, President - International Mission Board</i>
8:00 PM	Closing <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>

The Monday evening session will be immediately followed by a prayer gathering.

Session 2 - Calling

November 14, 2023 - Tuesday Morning

9:00 AM	Worship
9:10 AM	Report - Baptist Courier <i>Jeff Robinson, President and Editor - Baptist Courier</i>
9:15 AM	Welcome - SBC Executive Committee <i>Brandon Porter, Editor - Baptist Press</i> <i>Associate Vice President of Convention News - SBC Executive Committee</i>
9:20 AM	Election - 2024 Registration Secretary <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
9:27 AM	Report - History Committee <i>Paul Noe, Chair - History Committee</i>
9:35 AM	Report - SCBaptist Serve Team <i>Jon Jamison, Serve Team Leader - SCBaptist</i>
9:40 AM	New Business <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
9:50 AM	Report - Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries <i>Danny Nicholson, President - Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries</i>
9:55 AM	Election - 2024 Vice President <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
10:00 AM	Report - SCBaptist Strong Team <i>Steve Rohrlack, Strong Team Leader - SCBaptist</i>
10:05 AM	Report - Sexual Abuse Task Force <i>DJ Horton, Co-Chair - Sexual Abuse Task Force</i> <i>Kathy Robinson, Co-Chair - Sexual Abuse Task Force</i>
10:15 AM	Worship
10:20 AM	Report - Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee <i>Mark Krieger, Chair - Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee - Chair</i>
10:30 AM	Report - SCBaptist Start Team <i>Cliff Marshall, Start Team Leader - SCBaptist</i>
10:35 AM	Panel Discussion - "Let's Go!" : A Closer Look <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
10:50 AM	Report - Executive Director-Treasurer <i>Dr. Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer - SCBaptist</i>
11:05 AM	Election - 2024 President-Elect <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
11:15 AM	Worship
11:25 AM	President's Address <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
11:55 AM	Closing <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>

Session 3 - Impact

November 14, 2023 - Tuesday Afternoon

2:00 PM	Worship
2:08 PM	Report - SCBaptist Share Team <i>Chad Stillwell, Share Team Leader - SCBaptist</i>
2:13 PM	Report - Bylaws Committee <i>Ryan Goodroe, Chair - Bylaws Committee</i>
2:28 PM	Report - Executive Board <i>Steve Hogg, Chair - Executive Board</i>
2:43 PM	Business Session <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
2:58 PM	Worship
3:03 PM	Report - Baptist Foundation of South Carolina <i>Nathan McCarthy, President and CEO - Baptist Foundation of South Carolina</i>
3:08 PM	Report - Resolutions Committee <i>Doug Mize, Chair - Resolutions Committee</i>
3:18 PM	Presentation - 2024 Officers <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
3:20 PM	Introduction - 2024 Theme <i>Wes Church, Convention President-Elect - SCBaptist</i>
3:24 PM	Report - SCBaptist Send Team <i>Ken Owens, Send Team Leader - SCBaptist</i>
3:29 PM	Panel Discussion - "Let's Go!" : Drilling Down <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>
3:44 PM	Worship
3:49 PM	Message <i>Greg Mann, Affinity Group Leader, Asia-Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity - International Mission Board</i>
4:19 PM	Recognition - 2023 Officers <i>Dr. Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer - SCBaptist</i>
4:30 PM	Closing <i>Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist</i>

Session 4 - Response

November 14, 2023 - Tuesday Evening

6:00 PM	Worship
6:07 PM	Report - Anderson University Evans Whitaker, President - Anderson University
6:12 PM	Report - Charleston Southern University Keith Faulkner, President - Charleston Southern University
6:17 PM	Report - North Greenville University Gene Fant, President - North Greenville University
6:22 PM	Panel Discussion - "Let's Go!" : Dialing In Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist
6:37 PM	Introduction - Tom Elliff Albert Allen, Convention President - SCBaptist
6:39 PM	Worship
6:47 PM	Message and Invitation Tom Elliff, Founder - Tom Elliff Center for Missions at Oklahoma Baptist University
7:27 PM	Adjourn Albert Allen - Convention President - SCBaptist
7:30 PM	Closing Prayer Wes Church, Convention President - SCBaptist

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An Open Letter to South Carolina Baptists

*Albert Allen, Convention President
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Newberry*

Dear Fellow South Carolina Baptists,

In response to God's call for us to reach the nations with the Gospel, South Carolina Baptists have always had an eye on far-away places. Many of our forebears and contemporaries have served, or are serving, internationally in short-term, mid-term, and long-term roles.

Our Convention's international missions priority was most recently evidenced by a five-year partnership established in 2019 between our Convention of churches and International Mission Board personnel serving within what is now a larger field called the Asia-Pacific Rim Peoples Affinity Group. Because of pandemic travel limitations, the partnership was extended by a year during the 2020 Annual Meeting, which means that our partnership commitment will last through November 2025.

In support of this vital commitment, our emphasis this past year has been to move beyond the praying, giving, and sending phases of engagement (all of which are very important) into the going phase. We have always had our eyes on far-away places, but it is now time for us to GO, with God's enablement, and under His leadership and direction (which He has copiously supplied in His Word).

In addition to conducting the important and necessary business of the Convention, this annual meeting is all about encouraging and challenging pastors and churches to take our own feet, hands, and voices to those far-away places. Innumerable precious image-bearers in the Asia-Pacific Rim, and certainly all over the

world, do not realize that they need someone like you to come and share the Good News of Jesus with them. They do not know that they are waiting, potentially for someone who will never come. Many would believe if they just had the chance to hear from a true believer on an incarnational mission.

This year's Convention theme is *"Let's Go!"* We will move through a sequence of three motivating realities: Darkness, Calling, and Impact. These three sessions will build towards the fourth, which will culminate in a powerful service of Response. The first session theme will be jarring; the second, convicting; the third, encouraging; and the fourth, challenging and inviting.

I am so glad that you are present and participating in the 2023 Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention! Thank you for making it your priority to be here. I hope you will be present for all of our Convention sessions and that you will say 'yes' to the Lord of the harvest, who bids you to go to the nations!

Let's Go!

An Open Letter to South Carolina Baptists

Steve Hogg, Executive Board Chair

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church of Rock Hill

This has been a year of transition as we welcomed Dr. Tony Wolfe as our new Executive Director-Treasurer following the retirement of Dr. Gary Hollingsworth. These two brothers worked together during the month of April 2023 to ensure a smooth transition, and we are grateful to God for both of them.

Your Executive Board gathered at First Baptist Church in Columbia on February 27th for a called meeting to hear the recommendation of the ED-T Search Team, chaired by Pastor Ian Geimer. After a presentation by members of the Search Team, Dr. Wolfe met with the Board to share his journey and answer questions from Board members. This was followed by a unanimous vote of the Board to accept the recommendation of the Search Team and to nominate Dr. Tony Wolfe as the next Executive Director-Treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The Board presented the nomination of Dr. Wolfe to messengers at a called state convention on Monday, March 20, at 1:30 p.m. at Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia. Messengers approved the nomination, and Dr. Wolfe was called as our new ED-T.

Throughout this transition, our Convention staff demonstrated commitment to our Lord and faithfully served the churches who cooperate for Kingdom impact through the SCBaptist Convention. They helped this transition in leadership occur as smoothly as possible and continue to set an example of what a great team looks like.

Meanwhile, the ministries of our cooperating churches and ministry partners are growing God's Kingdom in

South Carolina and beyond. We are blessed in South Carolina to have ministry partners who are excited to serve with us and cooperate in good faith to advance the Gospel.

Your Executive Board is currently working to reorganize the Board's committee structure and update our standing rules to improve the effectiveness of the Board and to make the service of each Board member more meaningful. These changes will also accommodate the smaller size of the Board in the years ahead.

It has been an honor for me to serve on your Executive Board, and I want to express appreciation to each member of the Board for their faithful and dedicated service. Please join me in praying for the Board in 2024. Great days are ahead for South Carolina Baptists under the leadership of Dr. Tony Wolfe and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

Report of the Executive Director-Treasurer

Tony Wolfe, SCBaptist

Since the day Vanessa and I first stepped foot in South Carolina, we knew God was up to something special in this family of churches. It has been one of the greatest joys of our lives to enter your world and embrace this calling. Like the apostle Paul's affection for the saints in Philippi, our hearts are glad in every remembrance of you and in our partnership in the Gospel. Likewise, we are increasingly assured that the One who began this good work in the Palmetto State will see it through to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Ours is a good and worthy work.

We are 2,004 Baptist churches in 42 Baptist associations training 10,000 leaders in three Baptist Universities; ministering to 240,000 college students on 31 campuses; serving statewide, national, and international communities in Disaster Relief; demonstrating Christ's love for all South Carolinians by supporting both a Children's Home and a Ministry to the Aging; managing Kingdom funds that fuel our shared mission; reaching the next generation through summer camps, events, and focused evangelism and discipleship initiatives; sending missionaries; planting churches; strengthening leaders; and so much more. How can any of us say that we do all of this? Only because we work together. In words of ancient wisdom, "Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their efforts," (Ecc. 4:9).

South Carolina Baptists are one family on one mission through one cooperative effort. We pool our resources and our relationships together to reach South Carolinians with the Gospel, disciple them in the faith, and mobilize them to reach their neighbors and the nations. We have no other objective. We contrive no other plan. We know no greater burden. We share no greater joy.

For me, personally, 2023 has been a year of praying, preparing, listening, and learning. This year, I have met one-on-one with every SCBaptist staff member, present and incoming Convention officers, most associational leaders, many pastors, every ministry partner and auxiliary leader, several state government leaders, and a handful of non-SCBaptist faith-based leaders as well. To hear their hearts for Christ's work in and through this family of churches is refreshing and invigorating. The Holy Spirit is stirring a fresh, new work in South Carolina. I see it, hear it, and feel it all around us.

Richard Furman, upon the founding of this first Baptist State Convention in 1821, pled for ongoing Great Commission cooperation from the churches and associations: "For the accomplishment of his gracious, sublime designs, God condescends to use the instrumentality of feeble men, even men like ourselves. Shall we then, who profess to love him, and are called to the high honor of being 'Workers together with him,' in his sacred cause, remain inactive and negligent? We are ready to say, God forbid! No; let us rise to vigorous action, concentrate our energies and exert them in the service of our God."

SCBaptists, ours is a great entrustment. We are called to our time as others before us were called to theirs. My prayer is that as we listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches, we remain uncompromisingly focused on the mission and that, while many in our world find reasons to divide, we embrace active togetherness as a core value in our Great Commission advance. The unfinished task lies ever before us, calling us to our time and daring us to empty ourselves in sacrificial servitude on the altar of faith. Let's give it all we have. Together.

2024 South Carolina Baptist Convention Ministry Plan Recommendations

Recommendation 1:

That the Convention commend to the churches the Cooperative Program as the wisest, most effective, and most efficient plan of giving. The South Carolina Baptist Convention recommends that we continue to honor and affirm the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach and that designated giving to special causes is to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for Cooperative Program giving.

Recommendation 2:

That special offerings for the benevolent institutions be continued, where it is consistent with the financial policy of the local churches, as follows: 1) first Sunday in each month for Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries; 2) annually on Mother's Day for the South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging.

Recommendation 3:

That the Executive Director-Treasurer report on a timely basis cumulative gifts received from the churches and the allocation of the gifts as follows: 1) Total gifts to the South Carolina Baptist Convention Cooperative Program at the end of each quarter; 2) Designations for Southern Baptist Convention and South Carolina Baptist Convention ministries after the conclusion of the calendar year; 3) Weeks of Prayer offering gifts for home and state missions after the conclusion of the calendar year; 4) Lottie Moon offering gifts for international missions at the conclusion of the fiscal year for the offering. All gifts will be processed in accordance with the instructions of the contributor without any deduction for expenses.

Recommendation 4:

That the Executive Director-Treasurer forward all Southern Baptist Convention funds on a monthly basis to the Executive Committee of the SBC in Nashville, Tennessee.

Recommendation 5:

That the 2024 Cooperative Program Ministry Plan be \$26,500,000.

South Carolina Baptist Convention

2024 Cooperative Program Ministry Plan

<i>Our State</i>	<i>54.50%</i>	<i>\$14,442,500</i>
South Carolina Baptist State Missions *	31.67%	\$8,392,550
Anderson University	5.21%	\$1,380,650
Charleston Southern University	4.77%	\$1,264,050
North Greenville University	4.13%	\$1,094,450
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	3.20%	\$848,000
South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging	3.16%	\$837,400
South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union	1.75%	\$463,750
Baptist Courier	0.61%	\$161,650
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	0.00%	-
<i>Our Nation</i>	<i>20.34%</i>	<i>\$5,390,100</i>
North American Mission Board-NAMB	9.34%	\$2,475,100
Theological Seminaries	9.07%	\$2,403,550
Executive Committee & SBC Operating	1.23%	\$325,950
Ethics & Religious Liberty Committee	0.70%	\$185,500
<i>Our World</i>	<i>25.16%</i>	<i>\$6,667,400</i>
International Mission Board-IMB-CP Allocation	20.66%	\$5,474,900
IMB-additional percentage from SC Baptist	4.50%	\$1,192,500
Grand Total **	100.00%	\$26,500,000

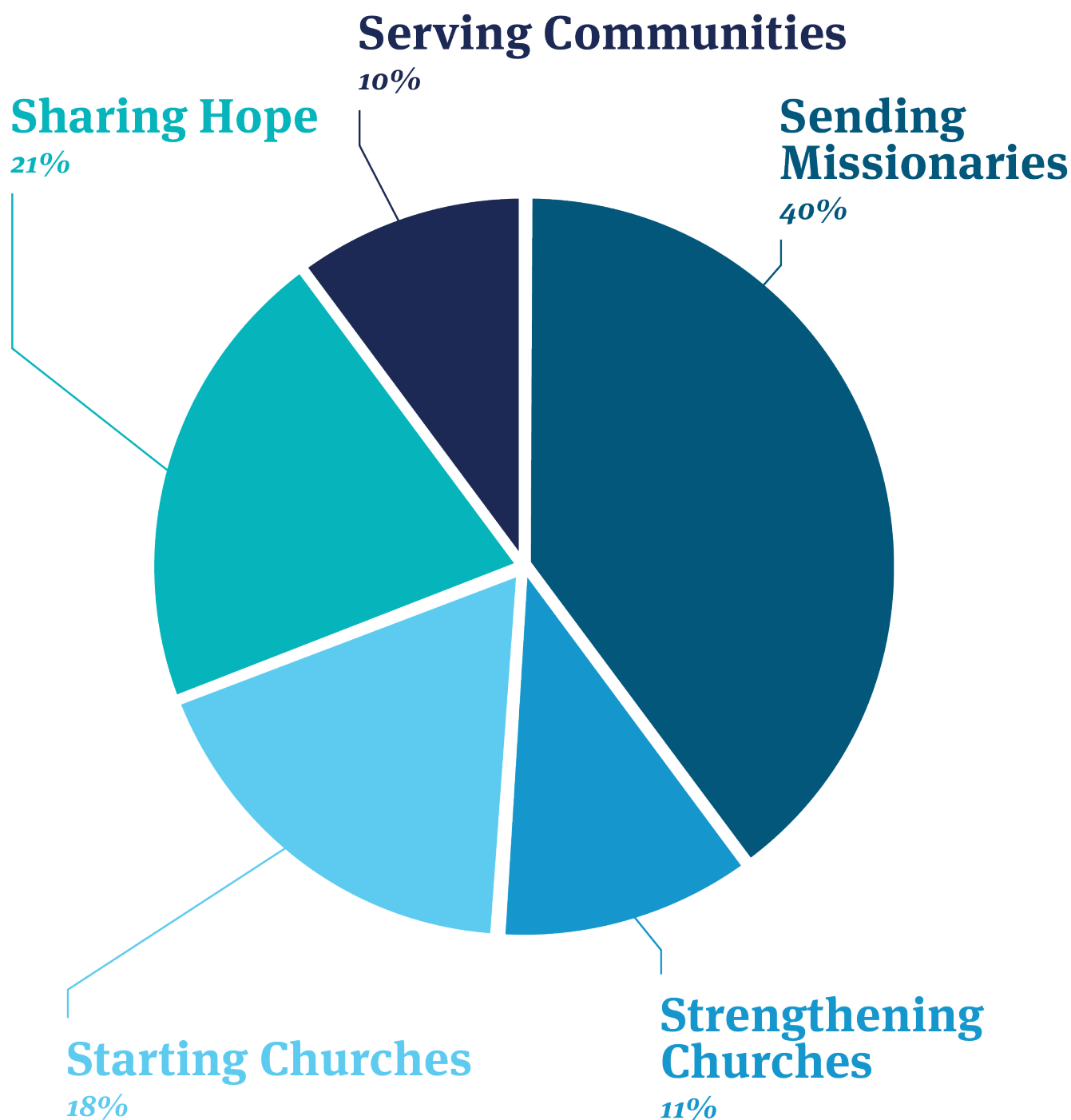


* Annual Cooperative Program contributions account for 58% of the total budgeted operating revenue for SC Baptist State Missions. Additional revenues are received from the Janie Chapman and other designated offerings, camp and conference fees, and investments.

** Total SC Baptist Great Commission Investment including Cooperative Program, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, Janie Chapman State Offering, and other gifts and fees totals \$47.3 million.

2024 Total Great Commission Giving*

\$47.3 Million



*The total projected giving of SCBaptist churches for OP, investment income, special offerings, designated gifts, and fees is \$47.3 Million.

Financial and Accounting Office

Bryan Holley, Chief Financial Officer

As Chief Financial Officer, I assist the Executive Director-Treasurer in the operation of the Convention, Executive Board, and Convention staff. Our office is responsible for all financial and legal matters of the Executive Board and Convention. We support and foster SCBaptist ministries through financial expertise with integrity and accountability that inspires a culture of excellence to strengthen the bond of trust and confidence in the value of cooperative work.

Ministry Highlights

- Obtained an unqualified audit for 2022
- Monitored Operating Budget for 2023
- Planned Operating Budget for 2024
- Streamlined paperless accounting system
- Filed all government reporting requirements and tax returns in a timely manner
- Served as a resource for the Convention and its churches regarding financial matters
- During 2022, Cooperative Program (CP) receipts decreased 2.6% or \$700,510 from 2021
- The 2022 CP Budget was \$26,500,000 and receipts were \$25,878,432
- In 2022, our office received \$42,258,884 from CP, mission offerings, and other designated offerings. This was 1% or \$421,023 increase from 2021
- Updated all employee job descriptions
- Updated employee performance review process
- Researched plans to lower employee prescription drug cost

Prayer Requests

- Pray for wisdom to be good stewards of all the resources God has given us.
- Pray that churches will see the value of the Cooperative Program and that we can accomplish more together.

Top 25 CP Giving Churches

Giving Through the Cooperative Program

Twelve Months Ended June 2023

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Association</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1	Taylors First	Three Rivers	\$511,842
2	Summerville	Screven	\$329,504
3	Simpsonville First	Greenville	\$279,587
4	Riverland Hills	Lexington	\$277,980
5	Lancaster Second	Moriah	\$277,138
6	Columbia First	Columbia Metro	\$277,014
7	Concord	Saluda	\$266,722
8	Spartanburg First	Spartanburg County	\$248,070
9	Mt. Airy	Piedmont	\$238,011
10	Brushy Creek	Greenville	\$237,500
11	Rocky Creek	Greenville	\$228,451
12	Shandon	Columbia Metro	\$225,001
13	North Side	Lakelands	\$201,638
14	Edwards Road	Greenville	\$194,473
15	Gaffney First	Broad River	\$190,002
16	Fort Mill First	York	\$183,874
17	Holly Springs	Three Rivers	\$183,164
18	Northside	Lexington	\$179,128
19	Rock Hill First	York	\$178,334
20	Forestville	Three Rivers	\$166,121
21	Church at the Mill	Spartanburg County	\$154,998
22	Georgetown First	Southeast	\$142,727
23	Newberry First	Reedy River	\$140,533
24	Sumter First	Santee	\$137,535
25	Seneca	Beaverdam	\$137,406

Personnel Changes

October 15, 2022 – October 1, 2023

New Staff

Field Service Staff:

- Laurie Register (PT), Send Team, January 10, 2023
- Ben Reed, Camp McCall, February 1, 2023
- Stephen Leopard (PT), Church Strategies, February 1, 2023
- Tony Wolfe, Executive Director-Treasurer, March 27, 2023
- Jay Overbay, (PT), Creative Services, May 1, 2023
- Morgan Allen (PT) Collegiate Ministries, September 1, 2023
- Ronnie Richardson, Creative Services, September 26, 2023
- Nick Ritenour (PT), Creative Services, September 27, 2023

New Staff

Support Staff:

- Sherry Brown, Operations, January 1, 2023
- Michala Beesley, Generations, May 15, 2023

Resignations/Separations

Field Service Staff:

- Jerry Zapata (PT), Start Team, November 28, 2022
- Ken Forrester, Church Development & Pastoral Care, February 15, 2023
- Wes Howard (PT), Creative Services, March 15, 2023
- Lesley Joseph (PT), Collegiate Ministries, May 15, 2023
- Suzanne Bachelor, Collegiate Ministries, June 30, 2023
- Jay Overbay (PT), Creative Services, August 15, 2023
- Adriana Melendez (PT), Creative Services, August 21, 2023

Resignations/Separations

Support Staff:

- Nadine Pabón, Start Team, January 8, 2023
- Kimberly Smith (PT), Human Resources, July 25, 2023
- Michala Beesley, Generations, September 21, 2023

Retirements

- Gary Hollingsworth, Executive Director-Treasurer, April 30, 2023

Reassignments

- Tim Rice, Send Team to Director, Missions Partnerships, January 1, 2023
- Katrina Stikeleather, Church Strategies to Team Assistant, Start Team, February 16, 2023
- Michael Pigg, Share Team Leader to Director of African American Engagement, September 1, 2023
- Lee Clamp, Chief Strategic Officer to Associate Executive Director-Treasurer, September 1, 2023
- Bryant Sims, Director, Denominational Relations to Chief Operations Officer, September 1, 2023
- Chad Stillwell, Director, Collegiate Ministries to Share Team Leader, September 1, 2023

Operations and Denominational Relations Office

*Bryant Sims, Chief Operations Officer
SCBaptist*

It is an honor to assist our Executive Director-Treasurer (ED-T), Dr. Tony Wolfe, with the day-to-day operations of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, the Executive Board, and the Convention committees, as well as the ongoing work of relationship building with our ministry partners both locally and nationally.

It has been a busy year filled with planning this meeting that you are attending today, as well as the called meeting back in February for the election of a new ED-T. It has been a joy to assist our Convention President, Albert Allen, in fulfilling his vision to see South Carolina Baptists embrace a missionary heart and get up and go to the nations with the Good News. This preparation includes meeting with your Convention committees to ensure that their work is accomplished in a timely and orderly manner according to the bylaws this Convention has set forth to guide their work. Each committee chair and vice chair has been diligent in their important tasks that will ultimately help to keep us faithful to the mission to which Christ has called us.

One of the highlights this year has been working as a liaison between the History Committee, the Budget, Finance, and Audit Committee, and North Greenville University. Plans are moving forward to relocate the Convention archives and historical collection to North Greenville University in the near future. We were also able to acquire a large collection of SCBaptist history from a private collector back in August. This collection fills in several gaps that previously existed in our collection.

Another highlight from the past year was a New Pastors' Orientation event held in partnership with Associational leaders from across the state. These pastors learned

about the vision, mission, and strategy of SCBaptists and built relationships that will serve them well while transitioning to new positions.

In addition to providing direct oversight in these areas, I have the privilege of providing guidance to our Building Services Team, Information Services Team, and the Operations Committee of the Executive Board. Together, we are working hard to maintain and improve the facilities here at 190 Stoneridge Drive, Camp McCall, and our Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) facilities around the state. Jeff Dial does an incredible job leading our Building Services Group. We believe that this work is foundational to the ministry that's happening around the state. Whether it is providing new chairs for a BCM building, providing statistical analysis for a church charting its progress, or providing a safe work environment for your Convention staff, the people that make up these teams work together for the advancement of the Gospel.

SCBaptist ADVANCE Ministries

Lee Clamp, Associate Executive Director-Treasurer

Our South Carolina Baptist Convention team of missionaries exists to help each church advance the Great Commission together.

EACH CHURCH.

We believe EACH CHURCH can advance! SCBaptists are a family of churches helping each other advance the Great Commission by mobilizing missionaries and developing leaders. Rock Hill can! They rallied 38 churches to come together for the largest ONE Night event thus far, with 1,100 students in attendance, 118 responses to the Gospel, and 70 students following up in baptism. Over the past few years, 8,840 students have heard the Gospel through a ONE Night evangelistic event, and there have been 560 decisions for Christ. Kingdom Church can! Kingdom Church is a new church plant. Joe Douglas is in a residency at Cane Bay and will launch publicly in 2024. Thirty-one new church plants have received funding and training in 2023, 13 of those being non-anglo. First Union African Baptist Church can! This beautiful church was planted by freed African American slaves on Daufuskie Island and reaches 10% of their population of 550. Pastor Aaron Crosby led his church to begin cooperating with SCBaptists last year. He said, "Because I am on an island, I need other churches to help me. Aren't all pastors on an island?" We love to tell the story of Gospel advance because we believe that every life counts and that each church can advance.

EVERY LIFE.

We believe EVERY LIFE counts! We see a day when every life is saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel beginning in South Carolina. We are relentless in helping the Church love every life. Diamond's life counts! She was the first student to come to know Christ at the new Benedict College Baptist Collegiate Ministries that began this past year. Thirty-one of 60 college campuses have a BCM ministry on them, reaching out to 15,725 college students directly. Sara's life counts! She is a Palmetto Collective graduate that is living on mission in Los Angeles with The Abiding Church, one of the church plants partially funded by South Carolina Baptist churches. Palmetto Collective has 54 college students annually preparing for the mission field. James' life counts! He and his wife Peggy are on mission teaching English through Bible reading to refugees. They are a part of an ever-growing number of retirees who are "Re-hired" to live life on mission. Fifty-two SCBaptist churches sent 162 volunteers on 11 SCGo mission trips. Daniel's life counts! Daniel has Down syndrome. He became the first individual baptized in five years at Gethsemane Baptist Church. He said, "Jesus loved me. Jesus died for me. Jesus saved me." Gethsemane is one of 20 churches who have affirmed revitalization recommendations rendered through a process with our team.

In the following pages, you'll see the celebration of Advance Stories. Advance Stories are God's stories of life transformation and celebrations of what he is doing in the life of an individual, ministry, church, or association.

Our Mission

Helping *each* church advance the Great Commission *together*.

Our Values

The Potential of Every Life:

therefore, we network all kinds of churches to ensure that every person is seen, heard, and given a chance to experience hope.

The Strength of Collaboration:

therefore, we connect like-minded partners, share resources, and respect one another's perspectives.

The Energy of Innovation:

therefore, we experiment with new methods that spark breakthrough and encourage churches to do the same.

The Lever of Leadership:

therefore, we build intentional relationships with leaders of leaders to strengthen ongoing movement.

Our Measures

of churches connected in process

of churches advancing

of new baptized believers

of disciples deployed

of communities transformed

Our Strategy



Moment

We create environments to steward “moments” when missionaries are called to be deployed and leaders desire to lead differently.

Where is God inviting you to advance?

Map

We help leaders develop plans to “map” out their journey.

What do you need to get there?

Mountain

We connect them with like-minded leaders to climb the “mountain” together and encourage them in the valley.

Who will provide support in the climb and courage in the valley?

Serve Team

Jon Jamison, Team Leader

We help churches identify needs and opportunities in their communities and offer support as they launch healthy ministries within those communities. Whether it is Disaster Relief responses, addressing hunger or poverty issues, caring for vulnerable children through foster care, or serving students and teachers through Heart4Schools, we believe that our churches have a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate the hope of Jesus in tangible ways as they build meaningful relationships across our state.

Advance Story

River Springs Church in Irmo has a Heart4Schools partnership that has consistently supported teachers and staff through meals and gifts, celebrating special occasions, and adopting 42 teachers, allowing them to create meaningful relationships. They have met student needs by providing weekly Snack Packs for students identified as transitionally homeless. This led to an opportunity to help a student living with a foster family attend her senior prom. They gave her a gift card to dinner for prom night, and a volunteer provided her with a prom dress shopping experience. River Springs Church is investing in their community and is just one example of many across the state who are making an impact for the Gospel. Each church can advance. Every life counts.

Highlights

- Over 530 of our 1,217 public schools have South Carolina Baptist churches serving them well. Let's keep pressing toward a day when every school, teacher, and student is within ministry reach of an SCBaptist congregation.
- In South Carolina, 1 in 7 people are food insecure. However, through the SC Hunger Relief Offering and the faithful work of our churches, more than 150,000 people were fed, and 81 individuals professed faith in Jesus.
- South Carolina Baptists once again partnered to provide a prisoner packet for every inmate in the South Carolina prison system. SCBaptist churches provided 23,177 packets in 2022, and 130 volunteers gathered to process these packets, which were distributed by chaplains.
- Hundreds of refugees from around the world now call South Carolina home. Currently, more than 50 SCBaptist congregations are engaged in meaningful ministry to this growing population.

Disaster Relief

Susan Peugh, Director of Disaster Relief

South Carolina Baptist Convention Disaster Relief strives to bring help, hope, and healing after a crisis. Disasters create opportunities for committed volunteers to serve in hard places to provide emotional and spiritual care, debris removal, hot meals, showers, laundry services, and more. Disasters change lives and have a Kingdom impact.

Advance Story

Vermont flood survivors Don and Veronica met SCBaptist Disaster Relief volunteers on their hardest day in the most difficult circumstances. DR volunteers struggled to remove mud and debris from their flooded home. Despite the hard work, they shared the hope of Jesus with the couple as they labored. Overwhelmed, Don revealed he had done too many terrible things to be forgiven. He confessed that thinking of those behaviors put him in a bad mood, and he took his frustrations out on his wife. The DR volunteers shared with Don the power of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Don asked Jesus for forgiveness and, in turn, asked Veronica to also forgive him. Disasters create moments for committed volunteers to serve in hard places to share the hope of the Gospel.

Highlights

- Over the last year, DR volunteers made 1,635 spiritual contacts with disaster survivors.
- The Gospel was presented 62 times.
- Seven individuals made a decision to follow Jesus.
- Pray for the physical and emotional healing of those who have been affected by disasters. Ask the Lord to provide them with comfort and strength during this difficult time.
- Pray for those who have answered the call to serve in Disaster Relief efforts. Ask the Lord to bless them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to effectively serve those in need.
- Pray for the provision of the resources needed to support recovery efforts in times of disasters.

Share Team

Michael Pigg, Team Leader

It is the mission of the Share Team to help each South Carolina Baptist Convention church reach every life that they may be transformed by the hope of the Gospel beginning in South Carolina.

Advance Story

Walter Belton, pastor of Radiant Church Charleston, was praying with an older African man in Kalingalinga, Zambia, with the help of an interpreter. He saw a young African lady standing in her doorway, listening and watching them. After they finished speaking with the older gentleman, the young African lady said through the interpreter, "I want to know Jesus!" Belton shared the Gospel with her, and she accepted the Lord Jesus in her heart.

As Belton prayed for the young lady, she fell to her knees in the dirt and gravel because her home had no floors. She wept uncontrollably out of her excitement of being saved from her sins. "Never in my 22 years of pastoring have I experienced such a heart-moving conversion. There is work for us to do in Africa," Belton said.

Highlights

- Churches reported 7,891 baptisms.
- In 2023, we partnered, with five ONE Night events with a total of 2,580 students, 227 Gospel decisions, and 67 students called into ministry! The total number of students over the past few years who have heard the Gospel at ONE Night is 8,840 with 560 decisions for Christ.
- We hosted three DiscipleSC events with 32 churches.

Collegiate Ministry

Chad Stillwell, Director of Collegiate Ministries

Our Baptist Collegiate Ministry sees every campus saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel. South Carolina is home to 250,000 college and university students. These students are from across our state, the United States, and the world. To reach a quarter of a million college students with the Gospel, it will take every church partnering together. As SCBaptists, we are sending BCM missionaries (Campus Ministers) onto 30 of the 60 campuses in our state, with the goal of seeing the Gospel on every campus.

Advance Story

Maura O'Hare's transformation began with a care package she was given by a student from Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) on campus at Coastal Carolina University. After being surprised by the kindness she found upon attending BCM meetings, O'Hare joined a small group and was invited to CONVERGE, an SCBaptist weekend event for students. At CONVERGE she gave her life to Christ. This summer, God used Maura to lead her sister to Christ. Maura is now a student leader at Coastal Carolina BCM.

Highlights

- BCMs reported outreach to 15,725 students across SC, a 21% increase over the previous year.
- There were 175 professions of faith this year through BCM ministry.
- Over 550 BCM students served on mission trips this year with 177 serving during the summer of 2023 in locations such as North Africa, Europe, Los Angeles, Denver, Salt Lake City, New Orleans, and New York City. Students raised \$107,510 to serve on evangelistic mission trips.
- BCM Directors reported 1,786 Gospel-sharing conversations with students.
- New collegiate missions partnerships were launched with Los Angeles, Vermont, and Thailand, with BCM students graduating and moving to Vermont to help start a new collegiate ministry at Vermont State University.
- Over 1,500 students were involved in small group Bible studies or discipleship on college campuses.
- In total, 1,617 BCM student leaders were equipped to verbally share the Gospel with their peers on campus.

Women and Ministers' Wives Ministry

Melanie Ratcliffe, Director of Relational Evangelism

We value women in ministry and ministers' wives in South Carolina and beyond. We desire to provide support, encouragement, and quality leadership development for women to make disciples where they live, work, and play. We do this by providing opportunities through conferences, retreats, mission trips, and cohorts, where we facilitate the conversation and build lasting community along the way.

Advance Story

Shanna Crosby is a pastor's wife and an educator in a Christian school. One morning, she was interrupted while teaching as her students began asking spiritual questions. Shanna was so excited about the questions that she closed her teacher's book and began answering their questions. As one student walked out of class, Shanna shared the truth of the Gospel with him and led him to faith in Christ. Shanna has learned not to be so scheduled that she misses God-ordained moments like this one.

Highlights

- In the last 12 months, 856 ministers' wives, women's leaders, and lay leaders have been invested in through one-on-one meetings, cohorts, mission trips, conferences, and retreats.
- We currently have 1,059 ministers' wives information in our network.
- We partner with Associations to help build ministers' wives initiatives. Over the past year, we partnered with four Associations to host events for over 77 ministers' wives from 51 churches. We have plans to partner with four more Associations in the next six months.
- We offer mission opportunities for ministers' wives to encourage and support North American Mission Board church planters' wives in partnering cities. This year, we hosted retreats in Los Angeles and New York City. Our desire is for ladies to catch the vision and build a partnership between their church and the missionaries for continued support.

Send Team

Ken Owens, Team Leader

The Send Team is focused on helping churches advance the Great Commission by sending mission workers to reach the nations locally and globally with the hope of the Gospel. With almost half of the world's population unreached with the Gospel, it is imperative that SCBaptist churches send and support mission workers across the globe to share the Good News of Jesus. With over 300,000 foreign-born people in South Carolina, we must find ways to reach the nations that God is bringing to our state.

Advance Story

Northwood Baptist Church in North Charleston is on a mission to reach the nations locally and globally. Locally, they are helping another church in a flourishing revitalization work, supporting Portuguese and Spanish-speaking congregations and engaging in local school and community outreach projects. Nationally, they sent mission volunteers this summer to serve with mission partners in Massachusetts, West Virginia, California, and Utah. Northwood's college ministry sent the second-highest number of North American Mission Board GenSend summer missionaries in the country. Northwood mission teams also served with partners in the Dominican Republic and Japan. As pastor Tommy Meador shared, "This is the kind of church we want to be—a sending church."

Highlights

- This year, 52 SCBaptist churches sent 162 volunteers on 11 SCGo mission vision / trips with strategic mission partners in Greece, Turkey, France, Italy, Thailand, Japan, South Africa, Tanzania, Angola, Zambia, Puerto Rico, New York, California, Utah, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.
- Sixty-five pastors, spouses, and leaders participated in the SCBaptist multi-ethnic pastor retreat, with over three-fourths of the world's population represented by SCBaptist pastors in attendance.
- Three multi-ethnic church plants began (Chinese in Columbia, Slavic in Spartanburg, and Vietnamese in Columbia). Pray for more language churches to be started across the state.
- Collaboratives, cohorts, and the Outside the Walls Conference equipped 154 mission leaders from 68 churches in mission sending.

Next Generation Mobilization

Charlie Swain, Next Generation Mobilization Strategist

Palmetto Collective (PC) asks college students one question: “Where is the most strategic place you could live for Jesus after graduation?” We desire to see more students prepared and sent to places in need of Gospel Advance. Currently, 54 college juniors and seniors from around the state are gaining clarity on God’s calling in their life and preparing for the possibility of going to the nations with the Gospel through Palmetto Collective.

Advance Story

Meredith graduated from Anderson University in the spring of 2023 with a degree in Nursing. She has a tight-knit family and a great community of believers at the Church at the Mill in Spartanburg. It would have been easy for her to get a job at a hospital in the Upstate and begin her career. But, through the discipleship of her church and the leadership of Palmetto Collective, she moved to Provo, Utah, in August to plant her life in one of the darkest yet most strategic locations for Gospel advance.

Highlights

Palmetto Collective students accepted into the program receive one-on-one mentorship through their local church, world-class missions training through collective retreats, and international experience through hands-on experiences—all without any financial cost to them.

- In total, 44 students have graduated from Palmetto Collective.
- One of our graduates was the first Project 3000 Missionary Explorer sent by the IMB to South Asia.
- Of our graduates, 35 are in ministry, and 11 of those are in seminary.
- Currently, 54 students make up this year’s PC class. There are 20 students from North Greenville University, 14 from Anderson University, 13 from Charleston Southern University, and seven from public universities in South Carolina.
- Three students were deployed to North American Mission Board Send Cities.
- Five students were deployed through the International Mission Board’s Journeyman program. Seven more graduates are in the application process with the IMB, and nine current PC students have begun the application process.

Start Team

Cliff Marshall, Team Leader

From the early days of the Church in the book of Acts, starting new churches has proven to be one of the most effective ways of saturating communities with the truth of the Gospel. The Start Team believes that churches plant churches, and we assist each SCBaptist church to advance the Great Commission by partnering with, praying for, and sending out missionaries to new churches across our state. The need for new Baptist churches in our state has never been greater than it is today.

Advance Story

In 2012, Utica Baptist Church in Seneca sent a mission team to Puebla, Mexico, to work with a church planter named Edson Garcia. This trip resulted in an ongoing partnership with Edson as he planted churches to reach the lost in Mexico. Utica continued to send mission teams, funding, and supplies to meet the ongoing needs of the new churches in Mexico. As the church focused on this mission, they were burdened about the need for a new church in Seneca to reach the growing Hispanic population. The church turned to Edson, and in 2020, he and his family moved to Seneca to begin planting La Roca Oconee. In 2023, this new SCBaptist church baptized ten people, and is working to start another Hispanic church in the area.

Highlights

- Since January of 2023, 31 new churches have received monthly funding made possible by the Janie Chapman State Missions Offering. Each of these new churches are in friendly cooperation with the Convention and have an established SCBaptist church as their sending church.
- Thirteen of the 31 new churches that received monthly funding are ethnically diverse. Three congregations are multi-ethnic, two are African American, five are Hispanic, two are Chinese, and one is Brazilian.
- Pray that every established SCBaptist church would partner with a new church. These partnerships can be through intentional prayer, ongoing funding, sharing facilities, or sending workers.
- Pray that more SCBaptist churches will identify and begin training leaders in their congregation to be sent out to plant churches across our state. More churches are needed to reach the fast-growing population of our state, and each SCBaptist church can take part.

Strong Team

Steve Rohrlack, Team Leader

The Strong Team exists to help churches grow stronger in fulfilling the call to advance the Great Commission. We strongly believe every church can advance. We are energized by connecting with pastors, staff, and volunteer leaders, personally investing in these leaders spiritually, and then developing Great Commission ministers and ministries with purpose. How can we help?

Advance Story

Recent high school graduate, Natalie Cannon, found her calling in worship leadership through the transformative uWorship Weekend hosted by the South Carolina Baptist Convention. For Natalie, this weekend led her to pursue a worship leadership internship with Mill City Church in West Columbia, SC, where she was challenged to grow in her walk with the Lord and in her calling as a worship leader. She will pursue a worship leadership degree at North Greenville University this fall.

Highlights

- Over 160 pastors and staff took part in one of the 22 NextStep cohorts offered in partnership with local Associations.
- Funnel Fusion, a brand new mission, vision, and values process, is being piloted with select churches.
- Worship attendance and baptisms are increasing in many of our churches where pastors are participating in monthly revitalization pastor cohorts. These are cohorts for pastors seeking to strengthen God's Church and transform a community through the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This year, 53 new pastors enrolled in revitalization cohorts.
- Both SummerSalt and KidSalt experienced record attendance this summer. More than 4,400 students attended the seven weeks of camp hosted at Charleston Southern University.
- The Worship & Music Office facilitated three regional summer internship opportunities for college-aged students discerning a call to ministry. Two additional internship locations are planned for 2024.
- The Worship & Music Office partnered with SummerSalt, providing worship leadership training during all weeks of camp. Over 400 students attended the training during the five weeks of camp.

Church Strategies

James Nugent, Director of Church Strategies

We see a day when every community in South Carolina has stronger churches fulfilling God's mission of making disciples. To advance this purpose, your Church Strategies Group seeks to serve churches, equip pastors, and develop partners so that every church can have a hopeful future.

Advance Story

Gethsemane Baptist Church in Summerville, SC, had been experiencing declining attendance and Gospel influence for quite some time when the pastor reached out to Tommy Meador, pastor of Northwood Baptist Church, seeking assistance. The result of their conversations was a partnership between a healthy church and an at-risk church as a viable pathway for church revitalization.

Highlights

By God's grace and the fervent work of pastors and partners, we celebrate:

- More than 20 churches affirmed recommendations for revitalization, restarting, or reinvestment;
- That 53 pastors/churches have enrolled in revitalization cohorts;
- Partnering to launch several new pastoral residency programs across the state; and
- Baptisms and worship attendance increased in many of our churches with pastors participating in a revitalization cohort.

Camps - KidSalt

Kathy Miles, Associate Director of Children

Every summer has a story, and this year KidSalt campers explored “The Chase: God’s Ultimate Pursuit.” Third through fifth graders discovered how to live a life of new purpose and pursue the mission that God has paved for them—a relationship with Him.

In 2023, KidSalt hosted 1,084 campers and over 200 children’s ministry leaders were engaged. In partnership with Baptist Collegiate Ministry and Woman’s Missionary Union, KidSalt campers packed 3,000 “Find Life” welcome bags for BCM that were given out to college students across the state. KidSalt campers continue to be on mission in their church and community, sharing the Gospel, and living out the Great Commission.

Highlights

- Number of salvation decisions: 63
- Number of students repenting of sin: 10
- Total decisions: 73

Camps - SummerSalt

Bryant Laird, Associate Director of Students

SummerSalt is a Christ-centered summer camp for students grades six through twelve led by the Generations Group of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. It is designed to grasp and captivate the next generation with the Gospel. In 2023, SummerSalt hosted 121 churches with a record-setting 3,284 participants for five weeks at Charleston Southern University in North Charleston. A total of 397 spiritual decisions were made.

Highlights

- Number of salvation decisions: 88
- Number of students called to ministry: 115
- Number of students repenting from sin: 151
- Total decisions: 397

Camps - Camp McCall

Matt Allen, Camp McCall Director

Camp McCall exists to support the local church. We are in our 64th year of ministry.

We conducted 11 summer camps with 2,303 campers from 231 churches, recording 189 decisions for Christ.

We hosted 34 retreat groups with 1,648 participants in addition to hosting 32 SCBaptist pastors and ministers.

We sent 28 staff members on 13 short-term mission trips and commissioned four former staff members to the mission field, three with the International Mission Board in undisclosed locations. We are thankful for the ongoing support of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

Highlights

- Number of salvation decisions: 55
- Number of students called to ministry: 23
- Number of students repenting from sin: 111
- Total decisions: 189

Office of Associational Relations

Scott Shields, Director of Associational Relations

The Office of Associational Relations exists to create a Kingdom movement and partnerships among our 42 Associations impacting our state and beyond so that we can help each church advance as we advance the Great Commission together.

Advance Story

We celebrate our Associations in their work and collaboration with the South Carolina Baptist Convention. We are strategic partners in the advance work of collective trainings like IMPACT, church planting, Heart4Schools, missions partnerships, cohorts, DiscipleSC, and other priority focuses of the Convention. Working together as a family across the state makes a major difference. South Carolina has some of the best association mission strategists who love working and building strategic partnerships among the churches they serve. Continue to pray for these AMS leaders and their families as they lead daily across South Carolina.

Highlights

- Our April AMS/DOM retreat in Myrtle Beach was a great time to equip in leadership development. Rick Curtis, NAMB, did an awesome job encouraging our AMS leaders and spouses.
- The Spring AMS/DOM Summit was held on March 23 at the Lexington Association and the fall summit is scheduled for October.
- The Strong Team and our office continue online trainings for revitalization and restarting. Virtual and in-person training begins in March.
- Our office is building intentional relationships between the SCBaptist Convention and Associations so that assistance can be given at the highest level so that every life in South Carolina has the opportunity to be saturated and transformed by the hope of the Gospel.

Creative

Alex Lyons, Creative Director

In 2023, the Creative Team proactively executed a content, marketing, and distribution strategy. This led to significant growth and reach in promoting, equipping, and celebrating the Gospel's advancement in our SCBaptist family through digital channels. Advance Stories were written, filmed, and published, reaching new audiences on new platforms. In 2024, we will partner to create and curate 250 online resources for our pastors and leaders.

Advance Story

The Creative Team's main focus in 2023 was to put significant effort into telling the story of each church and every life. In October 2022, our team hired Isabella McElveen as our Creative Producer. Through her coordinating, producing, and organizational abilities, our Editorial Specialist's writing abilities, and regional Creative Specialists' photo and video abilities, our initial goal of 40 Advance Stories was surpassed by May 2023. At the time of writing, the Creative Team has completed 79 Advance Stories with a projection of 130 by the end of the year, an increase of our original goal by 325%.

Highlights

- **Website**
 - page views: 258K
 - unique users: 76K
 - mobile traffic: 61.6%
 - written Advance Stories published: 79
 - written resources created: 57
 - written news created: 94
- **Social**
 - posts published: 2,206
 - Instagram – Thrid largest Convention following, reach: 53,477 (+15%), visits: 8,940 (+85%), new followers: 667 (+451%)
 - TikTok – 2023 YTD avg. view/video: 250, 2023 goal view/video: 100
 - Facebook – reach: 246,014 (+66%), visits: 16,357 (+171%), new followers: 538 (+32%)
 - YouTube – watch time: 431 hours, views: 45.8K
- **Photo/Video**
 - videos edited: 201
 - video clips recorded: 9,867
 - photos taken: 21,884
 - people interviewed: 91
 - events covered: 71
- **Podcasts** – episodes published: 76
- **Email** – 117,705 emails sent (16 lists, 30 segments, 27,000 contacts, 56% open rate, 4.8% click rate)

Bylaws Committee

Ryan Goodroe, Chair

Joel Ainsworth, Vice-Chair

The Bylaws Committee presented amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, Part I, as a first reading in 2022. A vote to incorporate these amendments will be taken at the annual meeting in 2023. Five of the amendments propose changes to processes or requirements; other amendments simply update grammar or wording for clarification and consistency.

Two of the proposed amendments – found in Article XIII of the Articles of Incorporation and Article XII, Section B, Item 1-c – deal with the procedure for amending the Articles of Incorporation and Part I of the Bylaws. In order to communicate clearly the process for amending a proposed amendment after the first reading, the following sentence would be added as Articles of Incorporation Article XIII, Section B, Item 3, and again as Bylaws Part I Article XII, Section B, Item 1-c: Any amendment proposed to an amendment that has already had a first reading (at the previous meeting of the Convention) must be presented to the Bylaws Committee at least sixty (60) days before the annual meeting so that it can be considered by the Bylaws Committee and presented in advance to the Convention.

The proposed amendment in Article VI, Section B, Item 5 (removing the words or an association) would make association employees eligible for service on the Executive Board. In the past, a financial arrangement between the Convention and the associations created a conflict of interest, but that arrangement is no longer in effect, eliminating the conflict of interest.

The proposed amendments in Article VII, Section C, Items 1 and 2, specify the need for a 2/3 majority vote to

significantly change the relationship between the state Convention and the institutions.

The proposed amendment in Article VII, Section E, directs the secretary of the trustee board of each Institution to give absentee reports to an officer of the Executive Board rather than the Executive Director-Treasurer.

Other minor changes, mostly dealing with grammar or wording, can be found in the following places in Part I of the Bylaws: Article I; Article II, Section E; Article III; Article IV, Section D; Article VI, Section C; Article VII, Section B; Article VII, Section D, Item 3; Article VII, Section D, Item 4; Article VIII.

The Bylaws Committee met to discuss the reaction by the Convention to the first reading and to consider the possibility of other new amendments but decided to offer no additional amendments at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

South Carolina Baptist Convention Articles of Incorporation

Pursuant to the provisions of the South Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act, the undersigned corporation, presently named General Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention, hereby submits its Amended and Restated Charter, amending its present charter by deleting it in its entirety. This Amended and Restated Charter supersedes the corporation's original charter and all prior amendments thereto.

ARTICLE I

The name of the corporation is South Carolina Baptist Convention.

ARTICLE II

The corporation is a religious corporation

ARTICLE III

The corporation has no members.

ARTICLE IV

The corporation will have messengers (delegates) who shall constitute the Convention in session. The characteristics, qualifications, rights, limitations, and obligations of messengers, together with provisions for calling, noticing, holding, and conducting meetings of messengers, and the carrying on of corporate activities during and between meetings, shall be provided for in these Articles and the corporation's Bylaws.

ARTICLE V

- A. The Convention reserves the right to determine the identity of those persons who participate as messengers. The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in the state which are in friendly cooperation with the South Carolina Baptist Convention and evidence their concern by financial support through the Cooperative Program. Only members of the electing church may be seated as messengers from that church.
- B. Churches shall qualify for the seating of messengers as determined by the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

The address of the principle office for the corporation is 190 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210-8239.

ARTICLE VII

The South Carolina Baptist Convention has the sole right to govern itself under the Lordship of Christ and recognizes the autonomy of churches and other Baptist bodies.

ARTICLE VIII

The comprehensive purpose of the South Carolina Baptist Convention shall be to serve churches throughout the state in efforts to advance the Kingdom of Christ in the world through evangelism, missions, education, benevolence, social ministries, public morals, and any other interests in the Kingdom of our Lord which the Convention shall undertake.

ARTICLE IX

The South Carolina Baptist Convention approves the Cooperative Program as the basic channel of support for our total world mission outreach. The Convention appeals to the churches to contribute through the Cooperative Program and to recognize the right and responsibility of the Convention to divide equitably Cooperative Program receipts.

ARTICLE X

The corporation shall be governed by a board of directors which shall be the Executive Board as elected by the messengers. All corporate powers and affairs of the corporation shall be exercised by, under the authority of, and under the direction of the Executive Board except to the extent that the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws give the messengers the authority to declare the annual meeting in session.

ARTICLE XI

The corporation is nonprofit. The purposes for which the corporation is organized are to operate exclusively for religious purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, or other private individuals or persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for goods and services rendered and to make payments in furtherance of the purposes set forth above. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these Articles, the corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XII

Upon dissolution, after all creditors of the corporation have been paid, the assets of the corporation shall be distributed to one (1) or more organizations which qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or corresponding section of any future tax code.

ARTICLE XIII

- A. After first reading to the Convention, amendments offered to this amended and restated Articles of Incorporation shall automatically be referred to the Bylaws Committee for study and report at the next annual meeting. Study by the committee shall not prevent consideration of the proposed

amendment by the messengers.

B. Amendments may be made in these Articles by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present and voting at any meeting of the Convention, and provided that:

1. All amendments must be presented before the final session, and
2. The amendment shall have been presented at a previous meeting of the Convention before action is taken on it.
3. Any amendment proposed to an amendment that has already had a first reading (at the previous meeting of the Convention) must be presented to the Bylaws Committee at least sixty (60) days before the annual meeting so that it can be considered by the Bylaws Committee and presented in advance to the Convention.

C. The requirements of Sections A and B above may be waived if the messengers evidence their belief that an emergency exists by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the messengers present and voting and if the substance of the amendment has been presented at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Convention to the Bylaws Committee, the Executive Board, and to the Baptist Courier for publication in one (1) of the following three (3) ways: (i) in a print edition; (ii) in an electronic edition; or (iii) on its website.

D. Upon approval by the messengers, the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation shall be filed according to state law.

South Carolina Baptist Convention Bylaws

PART I

The name of this corporation is South Carolina Baptist Convention. The Bylaws, as that term is understood by the law, of ~~the~~ South Carolina Baptist Convention shall consist of Bylaws as determined by the messengers. The Executive Board Standing Rules and Business and Financial Plan are determined by the Executive Board. No portion of the Bylaws may be inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation. The Business and Financial Plan and the Executive Board Standing Rules shall not be inconsistent with the Bylaws.

ARTICLE II

Churches shall qualify for the seating of messengers as follows:

- A. One (1) messenger from each church which is in friendly cooperation with this Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work and has, during the fiscal year preceding, been a bona fide contributor to the Convention's work, which must include having made a monetary contribution to the Cooperative Program.
- B. One (1) additional messenger for each one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) contributed to the work of the Convention through the Cooperative Program, during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting.

- C. Newly organized and constituted churches will be eligible for messengers to the state annual meeting in the first year the church becomes a bona fide contributor to the work of the State Convention. Contributions to the State Convention must be received by October 31 of the first year.
- D. The maximum number of messengers allowed to any church shall be twenty-five (25).
- E. Messengers to the annual meeting shall be registered upon presentation of proper credentials. Credentials shall be presented by each messenger, in person at the annual meeting Registration Desk. Messengers registered in compliance with the provisions shall constitute the Convention **in session**.

ARTICLE III

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, APPOINTEES, COMMITTEES

Except as provided in Bylaws Part I, ~~Section D~~, Article VII, Section D, Item 3, for out- of-state trustees of institutions, all officers of the Convention, all appointees, and all persons elected to membership of the Executive Board, boards of trustees of the institutions, and Convention committees shall be members of Baptist churches ~~who are~~ in friendly cooperation with the South Carolina Baptist Convention, ~~and are~~ sympathetic with its purposes and work, and have during the fiscal year preceding been bona fide contributors to the Convention's work, which must include having made a monetary contribution to the Cooperative Program.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the Convention shall be President, President-Elect, Vice President, Registration Secretary, and Treasurer (non-voting). The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Convention shall serve as Treasurer of the Convention.
- B. In case of the President's death, resignation, move from the state, or removal from office pursuant to Bylaws Part I, Article VI, Section B, Item 7, the Vice President shall automatically succeed to the office of President, and the President-Elect shall automatically succeed to the office of Vice President while continuing to serve as the President-Elect. Should the President-Elect no longer be able to fulfill the duties of the office, the office of the President-Elect shall remain vacant until the next annual session of the Convention, at which time both a President and a President-Elect will be elected pursuant to Bylaws Part II, Article I, Section E. Except as specified above, the Executive Board may fill any vacancies which may occur between annual meetings. Removal of an officer prior to the expiration of the term of office may occur only by a vote of two- thirds (2/3) of the messengers voting and after the officer has been advised of an intent to remove and after the officer has been afforded an opportunity to be heard.
- C. These officers shall perform the duties described by the Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by this Convention and as directed by the Convention.
- D. Officers, other than ~~the President and~~ the Treasurer, shall hold office for one (1) year or until their successors are elected and shall not be eligible to succeed themselves until one (1) year has elapsed. Any officer filling an unexpired term shall be eligible for election for one (1) full term. The President shall hold office for one (1) year and shall be succeeded by the President-Elect as provided in Bylaws Part II, Article I, Section E. The President may not serve as both President and President-Elect simultaneously.
- E. Officers shall begin their terms of service upon adjournment of the annual meeting at which they are elected.

F. Except as provided in these Bylaws, the President-Elect shall have no duties, powers, or responsibilities, but shall be included on all correspondence and notices provided to the officers of the Convention, and shall have the opportunity to attend and observe, without voting power or authority, all meetings that may be attended by the President, whether in person or through some other mode of communication.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

A. Annual Meetings

The South Carolina Baptist Convention shall hold its meetings annually at such time and place as it may choose.

B. Special Meetings

In cases of important concern(s), the Executive Board shall instruct the Convention President to call a special meeting of the Convention provided two (2) weeks written notice is given through the South Carolina Baptist Convention website and the *Baptist Courier*.

ARTICLE VI

EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Authority and Function

1. The Executive Board shall constitute the board of directors of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. The work of the Convention, except as otherwise specified, shall be committed to the Executive Board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. The Executive Board shall not have authority to control the other boards of corporations sponsored by the Convention but shall maintain general care and responsibility for the work of these boards in the following manner: study annually their reports, interpret and apply the rules of the Bylaws of the Convention and the Business and Financial Plan of the Executive Board, make recommendations directly to these boards, and make whatever recommendations to the Convention concerning them it may deem advisable.
2. While the messengers and the members of the Executive Board shall mutually respect the rights which the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws vested in the Convention in session and in the Executive Board, the directives to the Executive Board, not contrary to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Convention and not invasive upon the rights of boards of trustees of the sponsored institutions, shall be carried out by the Executive Board.
3. All actions of the corporation and all decisions concerning the investment, management, and utilization of the Executive Board contingent reserve, shall be made by the Executive Board or by persons pursuant to the authority vested in them by the Executive Board.
4. It shall also be the responsibility and prerogative of the Executive Board to determine when a member of the Executive Board or a trustee of an institution should be removed from office prior to the expiration of the member's or trustee's term.
 - a. If the Executive Board finds that a member or trustee has been absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the board, the member or trustee shall be deemed to have resigned, and the position shall be declared vacant.
 - b. If the Executive Board determines by a vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members of

the Executive Board in office that one (1) or more of the cited causes for removal of a member of the Executive Board or a trustee of an institution exists (see Bylaws Part I, Article VI, Section B, Item 7), the member's or trustee's position shall be declared vacant.

c. Upon the occurrence of either of the two above events, the Executive Board shall advise the member or trustee. The Executive Board shall advise the secretary of the board on which the trustee serves of the Executive Board's action. This notice shall occur not less than sixty

(60) days prior to the annual meeting. Unless a written appeal is filed in the office of the Executive Director-Treasurer within ten (10) days of the effective date of the notice, the position held by the member or trustee shall be deemed vacant and the Nominations Committee so advised. If a timely appeal occurs, the matter shall be reconsidered. The member or trustee shall be afforded a hearing before the Executive Board if such a request is contained in the appeal.

d. If the Executive Board determines by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Executive Board in office that the absences should not be excused or reaffirms its conclusion that the cause for removal does exist, the Executive Board shall recommend to the Convention removal of the member or trustee and shall so advise the Nominations Committee. The Executive Board's decision on appeal shall be communicated to the member or trustee and the secretary of the affected board.

e. A member or trustee who is removed from office prior to the expiration of the term to which he or she has been elected shall not be eligible for election to any board whose members are chosen by the Convention for the unexpired term to which the member or trustee had been elected.

f. Notice under this section may be oral unless specifically required to be in writing. Notice may be communicated in person, by telephone, fax, email, or by certified mail.

B. Membership

1. The membership of the Executive Board shall include two (2) members from each of twelve (12) geographic regions as determined by the Bylaws Committee (Bylaws Part II, Article III, Section F, Item 2) with at least one (1) of the two (2) members in each region coming from a church with fewer than 200 in worship attendance and four (4) at-large members selected by the Nominations Committee. Only one (1) person from a church affiliated with the Convention may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. No region shall have more than three (3) members. Members may come from unassigned churches within a given region and not participating in an association, but affiliated with the South Carolina Baptist Convention within that region. At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for at least one (1) year of a church in the area of the region from which the person is elected. The Convention President is a voting member of the Executive Board completing a twenty-nine (29) member Board. Membership of the Executive Board shall also include the following non-voting ex officio members: Convention officers, the state president of the Woman's Missionary Union, and the state president of the Baptist Collegiate Ministries. No member of the Executive Board, except ex officio members, shall serve simultaneously on a board of trustees of a South Carolina Baptist Convention-sponsored institution.

2. The Executive Director-Treasurer of the Executive Board, who also serves as Treasurer of the Convention, shall serve as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Executive Board, and aid by furnishing information, printed material, and needed guidance for the work of the Executive Board.

3. The elected members of the Executive Board shall be divided into two (2) groupings: one (1) group comprised of ordained church employees, and one (1) group comprised of others. No more than eighty (80) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either grouping. The Board will include, within the two (2) groupings, persons with business expertise, women, and ethnically diverse people to provide a capable and inclusive membership. Only one (1) person from an affiliated church may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for at least one (1) year of a church in the region from which the person is elected.

4. The term of office of elected members of the Executive Board shall be four (4) years. Terms commence January 1 following election by the messengers. Members of the Board shall not succeed themselves, except in the case of the Convention President serving one (1) year or a member who has first been elected to fill less than one-half (1/2) of an unexpired term. The terms of approximately one-fourth (1/4) of the membership of the Board shall expire annually. One (1) year shall elapse before a member may be returned to the Executive Board or be elected to another board of the Convention.

~~5.~~ No member of the Executive Board, except ex officio members, shall have any official connection with any of the institutions of the Convention, nor shall the member be an employee of the Convention, ~~or an institution of the Convention, or an association.~~

6. Any member of the Executive Board who moves church membership to another region in the state shall remain on the Board until the Convention fills that vacancy. Any member of the Board who becomes a member of a church in another state shall thereby terminate membership on the Board. Any vacancy occurring on the Board shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Convention's nominating and election process. The Board may temporarily fill the vacancy pending the Convention's election.

7. The Convention may remove an elected member of the Executive Board prior to the expiration of the term for which the member has been elected, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers voting. Removal may occur only upon the Convention's finding that removal of the member is in the best interest of the convention and one (1) or more of the following causes for removal are deemed in the judgment of the Convention to exist: breach of trust, neglect of duty, physical or mental incapacity of the member; conduct by the member which is deemed by the Convention to be immoral, fraudulent, or dishonest; or the member's engaging in a conflict of interest transaction.

C. Organization Documents, Officers, and Committees

The Executive Board shall govern itself by the election of such officers and committees, and by the adoption of the Executive Board Standing Rules and such other rules, and ~~the procedures of that~~ the Executive Board deems desirable. The Executive Board shall adopt a Business and Financial Plan.

D. Convention Employees

1. Executive Director-Treasurer

a. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be nominated by the Board and elected by the messengers for an indefinite term. When a vacancy occurs, nominations from the floor shall be allowed. The Executive Board is empowered to manage and terminate the Executive Director-Treasurer.

b. The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be the chief executive officer supervising and coordinating the work of all the employees of the Convention through the administrative staff.

The Executive Director-Treasurer shall, as Treasurer of the Convention, authenticate records of the corporation.

2. Other Employees

The Executive Director-Treasurer shall be solely authorized to employ, manage, and terminate all Convention staff.

ARTICLE VII

INSTITUTIONS

A. Purposes

The Convention shall sponsor institutions for the accomplishment of the purposes of the Convention and shall elect the members of the boards of trustees (directors) to which the governance of these institutions shall be committed in accordance with their charters.

B. Identification of Sponsored Institutions

The following are the institutions sponsored pursuant to the Convention's Bylaws: Anderson University, Baptist Courier, Baptist Foundation of South Carolina, Charleston Southern University, Connie Maxwell Children's **Home Ministries**, North Greenville University, and South Carolina Baptist Ministries for the Aging, Inc.

C. Changes Regarding Sponsored Institutions

1. A motion made to the Convention to dissolve or substantially alter the relationship between the Convention and a sponsored institution or to add a sponsored institution may be made by the Executive Board. Any such motion not originating in the Executive Board shall be referred to the Executive Board for study and a recommendation to the following Convention. ~~If the motion is in the nature of or contains an amendment to the Bylaws, the motion shall be considered in keeping with the amendment provisions of these Bylaws. A majority two-thirds (2/3) of those voting is needed to dissolve or substantially alter the relationship between the Convention and that institution.~~

2. A request by the board of trustees of an institution to dissolve or substantially alter the relationship between the Convention and that institution shall be conveyed in writing to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall submit the institution request, along with the Board recommendation, and call for a vote by the messengers at the annual meeting. **A majority two-thirds (2/3) of those voting is needed to dissolve or substantially alter the relationship between the Convention and that institution.**

D. Terms of Trustees' Service

1. Trustees shall be elected to a term of five (5) years, except trustees being elected to complete an unexpired term. One-fifth (1/5) of the trustees shall retire from each board each year. Board members shall not be eligible to succeed themselves or be elected to any other board until one (1) year has elapsed, except in the case of a board member who has first been elected to fill less than one-half (1/2) of an unexpired term. Terms commence January 1 following election by the Convention.

2. No person shall serve on more than one (1) board of trustees at the same time. A Person who is an employee of or who has an official connection with an institution of South Carolina Baptist Convention or the Executive Board, except officers of the Convention, may not serve as a member of a board of trustees of an institution sponsored by the Convention.

3. At least four-fifths (4/5) of the trustees of each institution must be South Carolina residents who are members of ~~a~~ South Carolina churches in friendly cooperation with the Convention. ~~and the~~

~~trustee affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as provided in Bylaws Part II, Article III, Section B, Item~~

~~4.d.ii.~~ Up to one-fifth (1/5) of the trustees of each institution may be nonresidents of South Carolina provided they are members of churches in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention. ~~and the All trustees must affirms the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 and meet other criteria as provided in Bylaws Part II, Article III, Section C B, Item 4.d.ii.~~ The date for determining whether a trustee is an in-state or out-of-state trustee shall be the date of his or her election by the Convention. However, if an in-state trustee ceases to be a South Carolina resident during his or her term of office, and thereby causes more than one-fifth (1/5) of the trustees of the affected institution to be out-of-state trustees, then the Convention may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, terminate the trustee's membership on the institution's board.

4. The elected membership of the Board of Trustees shall be divided into two (2) groupings: one (1) group comprised of ordained ~~ministers church-employees~~, and one (1) group comprised of others. No more than eighty (80) percent of the members of the Board shall be drawn from either grouping. The Board will include, within the two (2) groupings, persons with business expertise, women, and ethnically diverse people for the purpose of providing a capable and inclusive membership. ~~Only one- (1) person from an affiliated church may serve as an elected member of the Board at a given time. At the time of the member's election, the member shall have been a member for at least one (1) year of a church in the area of the association from which the person is elected.~~

E. Trustee Attendance

The Secretary of each institution shall report to ~~an officer of the Executive Board the Executive Director-Treasurer~~ those trustees who are absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the board.

F. Articles of Incorporation

All proposed Articles of Incorporation, or changes or amendments to Articles of Incorporation of institutions sponsored by the Convention under these Bylaws, and of a subsidiary corporation created by a sponsored institution, shall be submitted by the institution to the Convention or the Executive Board, according to the criteria set forth below in Section G, Item 6, for approval before they become effective.

G. Contents of Articles of Incorporation

The Articles of Incorporation of an institution sponsored by the Convention under these Bylaws shall contain the following provisions:

1. The board of directors (trustees), consisting of (a specific number of) persons, a number sanctioned by the South Carolina Baptist Convention, shall be elected by the South Carolina Baptist Convention in session.
2. Trustees shall be elected for terms of five (5) years. Trustees' terms shall be staggered.
3. South Carolina Baptist Convention may remove trustees prior to the expiration of the term of the trustees' election upon the recommendation of the Convention's Executive Board, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers voting. Removal may occur only upon the Convention's finding that removal of the trustee is in the best interest of the corporation and one (1) or more of the following causes for removal are deemed in the judgment of the Convention to exist: breach of trust, neglect of duty, physical or mental incapacity of the trustee; conduct by the trustee which is deemed by the Convention to be immoral, fraudulent or dishonest; the trustee's engaging in a conflict of interest transaction.
4. Vacancies in the board of trustees may be filled temporarily by the Executive Board pending the

filling of the vacancy for the unexpired term by the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

5. The trustees may adopt Bylaws consistent with the Articles of Incorporation.

6. Any proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation must be approved in writing by the Executive Board of South Carolina Baptist Convention or by South Carolina Baptist Convention. Any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation that would change the relationship of the institution with the South Carolina Baptist Convention must be approved by messengers at the annual meeting.

7. Any merger shall require the consent of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

8. Before the corporation may sell, lease, exchange, or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of its property other than in the usual and regular course of its activities, the permission of the South Carolina Baptist Convention must be secured.

9. Dissolution of the corporation may occur only with the permission of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and upon dissolution, the assets of the corporation shall pass to South Carolina Baptist Convention if at that time the Convention is a nonprofit corporation within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. If the Convention is not a nonprofit corporation, then the assets of the corporation shall be distributed to one (1) or more nonprofit organizations selected by the Convention.

10. The corporation is a religious nonprofit corporation.

11. The Articles shall contain language appropriate for a corporation exempt from federal taxation under 501(c)(3) or a successor section of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE VIII

GIFTS AND LEGACIES

The Convention shall receive contributions, legacies, and bequests for the several objects which it fosters.

All **properly** designated gifts for South Carolina Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention causes shall be applied **to the objects as** specified by the donor. When any contribution or bequest is made without designation, the same shall be applied to the Cooperative Program. The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina is the institution designated for the management of trust funds.

ARTICLE IX

SUPREME AUTHORITY

The Holy Bible shall be the supreme and final authority for all of the activities of the Convention and for all decisions that are made by or on behalf of the Convention.

ARTICLE X

STATEMENT OF FAITH

While the Holy Bible shall be the supreme and final authority, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 shall be the Convention's statement of faith.

ARTICLE XI

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws and/or any special rules of order the Convention may adopt.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

A. After a first reading to the Convention, amendments offered to Part I of the Bylaws shall automatically be referred to the Bylaws Committee for study and report at the next annual or special meeting of the Convention. Study by the committee shall not prevent consideration of the proposed amendment by the Convention.

B. Voting

1. Amendments may be made to these Bylaws, Part I, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the messengers present and voting at any meeting of the Convention, provided that:

a. Amendments must be presented before the final session, and

b. The amendment shall have been presented at the previous annual or special meeting of the Convention before action is taken on it.

c. Any amendment proposed to an amendment that has already had a first reading (at the previous meeting of the Convention) must be presented to the Bylaws Committee at least sixty (60) days before the annual meeting so that it can be considered by the Bylaws Committee and presented in advance to the Convention.

2. The requirements of Section B, Item 1 (a and b) above may be waived if the messengers evidence their belief that an emergency exists by a vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the messengers present and voting, and if the substance of the amendment has been presented at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Convention to the Bylaws Committee, the Executive Board, and to the Baptist Courier for publication in one (1) of the following three (3) ways: (i) in a print edition; (ii) in an electronic edition; or (iii) on its website.

Bylaws Part I last amended November 9, 2021

Christian Life and Public Affairs

Mark Krieger, Chair

Daniel McGaha, Vice-Chair

The Christian Life and Public Affairs Committee, along with the Office of Public Policy, keeps pastors and leaders informed about key pieces of legislation and activity associated with the South Carolina State House through Action Alerts and the Office of Public Policy Newsletter.

This committee addresses moral, social, and cultural trends in the Palmetto State. Committee members work closely with the Office of Public Policy to educate, inform, and engage the public on current issues and pending legislation that affects families and churches. This committee meets formally four or five times throughout the year to stay abreast of current issues and develop action plans.

An annual highlight is the announcement of the three committee awards. The E. A. McDowell Award recognizes an individual who exemplifies Christian action in the public arena—politics, government, or community action. Additionally, the committee recognizes one church in our Convention that demonstrates a similar commitment to social and moral concerns by conferring the Impact Your World Award. Lastly, the Public Service Award recognizes a public official who has gone above and beyond in representing Christian ideals through their role in the public square.

The 2023 recipients are:

E. A. McDowell Award

Dr. Gene Fant, President - North Greenville University

Impact Your World Award

Joel Ainsworth, Pastor - The Church at Cane Bay

Will Oswald, Pastor - The Church at Cane Bay

Public Service Award

Leon Lott, Sheriff - Richland County Sheriff's Office

W. H. "Skip" Holbrook, Chief - City of Columbia Police Department

Mark Keel, Chief - South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

C. N. Williamson, Commander - South Carolina Highway Patrol

The CLPAC works in cooperation with the SCBaptist Office of Public Policy, which is under the direction of Dr. Tony Beam. Dr. Beam works with committee members to draft pertinent resolution proposals that assist him in presenting a Baptist point of view at the State House. Members of the committee are grateful for the opportunity to serve South Carolina Baptists.

Mark Krieger, Chair

Danie McGaha, Vice-Chair

Chad Connelly

Rod Elliot

Eddie Hill

Alex Sands

Terrye Seckinger

Tommy Shelley

Committee on Committees

Cory Horton, Chair

Chuck Sprouse, Vice-Chair

The Committee on Committees is selected by the outgoing president from the previous year. The Bylaws stipulate the makeup of this group, which comes from all sizes of churches. This committee accepts nominations to fill vacancies on all Standing Committees of the Convention. The length of service varies on these committees, but all terms begin on January 1, 2024.

2023 Committee on Committees

Cory Horton, Chair

Chuck Sprouse, Vice-Chair

Phillip Beacham

Kyle Caudell

Terry Corder

Michael Crawford

Nathan Dye

Ken Frederick

Pat Gillen

Clark McCrary

Mike McMinn

Anna Richardson

Arnaldo Silva

Chris Spires

Dale Wood

Nominations to Fill 2024 Standing Committee Vacancies

*Laity

#Filling an Unexpired Term

Committee	Nominee Church, Association	Term Expires
Bylaws (3-year term)	Bobby James Cedar Creek, Kershaw	12/31/2026
	Sean McElrath North First, Orangeburg-Calhoun	12/31/2026
	Greg Somers Berea First, Three Rivers	12/31/2026
Christian Life & Public Affairs (3-year term)	Brandon Blair Langston, Waccamaw	12/31/2026
	*Linda Hite Red Bank, Lexington	12/31/2026
	Jeremy Ussery Timrod, Kershaw	12/31/2026
Enrollment & Credentials (1-year term)	*Harriet Johnson Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2024
	*Cotton Kirkland Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2024
	*Dee Kirkland Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2024

	<i>*Sharon Price Columbia First, Columbia Metro</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
	<i>*Kathy Spires Columbia First, Columbia Metro</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
	<i>*Randy Spires Columbia First, Columbia Metro</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
<i>History (3-year term)</i>	<i>Joey Farrington Whitefield, Palmetto</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>#Brad Ramey White Plains, Palmetto</i>	<i>12/31/2024</i>
	<i>*Becky Slayton Southside, Spartanburg</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
<i>Nominations (3-year term)</i>	<i>Adrian Allen Lamar First, Welsh Neck Region 9</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Jon Bell Eastview, York Region 5</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>*Zeke Benjamin Mountville, Laurens Region 5</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Mark Bishop Landrum First, Spartanburg Region 4</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Kirk Carlisle New Calvary, Santee Region 11</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Drew Gunter New Prospect, Saluda Region 1</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Michael How Ninety Six First, Lakelands Region 6</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Greg Hyler North Myrtle Beach First, Waccamaw Region 12</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>
	<i>Johnny McDaniel Greenwood, Florence Region 11</i>	<i>12/31/2026</i>

	Woody Oliver Okatee, Savannah River Region 10	12/31/2026
	Alex Smith Taylors First, Three Rivers Region 3	12/31/2026
	#J.D. Wilson Mt. Zion, Chester Region 7	12/31/2024
Resolutions (3-year term)	Darrell Boyleston Bull Swamp, Orangeburg-Calhoun	12/31/2026
	Daniel Dickard Shandon, Columbia Metro	12/31/2026

History Committee

Paul Noe, Chair

Greg Nix, Vice-Chair

History is “HIS” story. The South Carolina Baptist Convention has a providential and vivid history that began in 1821. The History Committee has been entrusted with the task of promoting and preserving the history of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, its Associations, and its churches.

A major historical event took place for South Carolina Baptists on March 20, 2023, during a special called meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. The meeting was held at Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia. Dr. Tony Wolfe was called as the Executive Director-Treasure of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Dr. Wolfe’s call begins a new chapter of history for South Carolina Baptists.

We are very excited about our partnership with North Greenville University. During the annual meeting last November (November 15, 2022), the Convention voted to relocate the archives that are presently housed at the Convention Building in Columbia to North Greenville University. This will allow for a special area where the archives can be displayed and utilized by students, scholars, historians, and churches for research and general awareness. The archives will be preserved and maintained with dignity, honor, and professionalism. Details are still being formulated and will be reported to the Convention at a later date.

Anna Wilson-Stillwell, Historian and Archivist for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, is an invaluable resource for the History Committee and South Carolina Baptists. With her assistance, our committee continues to seek ways to encourage local associations and churches to compile and conserve their histories. One way is through printed resources available through Anna and our Convention that provide suggestions and guidelines for associations and churches to preserve their personal histories through a history room, display area, or history booklet, among other ideas.

We are grateful and blessed to serve South Carolina Baptists on this very important committee.

Paul Noe, Chair

Carol Bryan

Walter Johnson

Greg Nix, Vice-Chair

H. E. Barkley

Nominations Committee

Lisa Willard, Chair

Clay Smith, Vice-Chair

The Nominations Committee is comprised of two members from each of the 12 geographic regions. Their work is invaluable in choosing knowledgeable people to conduct the work of the Convention and our Ministry Partners. We are grateful for each committee member and appreciate the time they invested in naming these candidates for election to the 2024 boards.

Executive Board members serve a four-year tenure unless fulfilling an unexpired term. The number of members of the Executive Board is in transition as the 2021 Bylaws amendments allow natural attrition to bring the size down to 29 members (including the Convention President as a voting member of the Board).

Trustees serve a five-year term unless they are filling an unexpired term. All terms begin on January 1, 2024.

Nominations Committee

Executive Board

<i>Region</i>	<i>Nominee Name, Church, Association</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
1	*April Burgess, Earle's Grove, Beaverdam	12/31/2027
5	Don Peake, Welcome, Laurens	12/31/2027
10 (AT-LARGE)	Tommy Meador, Northwood, Charleston	12/31/2027

Ministry Partners

<i>Ministry Partner</i>	<i>Nominee Name, Church, Association</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
Anderson University	Wes Brashier, Scenic Hills, Unassigned	12/31/2028
Anderson University	*Hugh Burgess, Welcome, Saluda	12/31/2028
Anderson University	Jay McSwain, First Redeemer, Cumming, Georgia	12/31/2028
Anderson University	Condy Richardson, Fountain Inn First, Greenville	12/31/2028
Anderson University	Cliff Satterwhite, Mt. Airy, Piedmont	12/31/2028
Charleston Southern University	*Ryan Ashley, Millbrook, Aiken	12/31/2028
Charleston Southern University	*Larry Driggers, Highland Park, Charleston	12/31/2028
Charleston Southern University	*Rick Redden, Church at Lifepark, Charleston	12/31/2028
Charleston Southern University	*Tim Whitfield, Grace on the Ashley, Charleston	12/31/2028
Charleston Southern University	Bobby Wood, Redemption Church, Ogden, Utah	12/31/2028
North Greenville University	Daniel Dickard, Shandon, Columbia Metro	12/31/2028
North Greenville University	Marcus Hayes, Crossroads, The Woodlands, Texas	12/31/2028
North Greenville University	*Michael Lord, Church at Lifepark, Charleston	12/31/2028
North Greenville University	*Lenna Smith, Ebenezer Welcome, Three Rivers	12/31/2028
North Greenville University	*David Wilcox, Biltmore, Asheville, North Carolina	12/31/2028
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	David Bennett, Lake Murray, Lexington	12/31/2028
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	*Terry Lee, Cedar Creek, Aiken	12/31/2028
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	Clark McCrary, St. Matthews First, Orangeburg-Calhoun	12/31/2028
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	*Jerry Rentz, North Side, Lakelands	12/31/2028
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	*Eddy Thomas, Church at Lifepark, Charleston	12/31/2028
Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries	##Sarah Traynum, Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2027
Baptist Courier	Travis Kerns, Greer First, Three Rivers	12/31/2028
Baptist Courier	Michael Wren, Hephzibah Baptist, Georgia	12/31/2028
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	Marshall Blalock, Charleston First, Charleston	12/31/2028
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	*Jim DuBose, Springfield First, Edisto	12/31/2028
Baptist Foundation of South Carolina	*Homer Reeves, Brushy Creek, Greenville	12/31/2028
SCBaptist Ministry of Aging	*Lyn Burkholder, Columbia First, Columbia Metro	12/31/2028
SCBaptist Ministry of Aging	*Randy Moody, Taylors First, Three Rivers	12/31/2028
SCBaptist Ministry of Aging	*Brian Morris, Shandon, Columbia Metro	12/31/2028

**Indicates Laity | #Indicates Filling an Unexpired Term*

2024 Committee on Committees

In accordance with the South Carolina Baptist Convention Bylaws, Part II, Article II, Convention President Albert Allen has selected his Committee on Committees.

The Committee consists of at least one (1) from churches with five hundred (500) in worship or more, at least three (3) persons from churches with two hundred to four hundred and ninety-nine (200–499) in worship; at least three (3) from churches with fewer than two hundred (200) in worship and at least one (1) from churches that are new works (church plants) that have been in existence between one (1) and five (5) years. Worship attendance shall be based on the latest published Annual Church Profile Report.

The President is strongly encouraged to seek people who accurately reflect the ethnic diversity and regional representation of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

The Committee on Committees nominates the Standing Committee members and, unless otherwise provided for, any special committees authorized by the Convention.

<i>Nominee Name</i>	<i>Church</i>	<i>Association</i>
Mrs. Miriam Beacham	Columbia First	Columbia Metro
Rev. Walter Belton	Radiant Church	Charleston
Rev. Jason Burley	Newberry First	Reedy River
Rev. Tim Coker	Central	Welsh Neck
Rev. Jamie Duncan	East Pickens	Pickens-12 Mile
Rev. Dwight Easler	Corinth	Broad River
Rev. Rod Elliott	Cheraw First	Chesterfield
Rev. RaShan Frost	The Bridge Church	Charleston
Rev. Ian Geimer	Kingstree First	Williamsburg
Rev. John Goudelock	Living Water	Waccamaw
Rev. Zack Little	South Side	Lakelands
Dr. Clark McCrary	St. Matthews First	Orangeburg-Calhoun
Mrs. Ruth McWhite	Rocky Creek	Greenville
Rev. Jim Oliver	Bethlehem	Spartanburg
Mrs. Cindy Sanders	Barnwell First	Barnwell Bamberg

Serving as South Carolina Woman's Missionary Union's newest Executive Director-Treasurer has been a joy and honor. Time flies by, and we never want to miss what God is doing. We have learned more about the state whenever we get in our vehicles and travel to a city near you! God has been gracious to us, and we want to join Him at work!

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS WHO LIVE ON MISSION

That's the WMU mandate. At South Carolina WMU, we focus on making disciples of Jesus who live on mission. This mandate holds believers in Jesus accountable to the command Jesus speaks about in the Great Commission. As we go, we make disciples (or followers) of Jesus who live for Christ and make Him known.

We carry out the WMU mandate by focusing on four vital missional characteristics:

- Learn about Missions
- Pray for Missions
- Support Missions
- Do Missions and Tell People about Jesus

A key phrase in the fourth WMU mandate is to tell people about Jesus. We know that to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission, we must tell people about Jesus.

Our WMU mandate reminds us that as we go about our day, we should tell people about Jesus and share the Gospel. We want to come alongside you and help you with this. Believers should be looking to share the Gospel with all people, especially those seeking to know more.

Missions Cooperation:

Over \$1,990,500 was given to the Janie Chapman Offering for State Missions, Missions Education, and Kingdom ADVANCE in South Carolina for 2022! Janie Chapman is 3.4% over \$66,068 the previous year.

For the twenty-fifth year in a row, SC WMU sent a check for over a million dollars to the South Carolina Baptist Convention to support the Convention initiatives of Serve, Share, Send, Start, and Strengthen and associational ministries. Thank you so much for giving to this offering.

Missions Awareness

With society becoming less church-ed and more people following the "you do you" or a "live your truth" culture, we must navigate new ways of being on mission and sharing with others who we are as a Woman's Missionary Union organization. We must speak a language that people can understand. With God as our leader, He will show us how to navigate to reach a growing population of post-modern people.

New goals that our staff is focusing on are:

1. Having specific conversations with the South Carolina Baptist Convention team leaders about partnership. We want to lock arms with mission-minded partners in our field of work.

2. Connecting with more churches already on board with Missions Discipleship and WMU. Find key leaders in the church. We want to encourage and challenge mission leadership to focus on the four missional characteristics as God leads them.

3. Expanding our social media presence. The United States has 302.35 million social media users as of 2023. That means 90% of our country's population uses social media actively. Facebook is the most popular social media platform in the United States, with 74.2% of adults using it. This statistic shows that we must increase our social media presence.

4. Conveying the value and vision of WMU. We are finding ways to engage with people by sharing with others about the ministry of the Woman's Missionary Union.

Missions Sending:

Kenna Boyle grew up in Columbia, South Carolina, attending First Baptist Church of Columbia. The church and her parents encouraged and taught a missions lifestyle using a Girls in Action (GA) and Acteens curriculum. Kenna was also involved in music at her church, including choir, leading worship, and music camps. Her love for music grew as she discovered world music. She attended Camp La Vida as a camper and worked on staff for three years. Camp La Vida opened doors for her to meet missionaries from all over the world. All these things ultimately impacted her desire to pursue missions. When she was about nine years old, she did a small research project on the culture of Botswana, Africa. Thus began the dream of traveling to Botswana, meeting the people who lived there, learning their culture, and sharing the Gospel. The miraculous opportunity to serve the people of Botswana soon as an International Mission Board Journeyman is one that she attributes to the Lord with thankfulness.

Missions Camping:

Over 315 churches from six states sent 1,400 students to Camp La Vida in 2023! Over 70 students decided to follow Christ, and over 30 were called to a life of mission service. Please pray for us as we continue serving and honoring the Lord.

Baptist Foundation of South Carolina

Nathan McCarthy, President & CEO



Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord... Colossians 3:23a

The Baptist Foundation of South Carolina (BFSC) serves churches by providing financial and giving services to help God's people fund the Great Commission. We believe that God's commission is fulfilled through His church, and our aim is to serve His church through a Kingdom mindset. Whether speaking to a church committee, conducting a legacy program, opening a new fund, or providing account statements, our desire is that we serve the church well.

We focus on three major areas of service:

Ministry Investments - Since this time last year, more dollars have been invested through BFSC than in any single year in our history. The Kingdom Fund, our signature investment, performed extremely well in a volatile 2022 market and did so with much less risk than traditional investments. Our simple investment solutions are designed with a church mindset that focuses on strategy and protection of assets. More importantly, we actively seek out investments that honor the Lord through choosing investments with a focus on Kingdom growth and human flourishing.

Seed Financial Services, Inc. - In 2022, BFSC established a subsidiary organization, Seed Financial Services Inc. (SFS) to provide another avenue for serving churches. SFS offers church lending services to help churches with financing needs for building and renovation projects. SFS also offers fixed-rate investment options for churches and individuals who want to invest in church growth. After much prayer, preparation, and legal filings, SFS received approval by the State Attorney General's office as of November 2022. As of this report, a total of five loans have been completed, with a sixth in process. Our fixed investments, Certificates of Growth (COGs), are gaining momentum as institutions, churches, and individuals are investing in Kingdom growth.

SFS is, first and foremost, a ministry arm of BFSC. Through capital campaign and church lending expertise, BFSC and SFS provide advice and guidance to churches who are preparing for future growth. SFS comes alongside churches early in the process to help them prepare for major projects with the goal of maintaining church health and financial stability as they proceed.

Generosity and Legacy - BFSC continues to focus on Christian stewardship in life and death. We provide generosity and legacy planning programs in churches, and we provide personal legacy planning services. During this past year, estate gifts that were initiated through BFSC's ministry have provided over \$5 million outright and over \$3 million in endowed gifts for Baptist ministries in our state. Along with these, countless men and women have learned about the joy of generosity and have made plans to give today and from Heaven! What an impact these individuals will have on future generations who will have the opportunity to experience the love of Christ through their giving!

Major accomplishments since the last report include:

- Our Kingdom Fund continues to be a top investment (better returns with less risk) when compared to nationwide institutional investments of \$1 billion or less. Not only does BFSC screen out investments such as alcohol, tobacco, abortion, and pornography, but we actively seek to invest in high-quality, solid investments that support Kingdom initiatives and human flourishing!
- Completing all legal and operational tasks to fully manage Seed Financial Services, Inc. This included the installation of software, development of policies, procedures, and forms, training, marketing, and processing almost \$8 million in loans.
- Distributing almost \$4 million to primarily Baptist ministries through endowment and investment income in our fiscal year ending 2022. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed over \$95 million to Kingdom ministries—from churches in South Carolina to ministries and missions projects around the world.
- Continuing to tithe our own ministry resources to provide grants to help fund evangelistic projects. In 2022, grants totaling \$86,494 were awarded. Since 2002, endowed gifts and the BFSC tithe have resulted in almost \$1,370,000 in ministry grants to churches and ministries.
- Continuing to assist small churches and other ministries with online giving platforms, including custom pages. Since March 2020, we have established 100 online giving platforms to assist churches, associations, and other ministries. In 2022, over \$1 million in online transactions were processed through these platforms.
- Providing customized estate planning for families or individuals who desire to leave a portion of their estates to Kingdom ministries. To date, almost 260 families have completed estate plans with anticipated future gifts of over \$80 million for primarily Baptist ministries.
- Since 2016, the Foundation has operated with NO Cooperative Program financial assistance. BFSC has distributed to ministries a return of \$9.88 for every Cooperative Program dollar we have received since inception.
- As of July 31, 2023, the Foundation manages over \$173.3 million in assets for the benefit of churches, associations, and Baptist institutions across our state, nation, and world.

BFSC continues to seek ways to resource and engage churches and ministries in the areas of God-honoring investments, church-centered lending, and biblical stewardship and generosity.

We humbly request prayer for the following needs:

- Guidance towards godly men and women who have a heart for Jesus and the skill sets needed to serve alongside us on our staff and Board of Trustees
- Humble discernment that will help us effectively teach and serve churches
- Wisdom in making investment and business decisions that will bring honor and glory to God
- Yearning in the hearts of God's people to prayerfully steward their resources as an act of worship

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries

Danny Nicholson, President



In 1924, A.T. Jamison, President of Connie Maxwell for 46 years, penned these words that are relevant today:

"The beginning was in the days of small things and it may be, who knows, that even the accomplishments of the present are small compared to the great future that lies ahead."

As Debra and I celebrate our sixth anniversary at Connie Maxwell and near completion of our third year of "A Decade of Dreams" strategic plan, it is with a great sense of enthusiasm and momentum that we report on progress made towards our future dreams.

We launched the silent phase of our "For the Dreams of Children" Campaign by recruiting the leadership to implement a fundraising effort focused on garnering the financial support needed to accomplish our strategic objectives. Chairman Doug Kauffmann and ten other steering committee members have set a high bar by making significant leadership gifts and creating momentum toward this defining effort.

Alongside the campaign, we continue to make significant progress in the development of the inner workings of the Healing Center, the first steps toward defining Maxwell Farms as an SC destination and continuing the process of establishing a new campus in Charleston. The completion of these strategic priorities in future years will fulfill our vision of becoming "a national leader in healing and ministry for vulnerable children and families."

Additionally, progress is being made towards other various "Decade of Dreams" goals and objectives. Our Residential Care served 220 children and families, and we continued to double-staff cottages to strengthen security, safety, and the presence of Christian couples as an example of whole and healing families. Foster Care continues to grow and flourish with 39 homes licensed, serving 85 children. Family Care provided services for eight families, which consisted of eight single parents and their 16 children. Crisis Care has served 35 children and families, and the Higher Education/Independent Living program served 18 children this year.

As a part of the "Decade of Dreams," a growing sense of momentum continues to bolster our annual giving and volunteer service levels. This year, "Giving Tuesday" secured \$510,677.77, representing 616 gifts. Besides financial support, Connie Maxwell has welcomed 785 individuals, 27 church groups, and four civic groups to serve on campus. These volunteers have completed over 6,660 hours of volunteer activities. Additionally, 18,000 participated in Connie Maxwell Christmas, and 3,500 participants came to our new Corn Maze event at Maxwell Farms, which raised over \$25,000.

As always, we want to thank each South Carolina Baptist for your prayers and support.

As I conclude this report, I am reminded of the scripture in Isaiah 60:22:

"The smallest family will become a thousand people, and the tiniest group will become a mighty nation. At the right time, I, the Lord, will make it happen."

South Carolina Baptist Ministries of Aging

Tom Turner, President & CEO

SOUTH CAROLINA BAPTIST



MINISTRIES OF AGING

SCBMA takes pride in knowing that for over 60 years, we have provided a safe place for over 350 seniors and their families to celebrate life and continue to serve the Lord. Not only do we touch the lives of our residents and their families, but we minister, in the name of Jesus, to 350 employees and their families daily.

As we look back, this past year has been a challenging one. Higher prices for basic services like food, water, electricity, and supplies, coupled with shortages nationwide in the healthcare work force, has caused us to be very creative in the ways we minister to our seniors every day. God, though, was faithful and met every need at just the right time. While all financial gifts are impactful to an organization, legacy gifts help to further ministry today and tomorrow. SCBMA's leadership and trustees continue to marvel at how timely God brought those gifts to us this past year. Because of these gifts and the ongoing support of our residents, their families, and the South Carolina Baptist Convention, I am pleased to share several recent accomplishments:

- In the summer of 2022, SCBMA launched their in-home initiative, Senior Smart Solutions. The goal of this initiative is to provide smart and safe solutions to help seniors remain in their own environments for as long as they can.
- In January 2021, our campus in Darlington, Bethea Retirement Community, opened their new 88-bed, state-of-the-art nursing and rehabilitation facility. Since then, it has consistently maintained a 90% or above occupancy, thereby continuing to provide needed healthcare services to Pee Dee residents.
- Since launching our Bethea and Martha Franks' Helping Seniors Thrive Giving Society in 2016, we have raised over \$936,440 in donations and pledges, added 73 members to the Society, and have grown the total donor support to 620 patrons. Faithful supporters of this campaign enable us to continue to provide financial assistance to those who need it for residential living expenses each month.
- Our 2022 Mother's Day Offering campaign raised \$113,353 with 37 new churches or individuals participating. This scholarship provides financial assistance for pastors, missionaries, and their spouses who live in our communities.

Our Trustees recognize that there will be many issues to manage in the years ahead—a growing senior population, maintaining a capable and caring workforce, and assuring our communities are prepared to meet the challenges of a competitive and ever-evolving retirement community industry. Our faith and confidence remain in the Lord as we continue to provide professional services for seniors with compassionate care in the name of Jesus Christ so that all we serve may thrive. The future looks to be exciting for SCBMA and South Carolina Baptists!

We ask for your prayers as we:

- Continue to meet the healthcare needs of the people in the Pee Dee;
- Continue to reach people for the Lord by reorganizing our Martha Franks Billy Graham Call Center in Laurens; and
- Expand our ministry throughout South Carolina with our Senior Smart Solutions initiative.

David Brower once said, "We don't inherit the earth from our ancestors. We borrow it from our children." We have all heard it said that you cannot out-give God. SCBMA has certainly seen that evidenced this past year as South Carolina Baptists have faithfully given and supported our mission.

Anderson University

Evans Whitaker, President



For God and humanity, Anderson University (AU) seeks to be an innovative, entrepreneurial, premier comprehensive university where liberal arts, professional studies, and graduate studies thrive within an uplifting, welcoming, and distinctively Christian community of diverse faculty, staff, and students dedicated to intellectually rigorous learning, a caring and hospitable campus culture, and personal transformation.

Student Testimonies

Allow me to share two brief stories about students as evidence of why SCBaptists support Anderson University.

Carrie is a sophomore nursing major from the Upstate who loves the Lord and dedicates her life to helping others. Her family has few financial resources. She has an academic scholarship, but she also works 40 hours a week at a retail shop in Anderson to pay for college. She's a member of a local Baptist church. She's in a God-honoring relationship with her boyfriend, John, an AU engineering major, also a Baptist from North Carolina, who works all summer long for college tuition. Carrie and John take accountability and responsibility seriously. AU nurtures their faith through weekly chapel, Bible courses, and an intentionally conservative Christian campus culture. At a time when so many young people are "taken in" by "woke" propaganda, Carrie and John represent hope for their generation. They believe that to follow Jesus, adhering to traditional moral values, and doing hard work is the best way to live their lives. They are champions for Christ. They are Kingdom builders.

Jackson is a senior criminal justice/homeland security major from Yorba Linda, California, and a member of the AU baseball team. This summer, he served on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Shepherds baseball ministry team, coaching 1,000 FCA campers ages 5 to 13, conducting Bible studies, leading campers to Christ, and working in a Mexican orphanage. He says he uses baseball for the glory of God, and his faith is the most important aspect of his life. Jackson and his teammates led 196 kids to accept Christ as Lord and Savior. He loves the fact that Heaven rejoices each time one of his campers gives his life to Christ! He says that AU has helped him grow and mature in his faith in countless ways. Jackson is a champion for Christ, a Kingdom builder.

There will be no end to the impact that will be made by the lives and ministry of Carrie, John, and Jackson in this life and for all eternity.

2023 Highlights

A total of 950+ new students joined the Anderson University family this Fall.

Anderson University continues to be recognized as one of the best universities by nationwide publications. Its latest rankings and distinctions include:

- Best Student Engagement: Ranked 25th among the top 800 universities in the United States (Wall Street Journal/ Times Higher Education, 2022)
- Among the "Best Southeastern" universities (The Princeton Review, 2023)
- U.S. News & World Report, 2023 ranks Anderson University:
 - * "Best First-Year Experience" among all colleges and universities;
 - * #2 in SC for Online Graduate Nursing programs;

- * #3 in SC for Online Master of Business Administration (MBA);
- * #6 in SC for Online Bachelor Programs
- South Carolina's Business Journals' Top Workplace Survey recognized Anderson University as #7 among the state's large employers
- Clapp Divinity School initiated a new Ph.D. in Preaching degree.
- In August, the 45,000-square-foot Field House opened, featuring spaces for Trojan Football, Sports Medicine, and classrooms.
- New campus housing for another 196 students has increased the residential population to approximately 2,100 students.
- This summer, the AU Campus hosted more than 7,500 young people across various spiritual, academic, and athletic camps and at Palmetto Boys State.
- Clayton King is our primary evangelistic partner, along with our many ministerial graduates and our Convention. During Clayton King Ministry's Crossroad Summer Camps, more than 1,300 high school and junior high students made professions of faith, 550 decisions to pursue leadership in ministry were made, and nearly \$40,000 was raised for missions. Praise God for saving these souls and for empowering so many to do the Lord's work around the world.
- We welcomed Ms. Maddy Woodford as Director of Women's Ministries and Community Missions. She recently earned a master's degree from Baylor University and is a member of Highland Baptist Church in Waco, TX.
- The College of Engineering is moving into its new 40,000-square-foot home in 2023-24. We also welcome Dr. Lisa Zidek as our new Dean. She has decades of experience, most recently as Associate Dean at a public university and a full professor of bioengineering.

Prayer Requests

- Please join us in continuing to pray for our students and God's will for their lives.
- Pray for AU's campus ministries to be strong instruments for worshiping, evangelizing, equipping, and serving.
- Pray for the mission and health of faithful Christian institutions, like Anderson University, as we face increased cultural and social pressure against our Christ-centered values and practice. Pray that religious freedom will be respected and upheld.
- Please pray for our campus as we continue our ambitious capital projects campaign.
- Pray as we develop our new five-year strategic plan over the next few months.

Charleston Southern University

B. Keith Faulkner, President



During this past year, CSU challenged students from all backgrounds to deepen their Christian faith and explore God's purpose for their lives. Students were equipped with a biblical worldview, encouraged to follow Christ's example by serving others (Matthew 20:28), and sent on mission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Highlights:

- We praise God that 29 CSU students received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior during formal campus ministries events this year. We thank the Lord as well that 65 students served in the United States and overseas.
- The North American Mission Board recognized South Carolina for sending the largest number of summer missionaries through its GenSend initiative. In fact, CSU sent more students on mission (21 of 51 from the state) than any other university in South Carolina.
- Our weekly college night of worship averaged 212, and our women's discipleship ministry included 100 females in one-on-one discipleship relationships.
- We are thankful that 397 decisions were made at SummerSalt on CSU's campus (88 salvations, 151 repentance, 115 calls to ministry, and 43 other decisions).
- CSU students, faculty, and staff set the national collegiate record for Operation Christmas Child for the fourth straight year, packing 13,019 shoeboxes in 2022.
- CSU awarded 711 academic degrees in 2022-2023. Aeronautics celebrated its first graduate from the Professional Pilot program with the coveted Restricted-Airline Transport License certification. Four students earned the first BS in engineering degree and obtained a 100% pass rate on the Fundamentals of Engineering Exam.
- U.S. News & World Report ranked CSU #39 nationally in its Best Online Undergraduate Bachelor's Programs category and #22 for Veterans (the top-ranked university in South Carolina).
- In collaboration with the Enrollment team, the College of Christian Studies has awarded 12 of 25 available Call to Ministry scholarships thus far, which grants incoming freshmen pursuing a Christian Studies major with nearly \$70,000 in scholarships over four years.
- CSU Athletics placed third in the Big South's Sasser Cup competition (best all-around Athletics program) for the second year in a row. On the academic front, our student-athletes earned a cumulative 3.23 GPA, the third consecutive year above 3.0, and the highest cumulative athletic GPA on record in university history.
- CSU dedicated our new intramural field complex in March 2023. Intramural entrance improvements (fire pits, grill station, sidewalk replacement, and renovation of existing deck) are also planned.

Prayer Request:

- Please pray for CSU as we seek to do the Lord's work for His glory.
- Pray for the Lord to bring revival in and beyond our campus.

North Greenville University

Gene Fant, President



Motto: "Christ makes the difference!"

Mission: Equipping transformational leaders for church & society

Core Values:

- Christ-Centered
- Biblically Faithful
- Academically Excellent
- Mission-Focused

Theme Word: CELEBRATE!

In the academic year 2022-2023, the university's theme word was "Celebrate!", marking the conclusion of the fifth year of the Fant administration, the conclusion of the pandemic's primary effects on higher education, and the launch of many new initiatives. Together, we claimed for the entire year Psalm 68:3b-4a: "Sing to God! Sing praises to his name. Exalt him who rides on the clouds—his name is the LORD—and celebrate before him."

The university sought to emphasize the "unity" in community as we fully operationalized alignment between student life, residence life, and campus ministries. In the new configuration, these important co-curricular aspects of the Tigerville experience were merged in order to emphasize our mission of equipping transformational leaders for the church and society. Students have already reported a strong positive response to the initiatives, which are dramatically impacting annual retention rates and student satisfaction markers. This emphasis also underscores the overall exaltation of Christ over all areas of the university and the Lordship of Christ over all aspects of life: heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30-31).

We continued our longstanding tradition of emphasizing spiritual formation through our chapel and campus ministries programs. Chapel is the largest course on campus, and we emphasize that while it is an important part of the university experience, it is not a substitute for worship and service in a local body of believers. As students report for the year, we provide a "Church Fair," where about a hundred local churches interact with students and provide them with an overview of the churches' opportunities for service. The first chapel of the year is called "Convocation" and emphasizes President Fant's overview of the year, with this year's address titled, "The Purpose of the Christian University," an explication of Genesis 2 and Colossians 1:16-18. The Ignite Conference was led by Rob Wilton, a North American Mission Board church planter in Pittsburgh, PA. President Jamie Dew of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary spoke a few weeks later on the power and importance of the resurrection; this was followed by Clayton King presenting a bold Gospel proclamation that saw over 40 students respond to the invitation to follow Christ in that single event. The Global Impact Conference assembles an entire cadre of missionaries on campus, connecting with our many students who experience a call to missions and outreach. In the spring, our Biblical Worldview Emphasis included dynamic challenges for students to understand God's call over their lives, no matter their academic disciplines.

Finally, our Read-Through-The-Bible emphasis brings oral reading of the Scriptures to campus, with the entire Bible read cover-to-cover, Genesis through Revelation, emphasizing our dedication to being Biblically Faithful.

This year, we continued the full launch of the College of Business & Entrepreneurship (COBE), which began before the pandemic and was somewhat paused during the pandemic. The COBE strongly emphasizes marketplace ministry, helping students to see that God provides resources for stewardship as a part of His plan for human flourishing. As a part of this, we began the largest capital project of the Fant administration, the complete renovation of Donnan Hall, which will be a \$10 million project. Built in 1956, Donnan has served the university well as its signature building, but it has not been fully renovated since its construction. We anticipate rededicating the facility in January 2024, with the campus executive offices relocated to the building's second story and the COBE filling the rest of the facility. This "Class A" facility for "Class A" business students will prepare them for "Class A" career opportunities.

The university finished the year with a strong balance sheet that continues to reflect no long-term interest-bearing debt and a tuition / fee schedule that is among the lowest in the region for private universities. We continue to be certified / members in both Excellence in Giving (<https://excellenceingiving.com>) and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (<https://www.ecfa.org>). NGU is one of the only universities in the nation with both certifications, which evaluate our financial operations and commitment to transparency in philanthropy.

NGU continues to provide leaders who serve our churches and denominational structures. This year, an unusual number of leaders were named:

- Alumnus Daniel Dickard served as President of the SBC Pastor's Conference
- Alumnus Alex Sands served as 2nd Vice President of the Southern Baptist Convention
- NGU Provost Nathan Finn served as Recording Secretary of the SBC
- Alumnus David Sons served on the Executive Committee of the SBC
- Alumnus Josh Powell served as chair of the Board of Trustees of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- Alumnus Marshall Blalock chairs the Task Force related to Sexual Abuse
- Alumnus Michael Pardue served as President of the North Carolina Baptist Convention

Many others served on other committees and in other roles at the national and state levels.

North Greenville University values the support, accountability, and prayers of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and looks forward to being partners in God's redemptive work in our state, our nation, and our world!

Prayer Requests

- Pray for us to be able to cultivate a Christ-first community where students, faculty, and staff have genuine relationships that encourage one another in their intellectual and spiritual formation.
- Pray that our faculty and staff will be God-honoring mentors and disciple-makers who can discern God's calling for each of our students.
- Pray for our students to discover the personal confidence that the Gospel can bring to those who seek to exalt the name of Christ.
- Pray that God will allow us to continue to be an irenic place of solace for those in our surrounding communities, as they see our love for Him and our fellow persons lived out in our hearts, minds, souls, and strength.

The Baptist Courier

Jeff Robinson, President

On February 17th, the trustee board of The Baptist Courier unanimously elected Dr. Jeff Robinson as the new president and editor-in-chief of the historic monthly magazine and publishing company. Dr. Robinson replaced Rudy Gray, who retired after ten years as president and editor and many years in pastoral ministry in the Upstate of South Carolina. In his acceptance address, Jeff set forth a four-pronged vision for his editorship, encompassed in four key words: "Inform and Instruct, Edify and Glorify." Jeff began work March 1st and has been busy laying the foundation for a new direction he believes will help the Courier remain strong in years ahead. Here's what's in the works:

A major redesign of the monthly magazine

With graphics and aesthetics constantly changing, it's important to keep up the look of the magazine to make it attractive to all kinds of readers. The Courier will be undergoing its first facelift in years at the outset of 2024.

A redirecting of Courier Publishing

The excellently conceived Courier Publishing will continue to offer a publishing venue for new authors in Southern Baptist churches across the Palmetto State under the Palmetto Collective imprint. However, a new line will also be making its debut at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Labeled 1821 in honor of the beginning of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, this side of Courier Publishing will offer books on the Bible, theology, church history, biography, local church ministry, and more by established authors from our state and beyond. Three books are currently in the works to debut at the convention, including a new one by President Robinson. The goal with this side is to publish independently but also to develop publishing partnerships with better-known evangelical publishers, publishing books under the 1821 imprint.

New overhauled websites for both the Courier and Courier Publishing

Our goal is to eventually publish several articles per day, at least five days a week, with news and features from around our state and beyond. We want to drive traffic to the website and seek to have it become the Courier's central resource. The new websites will include videos on news and video interviews along with author interviews and stories about new books as they arrive from Courier Publishing.

A thematic approach to the monthly magazine

Since the Courier only publishes its magazine once a month, we want to make it a trusted resource and give it a longer shelf life for pastors and laypeople alike. The magazine will still include news and features as before, but some months will also examine in greater depth an important topic with several articles. For example, the September issue looked at confessionalism, a burning topic among Southern Baptists today. In October, we devoted space to helping churches love their pastors better in celebration of Pastor Appreciation Month.

Continuing Courier Tours

We are continuing to offer Courier Tours, with one tour last summer to Midwest Amish country with stops at the Ark Encounter and other places in Ohio and Kentucky.

Biweekly episodes of Courier Conversations

We are continuing to record biweekly episodes of Courier Conversations, the Courier's podcast. Recent interviews have included Three Rivers leader Travis Kerns on engaging cults and SCBaptist Executive Director-Treasurer Dr. Tony Wolfe on how Christians who disagree can do so lovingly while cooperating in Kingdom work for God's glory.

We help each
church advance the
Great Commission
together.

each church
every life

This SCBaptist resource is made possible
through the Cooperative Program giving of
South Carolina Baptist churches.



www.scbaptist.org | [@scbaptist](https://twitter.com/scbaptist)