# SCBaptist Senior Adult Ministry Framework

## SCBMA/SCBaptist Subcommittees Report

*September 10, 2026*

*Messengers to the November, 2025 SCBaptist annual meeting voted to allow the SCBMA to sell their two retirement communities and work with the SCBaptist Executive Board to build a new ministry model for senior adult ministry through the SCBaptist. The sale of the communities was finalized July 31, 2026. In three meetings August 26, September 1, and September 10, 2026, subcommittees of the SCBMA and SCBaptist Boards met to pray for, evaluate, and build a basic framework for SCBaptist senior adult ministry in the future. With great enthusiasm about the opportunities ahead, the joint subcommittee submits this initial report. What follows is not a detailed ministry model, but a summary outline of assumptions and objectives that will provide the framework for a ministry model moving forward, upon approval of the full Boards.*

**ASSUMPTIONS:**

**1) We assume SCBaptists believe in the dignity of every human life and in every life's value to Christ, to the family, to their churches, and to the community.** Senior adults are made in the image of God, full of dignity and worthy of respect. They are a blessing to families, to their churches, and to their communities. (Lv. 19:32; Pr. 16:31; 2 Cor. 4:16; Ti. 2:1–5)

**2) We assume both the need and the opportunity are great for a robust senior adult ministry model in South Carolina.** Currently, 1,080,000 seniors adult call SC home (18–20% of the population). The annual senior adult population in SC is growing exponentially by both migration and aging (the highest of all states in 2025 net increase of senior adults); 10% of migration influx are senior adults, and the overall senior adult population in SC is expected to have doubled between 2023 and 2030. Many of these new South Carolinians are coming from states or countries with little evangelical witness. (Ec. 12:6–7; Jn. 3:16–18; 1 Pt. 1:24–25)

**3) We assume SCBaptists are strategically minded in, and sacrificially committed to, all Great Commission and Great Commandment ministry.** Senior adult mission and ministry must become a more integrated part of the Convention's larger strategic work in our state. Senior adults have much to contribute to the Convention's mission and ministry strategy in the way of wisdom, experience, and devotion. Not only are unchurched senior adults a sizeable mission field in South Carolina, but within our churches senior adults constitute a formidable mission force. (Dt. 32:7; Ps. 71:18; Mt. 28:19–20; Mk. 12:28–31; Lu. 2:37; Acts 1:8; Phil. 1:6)

**4) We assume a diverse funding commitment for the new ministry model.** This assumption takes into consideration, among other possible funding streams, (a) interest earnings from assets currently held by the SCBMA beyond current commitments (because of the generosity of current and previous generations of SCBaptists); (b) the regular, strategic transfer of funds from SCBMA to SCBaptist for carrying out the ministry model; and (c) the continuation of the annual Mother's Day Offering for assisting retired ministers in our state. (Ps. 24:1; 2 Cor. 9:6–8; Phil. 4:19)

## OBJECTIVES:

**1) Fulfill previous commitments** to Martha Franks & Bethea residents. The SCBMA made benevolent-care commitments to some current residents at these two retirement communities before announcing the intention to sell. The SCBMA will follow through with all previous benevolence commitments. A new ministry model will also include benevolence assistance to retired ministers across SC who do not live at Martha Franks or Bethea.

**2) Decrease lostness and loneliness** among SC senior adults. Acknowledging the significant and increasing senior adult population in SC, we intend to develop robust strategies for evangelizing the lost and encouraging the lonely that take into consideration their unique needs and life stages.

**3) Assist cooperating churches** in building and sustaining healthy senior adult ministry models. The local church is the locus of Great Commission and Great Commandment work. A new senior adult ministry model will focus heavily on equipping, resourcing, and networking local churches to accomplish these ministry model objectives.

**4) Facilitate strategic mission and ministry engagement** for SCBaptist senior adults. For senior adult SCBaptists, we will work with churches and associations to vitalize effective models for church-based mission and ministry mobilization in SC and around the world.

**5) Implement immediate partnership between SCBMA and SCBaptist** to help local churches connect to the senior adult community for ministry and missions, and work toward a new long-term model that fully integrates expanded senior adult ministry efforts into a specific and perpetual area of the SCBaptist strategy. The details are still under development, and we do not yet know what the long-term organizational structure will be.

Prayerfully Submitted

Ira Bedenbaugh (SCBMA)
Bill Crute (SCBMA)
Robert Grant (SCBMA)
Kevin Massey (SCBMA)
Tom Turner (SCBMA)

Don Cox (SCBaptist)
John Goudelock (SCBaptist)
Mike McCormick (SCBaptist)
Don Mowry (SCBaptist)
Tony Wolfe (SCBaptist)