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**DAVID
HARDAGE**
Executive
Director

**BECKY
BROWN**
Executive
Assistant

One of the joys I am able to experience in this role as Executive Director is the opportunity to preach in a different Texas Baptist Church each Sunday. Texas is a large and diverse state. From El Paso to Texarkana, from Brownsville to Dalhart, one can experience a little bit of almost everything geographically. Well, Sundays, are just about that same way. Every church is unique. There are churches with white columns and steeples, metal buildings and roping arenas and a little bit of almost everything else, including 69 different languages.

However, as much variety as we have there are yet a couple of New Testament truths that uniquely bind us together. Each week Kathleen and I see churches doing great work in fulfilling the Great Commandment of Matthew 22 and carrying out the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

It is so encouraging, Sunday after Sunday, to see our Texas Baptist family demonstrating a deep and abiding love for God and, at the same time, finding tangible, effective and efficient ways to show His love to the people in their neighborhoods, communities and churches. Whether it is providing backpacks for school children at the beginning of the new school year to providing lunches for children during summer months, our BGCT churches are taking seriously the command to love their neighbors.

Just as encouraging is to see how diligently our Pastors, Staff Members, church leaders and members are in preaching the Gospel and sharing the good news of Christ. This preaching and sharing, however, does not just take place on Sunday morning in our churches but also every day on the college and university campuses of Texas and through the ministry of our endorsed Chaplains all over the world in very specialized settings.

Texas Baptists are serious about their mission. This past year saw a new venture open up for us in the form of our Missionary Adoption Program. MAP is our partnership with the Baptist Convention of Brazil to provide missionaries along the Amazon River telling the story of Jesus with 147 unreached people groups in 10,000 villages and communities. Perhaps your church would like to consider MAP as a part of it's Great Commission strategy.

BOUNCE continues to be an effective opportunity in helping families and communities in need following disasters to recovery and move forward. And, it is our students who are getting hands on experiences in showing their love for God and to others through these mission trip, camp like experiences. It is a wonderful Great Commandment kind of ministry.

There are so many events and ministries I could mention and, frankly, deserve being mentioned. But, for now, please know that each and every thing we do as a Convention is designed and carried out with either the Great Commandment or Great Commission in mind. From Super Summer, to Beach Reach, to Apologetic conferences, to Music festivals to helping churches find their next leader. We are absolutely a Great Commandment and Great Commission Convention. And, I believe this balanced ministry makes BGCT special.

Thank you for your support. Of course, I hope you'll read all about our work in this book of reports. Please report back to your church the good things you have seen, heard and learned. And, when possible, encourage your church to continue or increase it's generous support of this cooperative work. You are a blessing to us all. Thanks for being here this year and I look forward to seeing you next Summer in Arlington at our Family Gathering.

In Christ,

David Hardage



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MAJOR ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SINCE THE LAST SESSION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING INCLUDED:

Approved the 2016 proceedings on the 131st Annual Session of the Baptist General Convention of Texas that met November 12-15, 2016 in Waco, Texas.

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Recommendation to Consider Churches outside of Harmonious Cooperation

We approved First Baptist Church of Austin, Wilshire Baptist Church of Dallas, and Lakeshore Baptist Church of Waco be considered outside of harmonious cooperation due to the action of each respective church. Further we recommend, BGCT not accept any funds from these churches. We request each church discontinue the publication of any materials, including on their website, that indicate they affiliate with the BGCT. This will also result in the disqualification for service by members of these churches on the BGCT staff and membership on boards and committees elected by the BGCT.

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Recommendation to add a Roth plan option to our existing 403(b) plan.

We approved the addition of a Roth plan option to the existing BGCT 403(b) plan effective 3/1/2017.

Recommendation to Adopt Certified Resolution

The Executive Board approved the adoption of the following resolution: THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that either David Hardage, Executive Director, Stephan Vernon, Associate Executive Director, or Jill Larsen, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer, are authorized to execute such document(s), contract(s), checks and other financial or transactional documentation as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the business, work and mission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas ("BGCT"). BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jim Reed, Controller and Assistant Treasurer, is authorized to execute such checks as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the business, work and mission of the BGCT. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that any non-budgeted contract exceeding \$250,000 must have received the prior approval of the Executive Board of the BGCT. THIS RESOLUTION is effective immediately and shall continue in effect until such time the persons herein authorized shall no longer occupy the positions herein described or until revoked in writing. ADOPTED this _____ day of February, 2017. Page 2 of 2 _____

_____ David Russell, Executive Board Chair _____

_____ Danny Reeves, President BGCT _____

_____ Bernard Spooner, Secretary of the Corporation State of Texas County of Dallas

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the ____ day of _____, 2017 by Bernie Spooner as Secretary of the Corporation of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. (Personalized Seal) Notary Public's Signature

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Recommendation for Use of Income from Henry and Annie Borchers Trust

We approved reinvestment of income from this fund be halted with all income used for Cooperative Program.

Recommendation for 2017 Proposed Budget

We approved the 2017 proposed budget in the amount of \$36,638,274.

Recommendation for 2017 Texas World Mission Initiatives and Partnership Allocations

We approved a 2017 proposed allocation of \$1,300,000 of Cooperative Program Texas Worldwide Missions Initiatives and Partnerships

Recommendation for Church Start Funding

We approved that one-half of the investment income from the J.K. Wadley Mission Fund be allocated as needed to fund church starts.

Recommendation for Funding of Campus Missionary Interns

We approved \$100,000 of current income from the J.K. Wadley Mission Fund be used to fund Campus Missionary Interns in 2017..

Recommendation for Use of Building Sale Proceeds from Annual Meeting Funding

We approved the Annual Meeting funding proceeds from Baylor University for all four years be added to the 2015 Building Proceeds Ministry Fund quasiendowment with the income being used to support BGCT ministries

Recommendation for Use of Income from Charles R. Moore Foundation Fund

We approved one-half of the income from the Charles R Moore Foundation Fund be used to support events at seminary campuses to engage seminary students in the work of BGCT. Further, we recommend one-half of the income from the Charles R Moore Foundation Fund be used to help better engage BSM Directors in the work of the BGCT.

Recommendation for Use of Income from Ella Bachman Jones Memorial Fund

We approved \$211 thousand of available income from the Ella Bachman Jones Memorial Fund be used to establish a quasi-endowment fund at HighGround Advisors with the income from the fund used to support the budget of the Counseling Services office

Recommendation to Redesignate Matryoshka Haus Project Funding

We approved the remaining funds in the Matryoshka Haus Project be re-designated for the Houston Area Missionary project.

Recommendation for Demolition of old BUA Buildings

We approved that bids be obtained for the demolition of the BUA buildings, a contract not to exceed \$400,000 be entered into and the buildings be demolished as soon as practicable. Funding for the demolition will be provided by the \$125,000 cancellation fee and from the Building Operations Endowment with any funds being used from the Building Operations Endowment being repaid from the ultimate sale of the BUA campus at 8019 S Pan Am Expressway, San Antonio, Texas



Recommendation to reallocate 2016 JK Wadley Endowment Fund Earnings

We approved \$480 thousand of available JK Wadley endowment Fund earnings be allocated to 2017 needs as follows: Houston Area Missionary \$ 100,000 Collegiate Ministries for building maintenance 110,000 Bounce 100,000 Western Heritage 100,000 BGCT support for new Texas Tech BSM Building 70,000 Total \$ 480,000

Recommendation for Demolition of old BUA Buildings Allowance Addition

We approved up to \$100,000 of additional funds needed to complete the demolition project of the BUA buildings be used from the Building Operations Endowment Fund with any funds being used from the Building Operations Endowment being repaid from the ultimate sale of the BUA campus at 8019 S Pan Am Expressway, San Antonio, Texas.

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM COMMITTEE TO NOMINATE EXECUTIVE BOARD DIRECTORS**Recommendation to Elect Executive Board Directors**

We approved the following nominations to fill vacancies on the Executive Board: Sector 3 Lance Wood First Baptist Church – Clarendon, TX Sector 15 Dale Pond Green Acres Baptist Church – Tyler, TX Sector 15 Kevin Woolley Mt. Sylvan Baptist Church- Tyler, TX Sectors 19-22 Lee Laine Terry Willis Willow Meadows Baptist Church – Houston, TX Sectors 19-22 Daniel Ho Chinese Baptist Church of Houston – Houston, TX

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS FOR BOARDS OF AFFILIATED MINISTRIES**Recommendation to Approve Changes to the Howard Payne University Board of Trustees**

We approved changes to the Howard Payne University Board of Trustees to move the following trustees currently serving in board-elected positions into BGCT-elected positions:

Steve Ellis First Baptist Church – Brownwood, TX
Leonard Underwood First Baptist Church – Brownwood, TX

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**Recommendation to Approve Termination of Hendrick Medical Development Corporation**

We approved the termination of the Hendrick Medical Development Corporation be granted.

Recommendation to Approve Amendment of Baptist Foundation of Texas Certificate of Formation and Bylaws

We recommend that The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) approve the Restated Certificate of Formation and the amended Bylaws which would allow Baptist Foundation of Texas to serve non-Baptist charitable organizations whose mission and purpose are not inconsistent with Baptist faith and belief and to remove BGCT as the sole member of Baptist Foundation of Texas

Recommendation to Approve Amendment of Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio Certificate of Formation and Bylaws

We recommend that The Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) approve the Restated Certificate of Formation and the amended Bylaws which would allow Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio to remove BGCT as the sole member of Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio.

APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**Recommendation to Secure 2016 Financial Auditor**

We approved the firm Weaver conduct the financial audit for the year 2016. Such audit is estimated to cost \$49,500 based on a one-year contract.



**DELVIN
ATCHISON**
Director

DEBY MILLER
Administrative
Assistant

This year, 2016-2017, has been a year of transition, as well as, a year of transformation for the Great Commission Team. You will see from the individual reports of Discipleship, Evangelism and Music & Worship, that every member of our greater team is involved in hands on ministry. That means that we are on the road from January through December connecting our people resources with local church needs/requests throughout the state of Texas. But, to do that with the utmost effectiveness, we are continually refining what we do as a team.

I can't think of a more exciting challenge than our assignment of connecting with Texas Baptists in the incredible ministries of Discipleship, Evangelism and Music & Worship. Any single area would fill a lifetime. Considering the impact of all three, combined with the extreme importance they play in the individual Christian life and the overall mission of the church, we are grateful for the privilege to serve the Lord through the Great Commission Team.

We enthusiastically embrace the opportunity to partner with the great churches of this great convention in fulfilling the Great Commission.

No farmer ends his workday as clean as he began that morning. His clothes will be filthy and sweaty. Earth will be rubbed into his hands. His skin will be baked from the sun. Readyng a field for planting requires the farmer to interact with the soil, plow the dirt, and remove stones so seeds can grow and flourish. The farmer must engage with the land being cultivated. It may seem like unpleasant work, but the farmer knows the effort will be rewarded with an abundant crop, which brings great joy.

In the same way, engaging with non-believers is a vital part of every church's outreach ministry. Engaging means participating and being actively involved in the enterprise of building relationships, witnessing, and reaching people for Christ. To assist churches with engaging the lost, the Evangelism Team underwent a strategic makeover creating five regions within the Lone Star State. Each region is served by a Regional Evangelism Associate. These evangelism associates, along with our Hispanic Evangelism Specialist and our African American Evangelism Specialist, are tasked with the work of connecting with churches and associations to provide evangelism consultation, encouragement, and training in evangelism. This will allow for a greater number of churches to be assisted and equipped to engage their communities with the gospel.

The statewide prayer initiative known as *Pray 4 Every Home* is assisting churches to engage their communities, one home at a time. The 4xFour Challenge is assisting Texas Baptists congregations in overcoming the insouciance to personal evangelism. Below is one pastor's testimony:

"In the beginning of 2017, our leaders challenged the church to bring their friends, family and community this year. This challenge came with a strategic evangelism plan: 4xFour Challenge. On Easter Sunday, we celebrated with twenty-three baptisms! Since we rented the gym from the middle school across the street from our church, we literally borrowed three water tanks and placed them in front of the stage. It was powerful to hear and see... "I now baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit" as three people were baptized in each water tank at the same time. That same Sunday, forty-eight people made public professions of faith. Our average attendance has been 450 in our worship service, but that Easter morning our attendance was 988. We thank God for evangelistic strategies from our Texas Baptist Evangelism Team that all churches can use to bring many to saving knowledge of our Lord, Jesus Christ." (Pastor Víctor Rodríguez, Life Church, San Antonio, Texas)

Our Apologetics ministry continues to remove the obstacles to evangelism created by a rapidly changing culture and pluralistic society. KidsFaith continues to assist parents in fulfilling the Great Commission in their respective homes, equipping them to talk with their children in matters of faith. Our adult and youth evangelism conferences have reached hundreds with the gospel message, while inspiring, motivating, and equipping thousands to fulfill the Great Commission in their respective mission fields. As the farmer who has prepared his field, we look ahead to the coming year with high expectation for a greater harvest.



JOSHUA DEL RISCIO
Team Lead

LEIGHTON FLOWERS
Apologetics
Specialist/Youth
Evangelism
Specialist

JASON RICHARDS
Super Summer
Specialist

CYNTHIA ATHERTON
Lead Ministry
Assistant
Evangelism

ANGIE CARTER
Hispanic
Evangelism
Ministry Program
Coordinator

LINDSEY BROWN
Youth
Evangelism
Ministry Program
Coordinator



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TOM TILLMAN
Team Lead

**KAREN
WITCHER**
Ministry Program
Coordinator

The Music & Worship team is here to help and encourage Texas Baptist churches by offering consulting to the Worship Pastor, Senior Pastor and Music Search Committees. Our prayer and desire is to be an encouragement to the church and worship leadership. In addition to consultations, we offer several training events for the church music and worship leadership throughout the year. Some of these are:

Children's Worship University (CWU)

Our premier children's choir/children's worship/children's week-day preschool music training event was held in January at First Baptist Lewisville. Expert clinicians from all over the nation led and trained Texas Baptists from across our state with the theme, "Connecting the Dots to Children's Worship". Kathleen Chapman of California was the keynote speaker.

Worship Summits

Worship Summits took place on the campuses of East Texas Baptist University, Wayland Baptist University, San Antonio Campus and Wayland Baptist University in Plainview. Summits offer a day of inspiration, fellowship and networking primarily for the Worship Pastor and Church Music major. The keynote address for all three Summits was delivered by Dr. Doran Bugg from First Baptist Dallas teaching on "The Turnaround" and how to reignite your music ministry.

Everlasting Choir Celebrations

We added one Everlasting Choir Celebration to our past slate of two annually. The three locations in 2016 were The Woodlands (new area), Abilene and Dallas, with 928 participants from 43 churches (a 27% increase over 2015). Nationally known composer/arranger, Mary McDonald was our clinician, and Three on a String joined us from Alabama as our evening entertainment.

Instrumental Convergence

In this one-day training event, church orchestra players come together for a time of inspiration with a nationally known clinician. Kenn Hughes, University of Mobile Director of Instrumental Studies, led our 2016 event. He was joined by Ram Corp, also from the University of Mobile, who entertained and inspired during lunch.

Handbell Festival

This past year's festival was at First Baptist Temple with almost 100 ringers from 12 churches participating under the direction of Dr. John Behnke from Wisconsin.

Converge

For the first time in many years, Texas Baptists Music & Worship hosted a student choir event this summer. More than 150 students gathered at Park Cities Baptist in Dallas to gather, rehearse and lead in worship on Sunday morning.

Singing Men of Texas

Six chapters and 604 men comprise the Singing Men of Texas. Two of the groups toured to Missouri and New England (East and West chapters) sharing the Gospel in song, while over 100 members from the North Central chapter took their fifth trip to the Ukraine where they sang nine concerts in ten days, sharing the Good News with more than 13,000 people. The Singing Men of Texas look forward to a combined trip to New York City in Fall of 2018. They will sing in Carnegie Hall and Central Park and partner in mission activity with the North American Mission Board.

Singing Women of Texas

Eight chapters and 363 ladies make up the Singing Women of Texas. This year's highlight was the combined Lone Star Tour. The ladies ministered in San Marcos, San Antonio, Lubbock, Plainview and Abilene. Great crowds at each night's concert, excellent love offerings that went to a local mission cause in each city, and some wonderful hands-on mission opportunities were part of a very memorable trip. WMU Worldcrafts was a welcome partner with the Singing Women on the Lone Star Tour.

Social Media Presence

Follow us social media!

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Twitter [TXBmusicworship](#)



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PHIL MILLER
Associate
Director, Great
Commission
Team/
Discipleship
Team Lead

KEITH LOWRY
Adult Sunday
School/Single
Adults/Family
Ministry/Senior
Adult Specialist

JANE WILSON
Youth Ministry
Specialist

DIANE LANE
Preschool/
Children/Special
Needs Specialist

DEBY MILLER
Administrative
Assistant

SHERYL PAGE
Adult
Discipleship
Ministry
Assistant

**SARAH
JOHNSON**
Preschool/
Children
Discipleship
Ministry
Assistant

**BEKA
MULLINS**
Youth
Discipleship
Ministry
Assistant

What defines you?

For some it is a title – Dr., Director, Executive Director. People can draw a strong sense of accomplishment from attaining lofty goals that were once only dreams.

For some it is status. This can take the form of how much money, how much privilege, how many possessions we have accumulated in life. The bumper sticker really says it all – “Whoever dies with the most toys, wins.”

But, for others, it is all about relationship. This is consistently validated as you read the stories of doctors and directors and people of notable accomplishments who would trade it all for real, honest relationships with children, with grandchildren, sometimes with anyone.

People continually ask the question, “How do you define discipleship?” Even in the Christian realm, we can become sidetracked into verbiage that deals more with accomplishments and accumulation than with relationships. Any time that our best expression of being a disciple contains heavy amounts of “what” and small amounts of “who,” we are off the path we should be traveling on.

When you glance through our information below, you can’t help but see “what” we have been up to this past year as a Discipleship group. However, my prayer is that we can entice you toward the “who.” Clearly, our team is not the “who” we want you to encounter. Our heart’s desire is that we will be telling His story using opportunities that encompass Preschool, Children, Youth, Adults and more. The real fun of doing what we do is seeing the faces of church leaders light up when the content of what we present goes past the head and lands squarely in their hearts. Once you get to experience that in a personal way – as a consultant, teacher, minister, leader – it defines you.

- In January of 2017, Youth Discipleship partnered with several BGCT churches to provide a state-wide retreat for students who are sensing a call to ministry. The “Called” retreat was an exciting part of our “Called” emphasis which includes a website, a printed workbook, and “Called” student interest meetings at each of Super Summer campuses. There were 83 participants at the retreat, representing 10 churches and 8 associations. (Jane Wilson, Youth Discipleship Specialist)
- “I now have an idea of what goes on and what is expected being on church staff. The Childhood Certification Program has helped me know the reasons why we have this ministry.” A minister who recently completed the BGCT Certification Program. We have 30 enrolled in the Childhood Ministry Certification Program at this time. This is a series of 9 classes in which ministers study the basics of ministry, including Family Ministry, Leadership in the Church, Essentials of Ministry, Guidance in the Classroom and others.

Special Friends Retreat, West Texas--86; Special Friends Retreat, Mt. Lebanon, 330; Preschool and Children’s Ministers’ Retreat—115 (Diane Lane, Preschool/Children Discipleship Specialist)

- We did a series of three regional One Day Boomer Ministry Rallies in several regions of the state. Our goal was 1) to engage some new people who had never heard the information we’ve been sharing at the national conferences, and 2) to hear from a wide variety of people what kinds of specific breakout sessions and keynote speakers would be of particular interest to them in future national conferences. We had great turnout in Tyler, North Ft. Worth, and Georgetown, with a total attendance of almost 300 participants. (Keith Lowry, Adult Discipleship Specialist)

Texas Baptists churches help people to connect with the Father through Jesus Christ, to abide in His Word, and to bear fruit that results in lasting transformation. This is what we believe as a Missions Team of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. By engaging in the Mission of God, Christ followers stay connected to the Father, develop their God-given potential through an on-mission learning process, and experience the transformative power of Jesus Christ resulting in sustainable and lasting results. Missions is about transformation and this type of transformation impacts Christ's followers, families, churches, and communities.

In this book of reports, you will read about what God is doing through the different missions' programs including: River Ministry/Mexico Missions, Urban Missions and Texas Missionaries, House Congregations and Multi-housing Ministries, BOUNCE: a pre-packaged missions experience designed for students (Middle, High School, and College), MAP: Missionary Adoption Program designed for local churches to adopt a national missionary in the Amazon in collaboration with a Brazilian Baptist Convention-church, Minister of Missions, Hope 1:8 Experience, and Missions Grants.

We as the Missions Team would like to partner with your church in fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. Where is God calling you as a church to engage in missions? We have partnerships in Texas, in the US and around the world. Some of the missions' partnerships we have include: Vancouver, Mexico, Spain, Peru, Brazil, the Texas-Mexico border (River Ministry), and soon we will be in partnership with Cuba, a major city in the US, and missions' opportunities in other continents where God is at work.

Regardless of the size of your church, we want to encourage you to follow the direction the Spirit of God is leading you in missions. We can help your church to engage in His mission and stay connected to God, to develop a learning process by abiding in His Word, and to design the environment in which your church bears lasting fruit that impacts those who participate as well as those who are not yet the people of God.



R. JOSUE VALERIO
Director

STACEY RICE
Lead Ministry Assistant



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JAIR CAMPOS
Director

**GLORIA
TILLMAN**
Ministry
Assistant

Deep in the Amazon rain forest, in the midst of 10,000 unreached communities, lies one known as Livramento. Translated in English, “deliverance” is a poetic title for the community where God is actively delivering new believers out of darkness and into light.

Rhuan Kaique was delivered from a troubled adolescence to a lifetime of ministry by the faithful discipleship of the youth leaders at Passare Baptist Church. In 2015, Rhuan’s church commissioned him as a missionary to Livramento, a place only accessible to locals.

While working in this new mission field, he met Elieuma. Rhuan built trust with her family and began to lead them together in Bible study. Elieuma was captivated by the message of Jesus and prayed to receive Him. She began to intercede for her family in prayer and demonstrate her faith at home. The Holy Spirit acted and everyone in Elieuma’s family gave their lives to Christ.

Her family began to share Christ with their friends. Through their faith, 17 people from their community received Christ and were baptized in one day.

The community of Livramento is being transformed by workers obedient to live out the Great Commission in Brazil. So many more stories like Rhuan’s are waiting to get started as missionaries prepare to go out into more villages in the Amazon.

Through Texas Baptists Missions’ new partnership with the Brazilian Baptist Convention, missionaries like Rhuan receive funding to continue ministry in the Amazon. The Missionary Adoption Program partners churches in the US with churches in a host country to jointly sponsor a missionary. These missionaries will focus on evangelism, discipleship and church planting. Local Baptist conventions will provide training, support, and regular check-ins.

MAP joins Texas Baptist churches with Brazilian Baptist churches, in support of national missionaries, taking the Gospel to 113 unreached people groups living along the Amazon. Since January 2017, when MAP began, 35 missionaries have been adopted by Texas Baptists churches, Sunday School classes, small church groups and individuals. Six Texas Baptists churches have already sent representatives on a mission trip to the Amazon to serve alongside their missionaries. These churches witnessed God saving people and saw them respond in obedience through baptism.

With MAP, Texas Baptists participate directly in planting churches among the nations. Any Texas Baptist can pray for a missionary by name, give directly to that missionary, can engage the field by going to work alongside the missionary, and can mobilize others by sharing about MAP with their church. We are already taking steps forward to extend MAP to other nations. You, your small group, your church, or even your business can have a direct impact in what God is doing across the world.

To find out how your church can join in this new partnership, contact our Director, Jair Campos at jair.campos@texasbaptists.org, 713-494-2841 or our Ministry Assistant, Gloria Tillman at gloria.tillman@texasbaptists.org, 214-828-5182. You can also visit texasbaptists.org/map for more information.

Seeing God at work through 50 years

In 1967, the Baptist General Convention of Texas recognized the 2 million people living along the border of Texas and Mexico as an important mission point and launched the Rio Grande Mission Thrust with \$250,000 allocated for mission's opportunities. Texas Baptists responded to the call of God to minister to those along the Rio Grande river and 50 years later, River Ministry is still vibrant and life-changing.

In September 1967, just six months after the Rio Grande Mission Thrust initiative began, Hurricane Beulah ripped through the Texas and Mexico border resulting in the displacement of 300,000 Americans and Mexicans from their homes and wreaking massive destruction along the border.

One week before the hurricane, Rio Bravo (brave river) was the mission point for the Mary Hill Davis Offering for State Missions. God's hand was at work before the natural catastrophe occurred and Texas Baptists were intentionally praying for opportunities to minister. Moved by the great need along the Rio Grande, Texas Baptist churches responded with gifts of \$645,950, which was the largest offering ever given to state missions, with one-half going to fund border ministry.

Elmin K. Howell was named the first River Ministry coordinator in 1968 and went on to lead the ministry effort for the next 30 years. The ministry was as varied as the people from El Paso to Brownsville, but the purpose and ultimate reason for ministry was the same—to meet spiritual needs.

All other efforts—agricultural, medical, economical—are the vehicles by which the message of God's saving grace expressed in Jesus Christ can be shared. Projects are but opportunities to demonstrate God's concern for people and thereby occasion the personal testimony of a vital relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Today, River Ministry is vibrant, growing and much-needed as Texas Baptists seek to reach more than 5 million people living along the 1,240 miles of the border and millions more unreached in Mexico. While some needs and tactics have changed, the strategy remains the same—to share the love of Jesus. Funding for River Ministry is made possible through Texas Baptists Cooperative Program, Mary Hill Davis Offering, Worldwide Missions offerings and endowments.

River Ministry Director Daniel Rangel has seen God's continued hand over the missions and ministry along the Rio Grande. Since he began his leadership in 2009, Rangel has seen local churches along the border take ownership of their ministries. Rather than mission teams serving on short term projects, multi-year partnerships have formed between in-state churches and local churches for long-lasting ministry and impact.

"We want to work shoulder-to-shoulder," Rangel said. "That means I come and partner with you to do the ministry God has called you to do through church starting, evangelism, training or social ministry."

Currently, 15 River Ministry coordinators live along the border in strategic locations to facilitate ministry efforts with local churches and strengthen partnerships with Texas Baptists churches around the state.

Texas Baptists also have developed church starting covenants with the National Baptist Convention of Mexico, including the support of seven church starters and two facilitators who promote ministry and work with mission congregations to become churches. River Ministry has also expanded into church starting covenants with three regional conventions located in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Monterrey. Many of these church planting efforts are in the Bajio Region of Mexico, which has less than two percent of professing evangelicals, similar to that of the 10/40 window in the Middle East.

God has done amazing work through River Ministry over the past 50 years and we look forward with great anticipation for all He will continue to do through this vital ministry.



**DANIEL
RANGEL**
Director

**GLORIA
TILLMAN**
Ministry
Assistant



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**RYAN
JESPERSEN**
Director

SHELBY GOFF
Ministry
Assistant

The Texas Baptists office of Urban Missions has spent this year working diligently to equip pastors, train churches, and facilitate the spread of the gospel in Texas and beyond. In 2016-2017 the Urban Church Leadership Certification was launched and we are now seeing groups around the state using this material to better equip ministers and church leaders. Currently, we have 11 active peer groups across the state. Although they are mostly pastor peer groups, we also have a group for women on the staffs of urban churches and a group of young urban church leaders. Our peer groups exist for three purposes: fellowship, collaboration, and learning. First, fellowship gives pastors a place to have a genuine friendship with those who understand their particular set of challenges. Senior pastor Lynn Harper of Promised Land Missionary Baptist Church put it this way, "I cannot minimize the brotherhood, the fellowship side of it. The multiple ways we break the bread of life, we eat together, we share with one another. The fellowship side of it is enriching and a lot of pastors live on islands and sometimes they don't get that fellowship." Second, collaboration on a regular basis gives the pastors an opportunity to do great things together. For instance, this past year a relationship was formed at one of our groups which lead to the funding of a Texas Baptist Hunger offering Water Project. Third, learning from each other in pastor to pastor relationships allows for a new perspective to be gained on issues that are unique to urban pastors. In addition to peer groups in urban areas, we also facilitate peer groups in Oil Field areas for pastors that face the unique challenges of these communities.

Furthermore, God has worked in a powerful way this year through the Hope 1:8 Experience as we have trained churches and had several intentional conversations with churches about how they could reach the community around them. In these trainings, we saw churches come alive as they began to implement ideas of community outreach in their own communities. God is working in powerful ways in our cities; please continue to pray for this important work.

The Texas Baptists Missionary program this year saw some exciting developments. Through your gifts to Texas Baptists and the work of our office in conjunction with the diligent work of Texas Baptists Finance and Accounting office, Texas Baptists Missionaries have raised \$335,049.19 for the ongoing financial support of their ministry. Out of that ministry support, we saw 22,649 spiritual conversations, 208 professions of faith, 42 baptisms, an average of approximately 100 people being disciplined per month, and 11,945 people a month being served.

Nick Howard, a Texas Baptists Missionary shared an encouraging story with us from his ministry. Nick said, "We have been doing a church-wide study of the material MULTIPLY by Francis Chan. It has been a great chance for the church to really focus in on the idea of discipleship. Several people have mentioned that they have never thought of themselves as "disciple-making disciples" but that they would like for their lives to be characterized that way." Nick is making movements by making disciple-making disciples through the support of the Texas Baptists Missionary program. This is just one of many stories that are shared with us by our Texas Baptists Missionaries.

BOUNCE SDR began the ministry year assisting flood victims in the Acres Home area of Houston and Waller County. In partnership with Texas Baptist Men Long-Term Recovery, Waller County Long-Term Recovery, and Copperfield Church of Houston, 264 BOUNCERS opted to spend their Spring Break repairing homes affected by flooding in 2015.

The scope of the work included replacing decks and wheel chair ramps that had been washed away, sheet rock installation, interior painting, exterior painting, laying tile, and even totally demolishing a home that had burned during the flood.

Summer missions included a combination of disaster recovery and community rehabilitation efforts in Dallas, TX; Bartlesville, OK; Baton Rouge, LA; Jennings, LA, and Waco, TX.

While completing 82 different construction projects including roofs, drywall, siding, and more, BOUNCERS had 190 Spiritual Conversations; presented the Gospel 99 Times; saw 18 People Trust Christ as Savior; and completed 408 other Intentional Acts of Kindness in the communities they served

BOUNCERS hear many meaningful stories from residents they serve. Victoria Brussard's story from the Jennings Mission was one such story. Victoria and her young daughter live in Lake Arthur, Louisiana. Their home had been damaged by extreme weather events on several occasions, and like many victims, she was unable to make repairs. Tattered blue tarps covered her roof, and exterior paint showed wear and tear of numerous storms. Twenty-two BOUNCERS descended onto Victoria's property and for four days worked hard to scrap & paint, roof, encourage, and reflect Christ. As they wrapped up their ministry on Friday of the mission, Victoria said through her tears, "My daughter won't have to be embarrassed about our home when the school bus stops to pick her up now." Well done BOUNCERS. Well done.

For more information on BOUNCE, visit www.texasbaptists.org/bounce or follow BOUNCE on Twitter @BounceSDR



DAVID SCOTT
Director

**GLORIA
TILLMAN**
Ministry
Assistant



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**MARIO
ALBERTO
GONZALEZ**
Director

SHELBY GOFF
Ministry
Assistant

Fulfilling the Great Commission

One way to fulfill the Great Commission is to start nontraditional churches. They are simple congregations that have their meeting at homes, parks, restaurants and even at jails and prisons. Many catalytic missionaries supported from our office are working throughout the state of Texas to develop a network of house congregations or simple churches.

A couple of testimonies of what God is doing through house congregations:

Jerry Joule is one of our catalysts in the McAllen area, and has started a network of house congregations. He sent this report:

“Daniela and Fernando have no interest in going to church in the traditional sense. They have asked to host a house church in their home. Dani was the one who asked to start a church in her home and she invites her friends and family members to come and participate. She owns an event hall, which is on the same property as her home. She has stated that she would like to see the entire event center full of people for church. Since many of the attendees are not Christians, the discussions are often very colorful in ways that would be frowned upon in traditional churches. But they are real and pure expressions from people hearing the word of God for the very first time. How amazing that God has given the desire to plant a church in their home, and grow it, to people who don’t even follow Christ! This is the power of the house church; the church comes to the people rather than people coming to the church.

Another story is told by Paul Gonzalez. He serves in San Antonio leading the simple church movement with the San Antonio Baptist Association, (this network has 28 house congregations).

“Stacy is a young lady of 24, single and has a 3-year-old boy. We had been making attempts of visiting with her and evangelizing her. She resisted and avoided us for over a year. Two of her sisters in the last 4 years have died due to drugs and alcohol. Her third sister is also heading in that direction with liver disease. Stacy finally started responding to our phone calls in the last six months and after much disciplining has decided to do the right thing and get married and has stopped drinking alcohol. She will be married soon. She is starting her new life as a Christian and is very excited. This lady is now attending one of our house church networks”.

This strategic plan of making networks of simple churches is being used by our Lord to extend His Kingdom in many places in our beautiful State.

Making the difference in communities by starting simple churches

During this year, we had the opportunity to make an impact in the Texas communities by starting 72 house congregations. Many people don’t like to attend a traditional church, but when they hear the Gospel in one of these simple churches, they receive and make a commitment to the Lord. We are blessed with the outcome of more than 500 churches that are now operating in our State.

God gave us many results that came out of these 588 ongoing congregations: There were 4005 Professions of faith and 570 people obeyed the Lord with baptism. Our office provided 16 “Great Commission” grants for churches that are developing outreach events or programs to reach people for Jesus outside the church buildings. In addition to the starting of house churches, many of these congregations started different kinds of ministries for the community. A total of 72 ministries were reported this year.

The Christian Life Commission experienced an eventful year from July 2016 through June 2017. We continue to affirm Micah 6:8 as the North Star verse guiding our ministry. We highlight the importance of “Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, and Walking humbly before our God.” The CLC continues to speak to Baptists on current issues. I am thankful to God for the opportunity to serve Him through the ministry of the Christian Life Commission.

Here are a few highlights:

- Dr. Ferrell Foster, Director of the Ethics and Justice Office, developed a text that can be useful for helping believers live out their Christian witness in today’s culture.
- The CLC Public Policy Director, Kathryn Freeman, provided leadership to help Texas Baptist leaders review key issues and equipped them to visit legislators during the 2017 Advocacy Day. New attendees included a significant number of college and seminary students.
- Kathryn Freeman developed strategies to help impact the 85th Legislative leaders. CLC issues receiving attention include: religious liberty, gambling, payday lending, foster care, criminal justice reform, and sanctity of life.
- Ali Corona directs community care and the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering ministries. Ali provides a comprehensive definition for church-led community transformation. Celebrate the new approaches taken by teenagers to raise hunger offering funds.
- We are thankful for Pastor Darrel Auvenshine and the example of how his church impacts a local community resulting in new faith and hope for families.
- Dr. Lester Meriwether directs Literacy Connexus and shares about the 20+ years of service provided to San Antonio Baptist Association by Dora Parnell. Literacy Connexus has given up to \$2000 in grants to congregations for help with reading projects.
- Dr. Jesús Romero serves as ISAAC Director. He helped 88 individuals apply for citizenship. Approximately 136 persons received legal counsel.
- Finally, a special word of thanks to Marilyn Davis and Bianca Barajas for excellence in ministry support. Marilyn loves the CLC and keeps the team on track. Bianca has a heart for ministry.



GUS REYES
Director

MARILYN DAVIS
Congregational
and Commission
Specialist

BIANCA BARAJAS
Ministry
Assistant

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION MEMBERS FOR 2016-2017

Jacob West, Stamford (Chair)*
Ken Barnes, Fort Worth*
Linda Brian, Amarillo
Delcia Chisolm, Kingsville
Michael Evans, Mansfield*
Chuck Gartman, Cleburne
Les Hollon, San Antonio
Elmo Johnson, Houston

Grant Lengefeld, Hamilton*
Ben Raimer, Galveston*
Brenda Rincones, San Antonio
Moises Rodriguez, San Antonio
Carol Shattuck, Houston
Dwaina Six, El Paso
Jorge Zayasbasan, San Antonio*

*Representatives from Executive Board



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**FERRELL
FOSTER**
Director

The Ethics & Justice office represents the educational work of the CLC, which has been evident since its beginning in 1950. During this reporting period, the Ethics & Justice director focused on developing a resource on Christian ethics for use in churches with a general audience. It is nearing completion but already can be taught in churches and associations.

The resource is divided into the following eight sections, which can be taught separately or as a whole:

1. **Listening to God**—The Bible and the Holy Spirit
2. **Continuing Conversion**—Not a One-Time Event
3. **Shaping Our Spirit**—Spiritual Formation
4. **Living in Community**—Church, But Not That Local Building
5. **Developing Character**—Virtues & Vices
6. **Providing Care**—Help, Especially for the Least of These
7. **Pursuing Justice**—Fairness, Especially for the Least of These
8. **Making Decisions**—Big Ones and Small Ones Add Up to a Life

The director of ethics and justice will present this material in churches, associations, or groups as it is being finalized. It already has been shared with several groups. Contact the director at ferrell.foster@texasbaptists.org.

The E&J web site (texasbaptists.org/EthicsJustice) is the primary means of obtaining other resources for ministers and church members who want more information on varied ethical and justice issues from a biblical and informed perspective. The issues are:

Christian Living (basic principles, civility in communication, ethical decision-making)
 Church & State (citizenship, religious liberty)
 Creation Care
 Education
 Family (marriage, parenting, divorce)
 Human Trafficking
 Hunger & Poverty
 Immigration & Refugees
 Justice (criminal justice, death penalty, restorative justice)
 Life, Health & Dying (abortion, aging and dying, health and medicine)
 Minister Ethics
 Money & Work (economics, work, gambling)
 Race Relations
 Sex & Gender Issues (harassment, pornography, same-sex marriage, transgender)
 Terrorism, War & Peace

There also are printable resources in the CLC's "Biblical Perspectives" series on these issues:

Christian Citizenship	Hunger & Poverty	Pornography
Civility	Immigration	Race
Human Trafficking	Justice	Terrorism, War, & Peace

The web address for these resources is texasbaptists.org/ministries/clc/ethics-justice/resources.

Texas Baptists also are invited to send links to resources they have produced on the above topics for reference on the site.

All of the information is provided as a resource to help Texas Baptists think through issues from a Christian perspective. Texas Baptists are a diverse people and may come to differing positions on contemporary issues. The CLC seeks to explain the issues and to provide relevant Scripture.

The director of ethics and justice also led workshops at various conferences and churches. He also joins other staff members in writing regular blog posts.

"People's lives, as disciples, ought to matter every hour of the week." --Dr. Vincent Bacote

Advocacy Day 2017

Advocacy Day is designed to help Texas Baptists think biblically about public policy, political engagement, and the public square. For Advocacy Day 2017, about 200 Texas Baptists descended into Austin to learn from policy experts, network with fellow Baptists, and visit with their elected officials. Attendees heard from keynote speakers Gabe Lyons and Dr. Vincent Bacote about the meaning of political discipleship in today's culture.

During the 85th Legislative Session, religious liberty concerns topped the list of Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission priorities. The CLC helped lead efforts to protect religious conscience rights of faith-based child welfare agencies. HB 3859 protects the rights of religious child welfare agencies to place children in homes consistent with their religious beliefs about the best environment for raising children.

Additionally, the CLC helped stop bills that would have preempted city ordinances that regulate payday and auto title lending and bills to expand gambling in the state, including daily fantasy sports. The CLC has long stood against gambling and payday lending because both lead to financial exploitation of the poor.

The crisis in Texas' foster care system had been the subject of many headlines and discussions in the lead up to the legislative session. The Legislature took many positive steps toward improving the system. Some of the major bills signed by the governor include:

HB 4 authorizes monthly payments to relative caregivers whose household income is below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. Maintaining family connections should be the first priority wherever possible, as children placed with relatives experience better outcomes (fewer mental/behavioral health issues and placement disruptions).

SB 11 contains many reforms, but the most important and prominent change is the move to community-based foster care. This change is designed to allow for more community engagement, including with local churches and pastors in hopes of placing more children in forever families.

CLC commissioners set criminal justice reform as another priority. The CLC is a member of the Texas Smart on Crime Coalition, which champions reforms that keep our cities safe, reduce recidivism, and promote effective use of taxpayer dollars. Here are some of our priority bills in the area of criminal justice reform that passed this session.

HB 3130 establishes a pilot project for educational and vocational training in state jail facilities. This pilot project is designed to fill gaps in programming in state jails and therefore reduce recidivism.

SB 1913 protects poor offenders from excessive fees and fines. Often poor people are imprisoned simply because they lack the resources to pay, this bill makes it easier for judges to give offenders convicted of fine-only offenses community service and other work options. It would require judges to evaluate a person's ability to pay before issuing a warrant for failure to pay.

The CLC supported eight bills designed to protect the sanctity of life. Here are two of the pro-life bills that passed this session:

SB 8 bans partial-birth and dismemberment abortions, in addition to banning the sale of fetal tissue and research on the body parts of aborted babies. It also requires the humane disposition of the bodies of aborted babies.

HB 2858 was passed as part of HB 2552, an omnibus anti-human trafficking bill. It protects women and girls from forced abortions and requires abortion facilities to post the phone number for the National Human Trafficking hotline in prominent places.



**KATHRYN
FREEMAN**
Director





ALI CORONA
Specialists

LESTER MERIWETHER
Director, Literacy
ConneXus

Community transformation is “the process by which the whole church takes the whole gospel to the city” (Chennai Transformation Network, South India).

The Christian Life Commission’s Hunger & Care Ministries equips and empowers Texas Baptists to practically apply Christian faith to life through community ministries.

Texas Baptist Hunger Offering

Soontorn Inthayok is a day laborer and part-time guard, serving as the primary wage earner for his family in northern Thailand. He earns about \$300 US dollars per month, and the monthly expenses are more than what he earns.

Baptist Social Development and Service Unit (SDSU) chose Soontorn as one participant in its Chicken and Cattle Farming Project, a ministry funded in part by the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering. Soontorn received training on budgeting, preparation, and how to care for chickens and was then received grant money to begin a small chicken farm. The funds were used to build a chicken coop, as well as to purchase needed equipment and feed for 25 chickens. Soontorn’s family now has plenty of eggs for consumption and enough to sell to neighbors.

“Without the Hunger Offering, this project would not be able to happen,” said SDSU’s Hunter Huff.

Soontorn is one of tens of thousands of people impacted by the Hunger Offering. In 2017, the offering funded 165 relief and development ministries in Texas and around the world with a budget of \$650,000.

Moreover, two Texas Baptist churches, Birdville Baptist and Haltom Road Baptist, raised funds to renovate a water tower for a Hunger Offering ministry, Lott Carey Mission School in Brewerville, Liberia. The churches led community-wide fundraisers -- volleyball tournaments, a walk-a-thon, and a Mr. Birdville High contest -- to build the tower. The churches, led by Dr. Tome Howe and Pastor Kris Drees, raised \$29,345 to provide clean water for the entire community of Brewerville.

Community Care

The CLC is using \$174,920 in 2017 Community Care funds to support 55 ministries engaged in restorative justice, community development, deaf and special needs, community health, and hunger across the state.

True Faith Community, ministry of Southside City Church in Fort Worth, is one supported ministry that provides housing for the homeless. “What a joy to experience the transformation of lives through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ,” said Pastor Darrel Auvenshine. TBC recently connected with a young family struggling with drugs and alcohol. “J, the husband, was arrested on possession and as a result the family lost everything. The wife and two children were able to find a family to live with, but when J was released he went directly to rehab. He ended up ... homeless and living in their car.” TFC invited J to its men’s discipleship program and since coming he is thriving and reconciling with his family.

Literacy Missions

Dora Parnell began teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in 1981 and became director of Friendship International at First Baptist San Antonio, supervising their ESL ministry for more than 25 years. She has served as the literacy missions coordinator for San Antonio Baptist Association for more than 20 years. Dora helped edit the ESL training manual for Literacy Connexus and has served as a trainer for more than 11 years. She has traveled to China to teach English, too. This year, Literacy Texas named Dora volunteer of the year.

For the third summer, Literacy Connexus has encouraged churches to provide access to books for children participating in summer meals programs. Through this outreach churches help children at risk for the summer slide in reading capacity prepare for fall academic progress. Literacy Connexus has provided more than \$2,000 in grants to congregations for this ministry.

Dr. Jesús Romero leads the CLC's Immigration Service and Aid Center, which provides immigration law training and immigration service ministry.

ISAAC represented 88 clients before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

We provided services related to family-based visa petitions, citizenship applications, Religious Worker visas and Violence Against Women visa applications. ISAAC gave legal counsel to 136 individuals.

One of the immigrants ISAAC served this year was Teodoro (not his real name). He was a legal permanent resident who came for help to apply for citizenship. The day of the interview, Teodoro was in such a state of anxiety. In the end, the officer recommended Teodoro for citizenship. After the interview, Dr. Romero and Teodoro went to the nearest taco place to celebrate. Dr. Romero realized this was the perfect opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Teodoro has not given his life to Jesus, but the Lord is at work in him, and we are privileged to be a part of what God is doing. ISAAC will continue to love people like Teodoro and share with them about God's gift of life through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

Finally, ISAAC's sixth Summer Institute on Basic Immigration Law was held June 5-9, 2017, with 36 participants. Thirty-three passed their final test.



**DR. JESÚS
ROMERO**
Director



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**DOWELL
LOFTIS**
Director

PATTI ADAMS
Lead Ministry
Assistant

The Connections Team exists to connect our Pastors and Churches with the vast array of ministries and resources of the BGCT. The Connections Team consists of Minister Connection, Welcome Pastor Days, Area Representatives, Church Starting, BGCT Counseling Services, Church Architectural Services, Interim Church Services, Western Heritage Ministry, and Bi-Vocational Ministry. We care about our Pastors and our Churches and we are here to serve you! Read on and you will gain a more in-depth understanding of the many facets of your BGCT Connections Team.

WELCOME PASTOR DAY

Welcome Pastor Day is held around the state throughout the year with the purpose of introducing new pastors to resources, ministries and experts available through the BGCT. This year we hosted events in the Rio Grande Valley, El Paso, and Tyler to meet the needs of our pastors in those regions, with the goal of hosting more events in 2018 to reach the rest of the state.

MINISTER CONNECTION

texasbaptists.org/minister-connection

Minister Connection is a simple tool for churches to submit their open ministry positions and view resumes from across Texas and beyond. By answering a few simple questions, churches may connect with potential candidates and find the right fit for their position. This year Minister Connection provided services to over 275 churches and 350 potential candidates. If you have questions about the site, please email ministerconnection@texasbaptists.org or call 214-828-5111.

In May 2017, former Connections Team Director, Joe Loughlin, left to become the pastor of First Baptist Church, Temple. In August, Dowell Loftis, became the new Director of the Connections Team. Dowell previously served the BGCT as an Area Representative.

For the past four years, the Lubbock African Community Church has hosted a Revival Conference where many across Texas and other states come to be encouraged, trained and disciplined in the Swahili language. Although there are several different African people groups represented, Swahili is the common known language. This year's conference on July 28-30 expects to have more than 400 in attendance.

Church Planter Freddy Mutabazi began this Revival Conference four years ago as a strategy to grow his church plant which began with less than 20 attendees. Today the church averages 85 in worship. Lubbock is not a refugee city, but many have relocated to Lubbock for work opportunities, to complete their education, and to just be a part of the African Community Church. This year's conference will be led by Lubbock Area Baptist Association DOM, Dr. Jerry Joplin, and Rev. Habimana Zabulon from Rwanda, Africa.

After seven months of prayer, planning and developing partnerships, our Church Planting Center (CPC) in Grand Prairie will launch in September 2017. The CPC Residency Process is an annual residency cohort of church planting potential leaders gathered for the purpose of assessing, equipping, coaching, mentoring, and resourcing to start New Testament Baptist Churches. The mission of the residency is to identify and prepare potential church planters who can engage the task of planting with intentionality and competence. The approach of the training process is general ministry; providing foundational skills that are applicable for all church plants. The affinity group targeted training will be provided by the sponsor church and other affinity group affiliates in a mentor relationship. We have five residents and one alternate slated to participate. This will be our first in Church Start Area Four but, Lord willing, not the last. This will be one of five CPCs planned in Texas in the coming year.

Ryan Thompson at Cornerstone Church Mid County (Nederland, Texas) is a recent graduate of our inaugural CPC in Houston's Tallowood Baptist Church. He launched on Easter 2017 with the vision of being a community of disciple-makers, living like family on mission to make Jesus known in our community and among the nations. The values of Cornerstone Church Mid County are faith in Jesus Christ, culturally relevant worship, bible-centered preaching, ministering to the needs of the community, and fellowship as outreach. The church's goals are to have three missional communities prior to their first Sunday worship gathering. Missional communities will be at the core of disciple-making and community in the new church. They want to launch the new church with 50 adults in Sunday worship by the end of 2017.

This is an example of how all our new church plants communicate to us God's call by telling us their vision, their values, and their goals. In Ryan's case, God has blessed in wonderful ways. He found a building and launched with over 150 in attendance. Then on May 28 he was blessed with his dad, aunt, and uncle all surrendering their lives to the Lord at the worship service of Cornerstone Church Mid County.



PAUL ATKINSON
Director

TERRY LYNCH
Ministry Assistant

JULIE GALINDO
Ministry Assistant



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KEITH CROUCH
Team Leader
Director

KAREN YOUNG
Loan & Grants
Manager/Ministry
Assistant to the
Team Leader

RUSSELL MADDOX
Church
Architecture
Specialist

PAT EKERN
Church
Architecture
Specialist

KEN HUNNICUTT
Church
Architecture
Specialist

FRANK PALOS
United We Build
Specialist

Perspective

Church Architecture assisted 380 distinct churches between May 1st, 2016 and April 30th, 2017. According to TouchPoint records these distinct churches total over 66,000 in Sunday worship attendance, and gave a total of \$5,740,128 to the Cooperative Program during that time. This represents approximately 1/5 of total Cooperative Program budget contributions for this reporting period.

Ministry

Texas Baptists Church Architecture is a ministry. Church Architecture helps churches develop their facilities for more effective ministries. This past year 66% of the Texas Baptists Churches Church Architecture assisted were 200 in attendance or less. 49% of the churches we provided assistance to were 100 in attendance or less. In many cases these small churches, low income churches, language group churches, are of no interest to the commercial market. Architects, engineers, vendors and contractors are scarce for many of these churches because there is very little money in these situations.

Trends

FACTS and Trends magazine, Spring 2016 issue, front cover feature article The Power of Small Church – Size No Barrier To Thinking Big. By Lisa Cannon Green. This article with recent survey results tells of the characteristics of the small congregation. Americans are more open to small churches, church planting success, contributions per capita and its appeal to people on the personal level. These are most of the churches we serve through Texas Baptists Church Architecture ministry.

Strategy

Church Architecture does not provide architectural/engineering services. We provide strategic planning assistance for ministry effectiveness, something very thin on the commercial market regardless of price. We help local church pastors and leaders deal with their changing congregations and changing world.

We work with numerous language group churches trying to adjust to codes and regulations in order to stay in ministry in their Texas communities. We work with churches of various income levels to tackle their building needs. We work with new congregations that may never own land or their own building. We also help churches with disaster recovery.

Relevant Ministry

For the past ten years Texas Baptists Church Architecture Consultant Pat Ekern has been working with Pastor James Falola, New Covenant Baptist Church, a Nigerian congregation of 80 attendance. New Covenant has a primary ministry to Nigerian immigrants beginning a new life in the U.S. This congregation is a touch of home for many Nigerians coming to a new country for an education, for business, for family, for health. New Covenant has a familiar language, familiar food, familiar traditions and is a welcoming congregation in the name of Christ.

Church Architecture Ministry through Pat has been helping Pastor Falola and the congregation dealing with facilities evaluations, regulations compliance and ministry space for a church home in three communities locations. They now have a beautiful permanent home in The Colony. The commercial architecture and construction market is not interested in working with a small congregation with limited resources. Pat, as their Texas Baptists Church Architecture Consultant has been their advocate and advisor to help them stabilize for more effective ministries.

All Kinds of Churches

The rest of our team is working with all kinds of churches all over Texas. We are helping them be “the church” in their context. All size congregations, new churches and long-time churches, traditional, contemporary, language groups, cowboy churches and vaquero churches are part of our ministry to help them develop their churches for more effective ministries.

RESOURCE PACKETS ISSUED	CONSULTATIONS	MASTER SITE PLANS	FLOOR PLAN STUDIES	# CHURCHES ASSISTED	TOTAL ACTIVITIES
97	255	75	91	380	1,304
SMALL CHURCH MATCHING GRANTS	SMALL CHURCH LOANS		UNITED WE BUILD CAPITAL FUND-RAISING		
15 GRANTS TOTAL \$72,650	8 LOANS TOTAL \$190,000		PRESENTATIONS - 4 CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS - 1		



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**TIM
WATSON**
Director
Area 7
Representative

The Area Representatives serve our Texas Baptist churches whenever a need arises, such as assisting during a pastorless period, helping struggling ministers, or helping connect churches to any resource within the Texas Baptists organization. Each Representative has several years of church-staff experience that gives valuable perspective in serving our churches, whether the membership is 50 or 500+.

In 2016-2017, the Area Reps made 7,600 total contacts with churches, associations, universities and other BGCT ministry partners. Of those contacts, 3,000 were with BGCT-aligned congregations, and 180 involved assistance to pastorless churches. The Area Representatives expect to reach over 4800 churches by the end of 2017.

CHARLES DAVENPORT

Area 1 Representative
(806) 290-4087

ROBERT CUELLAR

Area 2 Representative
(325) 201-6153

VACANT AS OF 8/1/17

Area 3 Representative

FRED ATER

Area 4 Representative
(210) 913-1891

ERNEST DAGOHY

Area 5 Representative
(832) 646-4965

TIM MARROW

Area 6 Representative
(254) 315-2667

TIM WATSON

Area 7 Representative
(903) 261-1929

VACANT AS OF 8/1/17

Area 8 Representative

DAN CURRY

Area 9 Representative
(817) 781-2440

The Bivocational Pastors Ministry is working with churches and pastors both local and abroad to develop sustainable ministries that serve their context and community. This past year we had the opportunity to facilitate trainings and retreats as well as assist in establishing fellowships for those who serve in a Bivocational capacity. Two amazing things occurred through all of this.

Most of us have heard of the Macedonian call from Acts 16 where Paul received a word from God through a vision to go into Macedonia to help the people there in the need to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. This year the Bivocational Pastors Ministry received such an invitation. The invitation was not to go to Macedonia but to Mexico to help equip and engage Bivocational leaders in reaching the lost along West coast of Mexico. Our ministry is working with a Mexican Regional Association to start churches and train leaders to be Bivocational servants. The Association president contacted us after hearing about the work we are doing in Texas as it pertains to Bivocational ministry. This year we trained over 40 leaders in Mexico and is scheduled to conduct more trainings over the next several months.

The second is there are Texas Baptists Bivocational/Small membership churches that are collaborating to do ministry and missions together. They are responding like the Macedonians of 2 Corinthians 8 and 9. Out of their little size they are offering substantial support. At present, seven of these churches are pooling their resources to help each other fulfill the vision God has for them in their context. These churches offer each other their spiritual, human and financial resources to further Kingdom work. Also, they are collaborating to do missions with the Mexican Association by supporting the start of new churches throughout the Western coast of Mexico. One pastor said, "Knowing that Texas Baptists is interested in helping Bivocational and small membership churches work together gives my church a peace of mind and willingness to support even more." They believe Together They Can Do More.

The Bivocational Pastors Ministry continues to serve Texas Baptists churches and Associations by developing a model for Bivocational Ministry, resulting in an increase in available, truly-called, well-equipped Bivocational Pastors.



**IRA
ANTONIE**
Director

PATTI ADAMS
Ministry
Assistant



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**KARL
FICKLING**
Coordinator

PATTI ADAMS
Ministry
Assistant

The Interim Test

Please answer each question by circling one of the responses.

1. How much longer will your current pastor's tenure last?

- A. 2 months
- B. 2 years
- C. 4 years
- D. 10-20 years
- E. 20-30 years

2. Why will your pastor leave?

- A. Accepts the call to a larger church
- B. Accepts a denominational/teaching position
- C. Retirement
- D. Runs off with the church secretary
- E. Resigns under pressure/fired

3. What will your church do when the pastor leaves?

- A. Call an interim pastor who will want to become your next pastor and lead you out of the BGCT
- B. Quickly put together a search team made up of the 5-7 members who get the most votes on a ballot
- C. Have a different guest preacher every Sunday until a pastor is called
- D. Call a "called" and "equipped" interim pastor who can help you through the interim period
- E. Promote the youth minister to pastor so there is no interim period

4. How will the pastor search team know what to do?

- A. The same members, who always serve as the search team, do this every other year—so they know what they're doing
- B. Bathing the team in prayer will guide them to the right pastor
- C. One of the pastor search team members works in Human Resources and will bring a detailed search process used at work
- D. Turn over the search duties to a "Head Hunting" firm for churches
- E. Seek: training from a qualified mentor, a written manual, and a consulting coach

5. What issues will your next pastor face if you don't address them during the interim period?

- A. The just-retired pastor is still in the church and will continue to "rule the roost"
- B. Dysfunctional leaders maintain their positions, which have led to the last three pastors leaving prematurely
- C. Only a small group of older members understand, or care about, what it means to be a Baptist
- D. The church has no vision for the future and is likely to reject the new pastor's vision
- E. The pulpit and drum sets are locked in a tug-of-war on whether, or not, they'll be on the platform

6. How long will your next pastor's tenure last and why? [Essay question]

Some of these questions might seem almost silly, but all of them represent the real world of pastorless churches. In fact, each multiple-choice option represents real-life situations in Texas Baptist churches going on right now. That's why we've developed a team of experienced ministers who have followed a call into interim pastoring and received special training to help our pastorless churches.

One church who used our assistance is First Baptist Church, Cleveland. FBC is in a transitioning town. Church membership was growing older. They faced fall-out from the difficult departure of a pastor. Attendance had been in serious decline for several years. Pausing to give the church a "health check-up" before looking for another pastor, the church called an Intentional Interim Ministry pastor to guide a process of self-examination. As a result, before calling a new pastor, FBC made key decisions about the future that strengthened the fellowship and opened needed ministries. The church's emotions are running high and hopeful.

For more information about available help for pastorless churches, or to learn how you could become a trained interim pastor, email karl.fickling@texasbaptists.org.

Counseling Services receives a variety of calls related to mental health issues, and we are honored to assist ministers and their families with counseling resources. Here are a few examples:

A minister's spouse contacted our offices with concerns about her husband's substance use. The minister had been very stressed the last few years with loss of family members and personal medical issues. To cope, the minister had turned to alcohol. Over time, casual alcohol use evolved into addiction. The spouse confronted the minister and decided to separate from him when he would not seek help. Eventually, the minister contacted Counseling Services to see what type of assistance was available to him. We helped connect the minister to a rehab program and financially assisted with the cost of the program.

Another minister contacted Counseling Services with marital concerns. He and his spouse were having struggles with intimacy in their marriage. It was difficult for either of them to talk about and they were unsure of where to turn with their very personal and private struggles. Counseling Services connected this couple with a Christian Sex Therapist to address the intimacy issues within their marriage and offered financial assistance for them to meet with the counselor.

Additional calls range from: a minister needing help for his teenage son struggling with substance abuse issues; another minister seeking counseling for a teenage daughter struggling with gender identity concerns; a pastor searching for marriage counseling resources to help a couple in the congregation on the brink of divorce; and an attendee of the MinistrySafe sexual abuse prevention workshops that disclosed after the training her own struggles with prior sexual abuse and possible sexual inappropriateness between two of her children.

Regardless of the struggle Texas Baptists find themselves walking through, we are here as a resource to help connect you to the mental health assistance you may need.

Our prayer in Counseling Services is that you do not encounter circumstances in your life that prompt you to need our assistance. However, should you find yourself facing one of life's storms head on, know that we are glad to help you find the mental health resources you need and count it a privilege to come alongside you in a challenging time.



KATIE SWAFFORD
M.A., L.P.C.-S.,
Ph.D. in
Leadership
Director of
Counseling
Services

CLARA MORALES
Ministry
Assistant



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**JASON
BRYANT**
Western
Heritage
Consultant/
Starter

Hop in the truck, let's ride to the pasture...

In connecting with cowboy church pastors and churches, sometimes a ride out in the pasture to talk about what's going on in their lives personally and in the lives of the church can be just what is needed. Sometimes these conversations are filled with excitement. God is on the verge of doing something big! The pastor and leaders see the potential for the Kingdom growth and God is positioning them to take the next step to help the church reach cowboy culture in their county and area. It might be through the facilities, it might be in the addition of an arena, or it could be through a new ministry team that has been identified. The pastor is excited and thankful for what the Lord is doing and is eagerly anticipating the next step.

Sometimes, pastors are worn out, tired and uncertain. Worn out from working a full-time job, pastoring the church and trying to balance family life. Tired from attacks on his family, the church and the ministry that God has entrusted him with. Uncertain about his future. Uncertain about the future of the church. Uncertain about what God is doing. This pastor needs a ride out in the pasture, to talk with someone who has been down that road. Someone who understands the struggle and uncertainty he is facing.

It is a privilege to serve Texas Baptists in this capacity. To be able to connect with, encourage and help equip cowboy churches, pastors and leaders in their effort to make an impact for the Kingdom!

Associational Ministry

Texas Baptists continue to partner with the 98 associations of churches across our diverse state to do what they cannot do alone. One association focused on conducting 3 seminars on Spiritual Foundations. The first one focused on the role of **Spiritual Formation in the Revitalization of the Church**; the second one focused on **Spiritual Disciplines for Personal Growth**; and the third one focused on **Knowing Yourself: Applications for Personal and Church Discipleship**. A total of 100 pastors, ministers & leaders attended from 60 congregations.

Other examples of how we collaborated with associational leadership in providing opportunities for their churches to do ministry are:

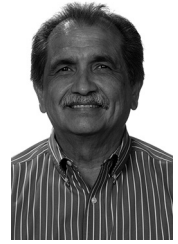
Providing Hispanic Leadership Training: Providing a retreat setting for training 121 pastors and leaders from 25 congregations on reaching other ethnic populations in their area.

Church Revitalization: Conducted seminar on The Hard Work of Church Revitalization which provided 65 pastors and leaders from 43 congregations tools for addressing change.

Bivocational Training: Training provided for 25 bivocational pastors and leaders from 14 congregations. A seminar on the art of pastoring drew 40 bivocational or small church pastors and leaders from 20 churches.

Ministry Training Center: In the Spring of 2017, 60 pastors and laymen were trained in a Associational Ministry Training Center with a variety of courses, seminars or conferences. Evangelism Training: Conducted training for 43 pastors and leaders from local congregations on how to engage other people groups with the gospel. 16 pastors and leaders from 12 congregations participated in a seminar on Understanding and Reaching Your Muslim Neighbors..

Prayer: 80 church leaders and pastors participated in a prayer seminar preparing them as preparation for a citywide evangelistic revival.



**LORENZO
PEÑA**
Director

SONJA EVANS
Administrative
Assistant



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**ROY
COTTON**
Director

**SHARRON
BRADLEY**
Ministry
Assistant

“Collaborating Together”

Ministry is not a “lone ranger” syndrome. We have an opportunity to build one another up as we collaborate in ministry. Ministry is all about serving and service. Ministry leaders are built up in development for the purpose of building others.

The Bible states in **Romans 14:19**: “So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another.” [Christian Standard Bible]

African American Leadership Workshop was held in March at Truett Theological Seminary in Waco. This report highlights two of the ten workshops that were featured:

Training and orientation for Camp Exalted resulted in our most successful summer camp with 380 attending from across Texas. There were 65 decisions for Christ.

True Believers of Christ in Balch Springs, is an example of a church that participated in the AALW training. The church took advantage of the equipping for ministry that was offered there. This church first attended Camp Exalted four years ago. They observed the evangelistic response of not only their youth to camp, but also the adult leaders. They enthusiastically participated in the special training at AALW along with other churches. Synergy is a byproduct of cooperative collaboration.

Carlos Francis, the director for Camp Exalted, not only led the training, but also later conducted a special Camp Exalted “Pep Rally” in the El Paso for the area churches. As a result of this event several churches from El Paso attended Camp Exalted in June.

AALW offered training in “Challenging Millennials with Missional Leadership.” Studies indicate that Boomers, parents of millennials and even the church, should better understand this fast-growing population. They are between the ages of 18 and 35. This generation has surpassed the Boomers.

Many have never seen a “black and white” TV, rotary phone, an 8-track player, overhead projector or 33-LP record player. This is the generation of microwaves, DVDs, Smartphones, flat-screen TVs, multi-channels cable television and more. They are the most educated group, and particularly skilled in Information Technology.

Churches are challenged with: Who are millennials? What are their needs? How do we reach them? Millennials are the least involved of any generation in many churches today. They have vast potential but many of them are underutilized.

For the past couple of years, AALW has offered training for churches in how to reach millennials. Nigel Robinson enlightened workshop participants on ways to better involve his generational peers in the church. His thesis emphasized the fact that millennials really want to be involved. They are a participatory generation. They delight in giving when they understand the cause. They love the Word.

Robinson used 1 Thessalonians as scriptural basis for the seminar. Millennials want to be on mission for God. He encouraged faithfulness. This generation does not like delayed gratification. They have a tendency to like instant results while expecting to make an immediate impact.

This workshop encouraged collaboration in ministry, with the emphasis that “going it alone is okay too.” That is the personal time alone with God for spiritual development and personal growth. Millennials are seeking living models of Godly lifestyle. They prefer to see the walk rather than hear the talk. Millennials are our present and future.

Churches benefit by discovering, developing and utilizing the resourcefulness of this new generation. Their energy, excitement and spontaneity can attract, enhance and multiply the collaborative mission of Christ.

“Each one of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.” **Romans 15:2**

The Hispanic Ministries Department (HMD) exists to encourage, inform, and assist the 1,100+ Hispanic congregations aligned with the BGCT. We do this through a wide array of programs and services.

Pastor's and Wives Retreat

The event was held on May 5-6, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel Fossil Creek, Fort Worth, TX, hosted by Pastor, Rolando Rodriguez of Texas Baptists Hispanic Ministries, and Luis Calderon of Tarrant Baptist Fellowship. This year's event was opened to all married couples resulting in a "sold out" event with an attendance of 150 couples (300 attendees). The title of the conference was *Marriage Enrichment: 1+1=ONE*.

Guest speaker Rev. Gilberto and Yanina Gutierrez from Iglesia Bautista Horeb in Mexico City, D.F were the main guest speakers and jointly presented "Better are Two than One" (MEJORES SON DOS QUE UNO). Eugenio Adorno, better known as Chagy, and well known for his theatrical illusions made an outstanding presentation and was assisted by his wife, Audria Adorno.

Six workshops were held on Saturday. "Protecting Your Marriage" by Jesse & Brenda Rincones, "What God Wants to Change or Heal in My Life" by Gilberto and Yanina Gutierrez, "What is the Best Definition of an Extra Ordinary Marriage" by Rolando and Angie Rodriguez, "How to Insure Our Marriage is Continually Growing" by Rolando & Angie Rodriguez, "The Sexual Relationship As a Sacred Gift from God" by Jesse and Brenda Rincones, and "How to Impact Other Marriages and Leave an Extraordinary Legacy" by Gilberto & Yanina Gutierrez.

Due to the huge success, Texas Baptists Hispanic Ministries plans to hold the event on a yearly basis. Tentatively, next year's event will be held in San Antonio, Texas. The excellent topics and conference presenters richly blessed everyone that attended.

Preaching Conferences

On March 31, 2017 and April 1, 2017 Texas Baptists Hispanic Ministries held their first annual Preaching Conference (Conferencia de Predicación) at High Pointe Baptist Church in Cedar Hill, TX. Over 120 pastors, lay people and church leaders from across the state of Texas attended the conference. Dr. Alfonso Flores, Pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in San Antonio, TX, was awarded the first Texas Baptists Hispanic Preaching Conference "Exceptional Preaching Award." Subsequent annual, Exceptional Preaching Awards, will be honored in Dr. Alfonso Flores' name. Our commitment is to train and equip our leaders. We believe, if we can impact the lives of pastors and leaders, they will impact the life of their church. Participants were able to leave with valuable resources and reference documentation to help them plan and enhance their teaching and preaching



ROLANDO RODRIGUEZ
Director

MARIO A. ENRIQUEZ
Ministry Assistant



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**GABRIEL
CORTEZ**
Director
educatetexas.org

In 2013, when Manuel Jara Elementary in Fort Worth began offering Raising Highly Capable Kids, Luz Vallejo was a parent of 2 little girls in school and was expecting a third child. She was very quiet and kept to herself. But through the 13-week program, a change began to occur. Luz looked a bit more confident, the girls seemed happier at school and they were experiencing academic success.

Soon, Luz began working at McDonald's, and went through the English as a Second Language Program at Tarrant County College, where she also earned her GED certificate. They had just made her crew leader at McDonald's and she began the Associate's Degree program at TCC the following semester. In the fall of 2017, Luz became a parent leader for Raising Highly Capable Kids at her girls' school.

This story is what the Texas Baptists Hispanic Education Initiative is all about; providing training, resources and opportunities for Hispanic parents and students to reach their God-given educational potential. We mainly do this through:

- **Raising Highly Capable Kids.** A 13-week parenting program offered in public schools through churches. We started 49 groups, with 859 parents participating in 14 schools and 16 churches.
- **Raising Money for College.** Over 7 years ago our Initiative began raising and awarding money for college scholarships. Over \$120,000 has been raised and awarded to more than 120 students. For many students, this made college a possibility, a dream come true. For others, it was just what they needed to finish paying their bill and graduate.
- **Hispanic Education Fairs.** The first of these was held on June 2017 in San Antonio with close to 200 in attendance. Workshops for all ages were offered and twenty-two \$1,000 college scholarships were awarded!
- **Hispanic Summer Missionary Program.** Funded primarily by the Mary Hill Davis State Missions Offering, for 6 consecutive years we've assigned 12-15 Hispanic college students to serve in local congregations during the summer. Their focus is to equip parents and youth with tools necessary to finish high school, apply for college and financial aid, and reach their full potential.
- **Bilingual GED Online Prep Course.** A great resource, available in English and in Spanish, at no-cost to churches that would like to provide this service to their community.
- **English/Youth Track at Hispanic Leadership Conference.** Recognizing the need for practical leadership development in our Hispanic youth and young adults, a special track has been created for them at this annual statewide event.
- **Providing educational information at regional/statewide events and conferences**

The Texas Baptist Hispanic Education Initiative (HEI) exists to help Hispanic students reach their educational potential. We recognize that God has a plan for every person He creates. He wants each of us to accomplish something significant, to become someone that brings glory to His name during our lifetime and beyond; reaching our educational potential is a critical part of this.

Thank you Texas Baptists for your many gifts that empower us to help others reach their God-given educational potential!

Seth came to our office, referred to us by a mutual friend and pastor of an African congregation. About a year ago, Seth had begun a church focusing on people from Ghana and other African countries. He started on his own out of a sense of calling but knew he needed to be part of a network of churches. His roots were Baptist and we immediately knew that this was a God-ordained meeting. He and his church had found their family and we could be partners with him to help reach his community with the gospel.

It is what we do in Intercultural Ministries. We connect churches and leaders from all around the world who now find themselves in Texas. We help Texas Baptists know who some of our newest Texans are. It is an exciting and challenging ministry where no two days are alike and the cultures and people we serve are always teaching and sharing with us in a mutual relationship of respect and friendship.

Project:Start is another way in which we as Texas Baptists through Intercultural Ministries are transforming lives. This refugee resource center is connecting local churches with real needs within the refugee communities of Dallas. In this way both the ones coming to serve and the ones served are blessed and the gospel is shared and lived out in tangible ways. Not only can we build the capacity of the local refugee congregations but we are building a network of resources that can be a tool for the entire community.

Ministering to the second and third generation immigrant and refugee is a priority. Through our Leadership Training Institute and Camp Fusion we are training the next generation of leaders. The youth who have been involved in both training opportunities have gone on to serve on church staffs and as leaders in their churches in college and after. We see the strong value in investing in youth in ways that acknowledge their unique life experiences so that their faith journey is authentic and contextualized.

One of the backbones of our ministry is our Intercultural Advisory Council. Through this dedicated group of leaders from 15 different countries we are able to prioritize our ministry and develop mutual communication of needs and goals. This team has grown over the years to be a support network for each other and for Texas Baptists.

Through the relationships Intercultural Ministries has developed with the Intercultural churches and leaders we have built a strong multicultural network of support and learning. With over 300 churches and 70 languages God has blessed us with a unique diversity of cultures that makes us a strong family of churches.



PATTY LANE

Director

MARK HEAVENER

Intercultural Specialist

LEONID REGHETA

Project: Start, Director

CAROL POWELL

Ministry Assistant



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**BRUCE
MC GOWAN**
State Director

**JOYCE
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Associate State
Director

MARK JONES
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Consultant

BETH SMITH
Campus
Consultant

**BRENDA
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Missions
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HOOKER**
Evangelism
Consultant

**GINGER
BOWMAN**
Collegiate
ChurchLife
Specialist

**PEGGY
MOULDEN**
Administrative
Assistant

**BECKY
BARNES**
Ministry Assistant
Communications/
Data Management

**CINDY
ZOLLER**
Ministry Assistant
Receptionist/
Finances

**147 BSM
STAFF**
Members
(employed and
volunteer)

Texas BSM exists to engage the 1.6 million college students to follow Christ and transform the world! Your BSM Missionaries are on approximately 115 campuses with these priorities: Evangelism/Discipleship, Missional lifestyle, Leadership development and Church life.

They are involved weekly in the “Harvest”, going to the campus discovering where God is at work and joining Him! This year Texas BSM touched the lives of over 160,000 students with over 11,000 involved weekly. Below are a few stories of the exciting ministry of BSM on campuses in Texas:

- **Go Now Missions:** Over 560 students served this year! Students served around the world sharing the Good News. Almost 5,000 students served in a variety of mission opportunities raising over \$1.3 million dollars.
- **UNT:** “I took a year off from religion as a freshman, but all of my friends were involved in a campus religious organization(BSM). One asked me to participate on the BSM Intramural Basketball team! Over the semester, Allie invited this student to study the Bible with her every Friday. At the end of the semester they were sitting in a donut shop and this student asked Jesus to be Lord and master of her life. She was baptized in a local Baptist church anticipating serving this Fall as a BSM leader.
- **BSM’s and local churches** are partnering together to reach the 800,000 community college students in Texas! Tarleton BSM the “flagship campus” is connecting with Ranger College Erath County and Weatherford College Granbury (7 churches assisting). In Collin County McKinney (FBC Allen, FBC McKinney, and others) has a Gospel presence where 4 years ago none existed. UT Dallas, “a flagship campus” is sending their Campus Missionary every week to Collin County Frisco working with churches to have a Gospel witness to that campus. UT Austin BSM, a flagship campus is sending staff to two of the Austin Community College campuses to start a work Fall 2017! The expansion of the Gospel on campuses in Texas cannot be accomplished by BSM alone but in partnership with churches! Would your church “lift up your eyes” to the harvest found on a Community College near you?
- **UTA:** Over 65 students committed their lives to Jesus at UTA this past year. Here is one example. *Joseph* is an undergrad student from Southeast Asia. Richard shared the gospel with him and after a time of searching, Joseph gave his life to Jesus on a Thursday. Then, the following Saturday he joined our Spring Break mission trip. On the trip, Joseph learned how to share his newfound faith. He also decided to follow in obedience and get baptized. He has joined the BSM leadership team and is actively sharing his faith with other international students. He shared, “I fell in love with Jesus. Even though my parents are upset at me for following Jesus, I would rather they be upset at me than to not know Jesus.”

For more information about Texas BSM, praying weekly, location of ministries, Go Now Missions, Texas Freshmen and help for your church go to texasbaptists.org/ministries/collegiate.

In 2016, I had the privilege of preaching the gospel in 25 of our great BGCT churches. I shared some amazing stories about their investment in CP giving and expressed appreciation for their generosity. Throughout the year, we have continued our work to raise awareness among Texas Baptists of the results of cooperative giving and to encourage increased support of the Cooperative Program through other opportunities such as the following.

CELEBRATING COOPERATION LUNCHEONS. In December 2016, we sent out invitations to the first in a series of nine luncheons to be held across Texas over the next three years. The purpose of these events is to bring together pastors of the top 500 churches in giving through CP to support Texas Baptists mission causes. The first luncheons were held March 2017 at Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas and in May 2017 at The Woodlands First Baptist. Both were great times of fellowship and encouragement for these church leaders, as well as an opportunity to say thank you for the impact their giving makes on missions at home and around the world. Future luncheons will be held in New Braunfels (9-7-17), Plainview (3-1-18), Nacogdoches (5-3-18), and Abilene (9-6-18).

CP GIVING RECOGNITIONS. At the 2016 Texas Baptists Annual Meeting last November in Waco, we recognized nine churches for their exemplary commitment to cooperative giving. Five recipients were from different size categories determined by average worship attendance. Four were from our Fellowships: African American, Chinese, Hispanic and Vietnamese. Churches in these same categories will be recognized again at the 2017 Texas Baptists Annual Meeting in Waco.

REAL-LIFE STORIES. People love to hear stories of lives changed through causes supported by their CP giving. So we tell those stories. We've created a library of short videos, two to three minutes each, about those whose spiritual and physical needs have been met through CP giving. We currently have about 15 videos posted on our website with more to come before the end of 2017. Another way we've been telling mission stories is through **52 Sundays**, a collection of 52 short stories and photos, one per week, sharing the great work done in Texas and around the world because you give through CP. It is designed to use on Sunday morning during the worship service, but it can be used in many other ways as well. To hear these real-life stories, both in our videos and **52 Sundays**, visit our website: texasbaptists.org/cp/resources

PRINTED RESOURCES. At that same website, you will find downloadable print resources to use as a worship insert or a handout for meetings, or however else you need. These are designed to help you communicate to your church the reach and scope of mission dollars given through the Cooperative Program. All resources are free to download and print in whatever quantity you need. Whether you need something as simple as a card with CP Fast Facts, or something more detailed such as our newest CP ANNUAL REPORT (affectionately nicknamed, "the passport") showing how every mission dollars was spent in 2016, you can find it on our webpage. We frequently add new pieces to the page, so please check back often.

Because of your generosity, for over 90 years Texas Baptists have used Cooperative Program giving to send our hearts where our feet may never go -- across our state, our nation and our world. Thanks for your continued support.



CHRIS LIEBRUM
Director

BARBARA FORBIS
CP Specialist



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**BILL
ARNOLD**
President

**JERRY
CARLISLE**
Vice President

**LESLIE
SNYDER**
Donor Relations
Coordinator

RITA GRIFFITH
Administrative
Assistant

The Texas Baptist Missions Foundation helps individuals use their financial resources to change the world through present gifts, planned gifts, and estate gifts. From July 2016 through June of 2017, we assisted 4,703 donors who made 13,032 gifts for a total of \$5,620,365 in cash and gifts in kind, with an average gift amount of \$431.27. Here are some of the ways TBMF connected these donors with ministry needs in Texas.

The Dees Family

David and Joyce Dees had a lifelong practice of giving back to God with both their time and money. They raised three children, guiding them to the Lord and teaching them the importance of being part of the body of the church and its' support. Nothing illustrates this better than their last gift. Both Mr. and Mrs. Dees passed away in 2016. In January of 2017, the Missions Foundation received a significant check from their estate to be used to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. They had divided their estate equally between their three children and Texas Baptists. Along with the check came these testimonies from their children:

"Nothing made them happier than to give of their time, talents, and money for the work of the Great Commission. We rejoice in the knowledge of their short separation and reunion in their perfect bodies. May this last gift be of help to you and your wonderful mission."
Larry Dees

"From the time we were young, my parents taught us through actions and words that God wants us to tithe. Not only did they tithe, but we were led by example to give more than was required and then it truly was a gift. I remember at Christmas they set aside the amount they would spend on our gifts, then that amount was divided by four . . . a fourth for each of us three children and a fourth for Lottie Moon offering. . . It did not surprise us that even in death they wanted to give back equally to the Lord and we know that their gift will be used to His glory." Joy Jackson

"From the earliest times, I remember my parents' main goal in life was to share the Good News with others so that they might be saved and know the love of Jesus Christ, our Savior." Judy Steele

This generous gift from the Dees Family will continue the work they started giving of their time, talents, and money for the work of the Great Commission.

New Building at Texas Tech

Plans are underway for a new Baptist Student Ministry Building at Texas Tech University.

We need your help to ensure the good work God is doing through the Texas Tech BSM can continue to flourish for generations to come. The current 55-year-old building is outdated, and a new facility would offer a more comfortable, uplifting environment where students can engage in God's word and fellowship together. This new 9500 square foot building will feature a large worship hall with seating for up to 350 students, a commercial kitchen, seating/gaming area for students, training and prayer rooms, and much more. The new building will cost \$3.3 million. Led by a naming gift of \$750,000 from Dr. Bob Pinder, we have raised over \$2 million in pledges and gifts to date. If you would like to help, contact the Missions Foundation or mail your check to Texas Baptist Missions Foundation, 7557 Rambler Road Suite 1200, Dallas, TX 75231.

If you would like some ideas on how to support missions in Texas or around the world, the Foundation staff will be happy to work with you.

Church Administration

Your church constitution and bylaws may be the last place you'd think of looking for great discipleship material, but maybe you should think again. One church in central Texas requested a presentation on the "Ten Essential Elements" of a constitution and bylaws—for the entire church! Great discussion took place related to current cultural issues, church leadership development, and the meaning of church membership. A topic some assume would be boring and irrelevant turned out to be eye-opening and engaging for a congregation growing in discipleship.

A treasurer of a small church in a metropolitan area of Texas struggled to make sense of the IRS rules about her pastor's compensation. (She's definitely not alone—it's complicated!) A call to the office of church administration resulted in answers to her questions about employment status, housing allowance, and taxable income. She even made a connection with a member of another church in the area who could help her complete a W-2.

Church administration may not be glamorous, but healthy administrative practices lay the foundation for healthy relationships between church members and between the church and its community. Your office of Church Administration works every day to help churches just like yours build strong foundations for life-changing ministry that honors Jesus. If you've got questions about church financial, HR, organizational, or legal issues, we're here for you.

Leadership Texas Baptists

"I was challenged to think beyond leading in my given situation and to look at the larger context of the people that I am leading....I was encouraged to look within myself to see where I might need to improve and develop as a person, and as a leader."

"It equipped me to be a better advocate for the Cooperative Program and to see the richness of resources available to our churches."

These two comments capture much of what Leadership Texas Baptists is all about. Over a nine-month period, a cohort of 12-15 emerging young leaders across Texas gathers monthly to network with, learn about, and participate in the life of Texas Baptists. Cohort 3 is now underway. Please pray for these and all the emerging leaders in our churches as they follow God's calling to lead.

Texas Baptists Golf Classic

Picture PGA Tour pro Russell Henley making 10 birdies on the final day to win the Shell Houston Open this past April. Not as impressive as the 17-birdie score recorded two weeks later on the same course at our 4th Annual Texas Baptists Golf Classic! (Of course, that was a four-person team playing best ball, but it was still amazing...) Two hundred forty players from every corner of the state enjoyed a great day of fellowship in what looked like a Baptist Family reunion. Over 50 churches and 16 of our partner institutions were represented. In addition to the fellowship, the event raised money to assist pastors and their families with counseling through our office of **Counseling Services**.

Mark **April 26, 2018** on your calendar, and join us at the Dallas Athletic Club for next year's tournament, which will benefit our **Bounce Student Disaster Recovery** ministry.



**DAVID
ADAMS**
Director

**BRITTANY
THOMAS**
Ministry
Assistant



TEXAS BAPTISTS®
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS



JOSHUA MINATREA
Director

KALIE LOWRIE
News Director

JORDAN PARKER
Multimedia Specialist

BRANDI JONES
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KIRSTEN MCKIMMEY
News Writer

JEREMY HONEA
Art Director

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Graphic Designer

MARITZA SOLANO
Production Designer

JOHANN DYCK
Web Content Manager

JILLIAN SANDERS
Web Content Specialist

MELISSA TJARKS
Marketing Consultant

NIGEL ROBINSON
Marketing Consultant

BRITTANY THOMAS
Assistant

SONYA JOHNSON
Print Center Operator

Often, when folks plug in to Texas Baptists life for the first time - as a new pastor or church starter, Executive Board member or participant in the Leadership Texas Baptists cohort - they tend to share the same sentiment: they are surprised by the scope of Convention missions, ministry and resources.

The depth and breadth of Convention ministries flow from its 131-year-old object to awaken and stimulate among the churches the greatest possible activity in evangelism, missions, Christian education and benevolent work and enterprises.

Today, our 250 full and part-time staff serve more than 5,300 churches and missions and some 2.079 million members in Texas and beyond. We also proudly partner with 28 education, health and human care institutions.

It is the awesome responsibility of the Communications Department to tell the story of what God is doing through these ministries and partner institutions, and this past year has been a time of significant change as we've sought to rebuild our team to better accomplish the task.

During the past 12 months, we've consulted with outside experts to evaluate our team and make needed improvements, restructured the team and filled six open positions, established a new mission statement and named new priorities, and set about improving the overall quality of our work.

"The mission of the Communications Department is to enable organizational success by coordinating internal and external communications, promoting the Convention and its ministries, and maintaining brand integrity."

The department is now divided into four teams: news, design and print, web, and marketing. Through these capable teams and their qualified members, we produce magazines and e-newsletters, maintain social media accounts and websites, and design and print promotional materials to inform and inspire churches in their work to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

It is through these new and improved channels that we shared the Texas Baptists story more than 1 million times this past year.

We are especially excited about this year's Cooperative Program Annual Report, a detailed departmental report describing how your CP giving sends hearts where feet may never go, and 52 Sundays, a CP resource with a year's worth of stories and slides to help churches be aware of and pray for collaborative missions efforts.

Because you give the Gospel is shared, God's love is shown, lives are transformed, and our department is blessed to bear witness. As Luke 19 reminds us, if we do not declare Jesus as the son of God, then the rocks themselves will cry out! Until then, we'll keep working to spread the good news of the great work God is doing through this Convention.

To subscribe to Texas Baptists Life quarterly magazine or the Texas Baptists Life monthly newsletter, email subscriptions@texasbaptists.org or call 214-828-5232. To order your copy of the Cooperative Program Annual Report, or 52 Sundays, email barbara.forbis@texasbaptists.org or call 214-887-5477.

You may also find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and at our home on the web, texasbaptists.org.

The Texas Baptist Historical Collection marked its 84th year of operation by continuing to collect, preserve, and communicate the history of Texas Baptists. 2016-2017 marked the first full year of the TBHC at its new location in Waco, located at 209 N 8th Street. The Collection has a large conference room that hosted numerous meetings including Truett classes, the Texas WMU, local churches, the 2016 Church Library Conference, as well as a session of the 2016 Baptist History and Heritage Society meeting. The conference room is available for use by BGCT churches. Please contact Autumn Hendon for further information (autumn.hendon@texasbaptists.org).

For the first time in the history of the TBHC the new location also allows for an on-site museum. The initial exhibits developed by the TBHC staff included displays to Fern Harrington Miles, a missionary held in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, Burleson College, a short-lived but impactful junior-college in Greenville Texas, and translations of Pilgrim's Progress in the holdings of the TBHC. The George Whitfield pulpit, which is usually on display in the museum area, was recently sent to the Smithsonian Institute to be part of a display on early American religion in 2018.

The TBHC staff continues to work with a software engineer to develop a new platform that allows the collection to consolidate its databases providing staff and researchers faster and more concise access to information contained within the TBHC. Currently in the beta testing stages it is hoped the software will be fully operational by the end of 2017. The digitizing partnership with Baylor University continues to develop. The annuals of all Texas Baptist state conventions held within the TBHC have now been scanned and it is hoped this material will be online and available to researchers soon.

The Collection assisted numerous on-site researchers, examining such topics as Texas Baptist women, Hispanic work in Texas, and Wayland Baptist University. If you're interested in on-site research, please contact Autumn Hendon (autumn.hendon@texasbaptists.org).

Many rural churches have played an important role in the development of the BGCT. In recent years some of these churches have closed their doors. The TBHC is actively seeking minutes and historical information on these churches so that their ministry and impact will not be lost. If you have any information on any of these type of churches, please contact the TBHC (tbhc@texasbaptists.org).

The church library ministry continues to be a vital component of the Collection's ministry. The annual Church Library Conference will resume in October of 2017. Please contact Naomi Taplin (naomi.taplin@texasbaptists.org) for information.

The Texas Baptists are encouraged to visit the Texas Baptist Historical Museum at Independence. The permanent displays at the TBHM tell the stories of the beginnings of the Baptist denomination, Baptists in America, and Texas Baptists. Important Baptist Distinctives are also highlighted on an interactive wall. To arrange a tour of the museum please contact Phil Hassell (phil.hassell@texasbaptists.org).

The TBHC offers the following services:

- Research Assistance
- Photograph Reproductions
- Preservation
- Consultations
- Baptist History and Heritage Awareness



ALAN J. LEFEVER
Director

NAOMI TAPLIN
Associate
Director

PHIL HASSELL
Manager
Texas Baptist
Historical
Museum

AUTUMN HENDON
Ministry
Assistant

HEATHER MOONEY
Coordinator
of Community
Outreach and
Research



TEXAS BAPTISTS®
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS



**WILLIAM M.
PINSON, JR.**

Director
(Volunteer)

**DORIS A.
TINKER**

Director of
Communications
/Organization
(Volunteer)

What would the world be like if there were no Baptists? No Baptist denomination?

Other than God, who knows what the total impact of a non-Baptist world would be? But we do know that these **would not exist**...

...hundreds of thousands of Baptist churches throughout the world ministering to multiple millions of persons,

...scores of Baptist medical centers, child-care institutions, universities and seminaries meeting the needs of millions of persons in Jesus' name,

...thousands of Baptist missionaries--local, nationwide, worldwide—establishing thousands of churches, medical, centers, child-care entities, and other ministries in Christ's name,

...numerous Baptist relief ministries caring for multitudes of hurting persons in the wake of disasters,

AND more—much more!

And perhaps more importantly, likely millions of persons would not have heard the gospel, repented of sin, believed in Christ as Savior and Lord, become members of churches, and found an Eternal Home in Heaven.

Don't let anyone tell you that denominations are not important!

A strong, healthy Baptist denomination, with God's help, will continue these ministries in Christ's name. And that calls for the members of the Baptist family to be knowledgeable about Bible-based Baptist beliefs and ministry. Otherwise, what Baptists do to help fulfill the Great Commandment and Great Commission of Jesus Christ will be diminished.

No single belief or practice distinguishes Baptists as a distinct part of the Christian family. Rather it is a combination of beliefs and practices, all interrelated, that make Baptists a distinct denomination of Christians.

The reported decline in baptisms and church membership by Baptist denominational organizations in our country, such as state and national conventions, is cause for great concern. That quite likely could lead to a weakening of Baptist efforts to advance the cause of Christ.

At the same time this decline is reported, there is also an acknowledged decline in knowledge about Baptist beliefs and practices among Baptist church members. Could it be that there is a correlation?

The Texas Baptist Heritage Center and the Baptist Distinctives Council of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) were established to help provide information and inspiration to Baptists about Bible-based beliefs and practices precious to Baptists. It is hoped that increased knowledge and commitment will lead to a resurgence of evangelism, missions, and ministry.

Upon his retirement as Executive Director of the BGCT, Pinson was officially named Executive Director Emeritus. He was asked to serve as the volunteer Director of the Texas Baptist Heritage Center, which had been established shortly before his retirement, and as the staff liaison with the Baptist Distinctives Council of the Convention. Thus, the work of the Heritage Center is conducted as part of the Executive Director Emeritus office. When Doris Tinker retired as the Executive Associate in the office of the Executive Director, she was asked to be a part of the Emeritus office and serves as volunteer Director of Communications/Organization for the Heritage Center.

The volunteer staff of the Heritage Center in cooperation with many other volunteers as well as various staff members of the BGCT and many Baptist organizations and institutions work to provide numerous resources for Baptists on beliefs and practices, including printed materials as well as the websites **www.baptistdistinctives.org** and **www.distintivosbautistas.org**. Please see these for available resources.

Individuals, churches, institutions, and other Baptist entities around the world are utilizing these resources. Our prayer is that this will result in an increasingly strong Baptist denomination effectively helping fulfill the Great Commandment and Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ.



TEXAS BAPTISTS®
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS



STEVE VERNON
Associate Executive Director

BETHANY FRISCH
Executive Assistant

LADONNA RENFRO
Texas Baptist Committee Specialist

TAMMY TIJERINA
Ministry Assistant/
Theological Ed/
Lilly Grant

One of the keys of any successful organization is the collaboration of those who lead in the work. One of the joys experienced in the office of the Associate Executive Director is to collaborate with so many in the Baptist family including staff, churches, associations, institutions and individuals.

Internally the staff in the office has the opportunity to work with the ministries of the BGCT. This includes the five teams of the BGCT organization, Christian Life Commission, Great Commission Team, The Connections Team, Collegiate Ministries Team, and the Missions Team. Cultural Engagement is a part of each of these ministries. These teams form the heart of ministry to churches across the state.

The Associate Executive Director has the opportunity to work with Chaplaincy endorsement and support. This amazing ministry has grown to more than 800 chaplains with the potential for even greater growth. Every day chaplains serving in the military, in hospitals, at hospices, in industry, with first responders, in nursing homes, and in countless other ways make a difference in ministry where they serve. For many they are the touch of the Lord on the lives in which they interact.

Working with the institutions of the BGCT is a very rewarding part of the work done in this office. As Texas Baptists, we have a relationship with 9 universities, 5 hospitals, 4 human care institutions, a mission center, San Marcos Baptist Academy, Baptist Church Loan Corporation, the Baptist Standard and the South Texas School of Christian Studies. Each of these institutions touch the lives of thousands of people each year.

Executive Board of the Convention is supported by this office. The Executive Board is charged to do the business of the convention when the convention is not in session at the Annual Meeting. The role of the office of the Associate Executive Director includes orientating of directors, overseeing the registration process, and arranging for the meetings, working with agendas, and working with the business that the Executive Board will consider.

The Associate Executive Director's office also oversees the training and meeting facilitation of the committees of the BGCT. Hundreds of Texas Baptists fill elected positions in the governing bodies of institutions and entities related to the BGCT. This is the office that coordinates that work. This includes working with the Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors, the Committee to Nominate Boards of Affiliated Ministries and the Committee on Committees. Other committees that the office coordinates are the Committee on Convention Business, the Committee on Memorials, the Committee on Credentials, and the Committee on Resolutions.

Additionally, this year the office of the Associate Executive Director oversaw the implementation of the Lilly Grant the convention received to help with the economic challenges facing many of the pastors of Texas Baptists.

Through the office of Theological Education, Texas Baptists provided scholarships to 1580 students who are preparing for ministry. This reflects a deep investment in the leaders of the future. From June 2016 to May 2017, \$1,288,325 was disbursed to undergraduate students and \$1,545,225 to graduate and post-graduate students.

The Ministerial Financial Assistance program (MFA) ensures distribution of scholarship funds to the appropriate university officers in our partner schools:

- Baptist University of the Americas • Baylor University • Dallas Baptist University • East Texas Baptist University • Houston Baptist University • Howard Payne University • Hardin-Simmons University • University of Mary Hardin-Baylor • Wayland Baptist University
- George W. Truett Seminary • Logsdon Seminary

We work closely with those in each of the universities and seminaries known as Ministry Guidance Professionals (MGPs). The MGPs are those faculty persons assigned to the

specific work of consulting with and guiding students into vocational ministry roles. They maintain a close connection with the students. Jeter Basden, the Director of Ministry Guidance for Baylor University, notes about the TEC:

Baylor undergraduate ministry students are benefited greatly by the Ministerial Financial Assistance funds provided by Texas Baptist churches through the Office of Theological Education. Without such funds, some of these ministry students would have to assume student loans to pay for their undergraduate education. MFA funding helps to eliminate the need for student loans or reduce the amount of loans. Students are more able to progress from their undergraduate study to the next step in ministry without the burden of excessive student loans. Baylor ministry students also benefit from the visit to Introduction to Ministry classes by BGCT personnel to introduce students to the cooperative work of Texas Baptist churches and their ministry partnerships.

The Office of Theological Education extends deep appreciation to BGCT churches for their generosity in contributing to the funds which can be applied to students' financial assistance needs. The contributions are investments in the future of Texas Baptist congregations with the dividends being these students becoming our congregational leadership in the next generations. The Office of Theological Education counts it a great privilege to be a part of this network making a positive impact in the state of Texas and beyond on behalf of the Kingdom of God.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent Texas Baptists at churches, events, and at other meetings across the state and across the nation. The opportunities to share the Gospel through preaching and speaking in churches on a weekly basis gives the opportunity to know the heartbeat of churches as they seek to reach the state with the hope of the Gospel.



BOBBY SMITH
Director

ERIC WHITMORE
Associate Endorser for Calling and Endorsement

JIM BROWN
Associate Endorser for Chaplain Training

WILL BEARDEN
Associate Endorser for Pastoral Care and Support

DAN FRANKLIN
Associate Endorser for Pastoral Care and Support

DONALD LACY
Associate Endorser for Pastoral Care and Support

The Office of Chaplaincy Relations endorses, supports, and trains Texas Baptist chaplains. These ministers provide pastoral care in a variety of specialized ministry settings.

The office provides ecclesiastical endorsement through a process that affirms to an employer that a chaplain or pastoral counselor has met all the basic requirements of the denomination to practice ministry in a specialized setting. Basic requirements include personal, spiritual and professional accountability; educational, moral and ethical standards; ability to work in a pluralistic environment; doctrinal stability; and active membership in a local Baptist congregation. Legal issues require each endorsement applicant also pass a criminal and sexual abuse background check.

The Chaplaincy Endorsement Council is elected by the BGCT Executive Board and serves as the endorsement agency on behalf of the BGCT. It reports its work to the Institutional Relations Committee of the Executive Board. The Council establishes guidelines for endorsement requirements. State and federal institutions require chaplains to be endorsed by an officially recognized faith group. The U.S. Armed Forces Chaplains Board on July 24, 2002, approved the BGCT as a recognized endorsement agency. Every major federal, state and civilian institution recognizes Texas Baptist chaplaincy endorsement.

The Office of Chaplaincy Relations continues to grow. Under the Director/Endorser are five Associate Endorsers directing three separate functions. One Associate for Calling and Endorsement coordinates communication with individuals interested in chaplaincy as they pursue their chaplaincy calling. The Associate manages the endorsement process, including new endorsements, updates, and transfers, and directs office staff and budget issues.

Three Associate Endorsers for Pastoral Care and Support maintain relationships with endorsed chaplains and provide timely and quality support to meet their needs. The Associates' primary responsibility is pastoral visitation and counseling support.

The Associate Endorser for Chaplain Training coordinates training to maintain chaplain certification and professional qualification to serve in various institutions. The office also manages contracts for local church volunteer chaplain training.

In early 2017, the Baptist General Association of Virginia voted to ask the BGCT Office of Chaplaincy Relations to serve as the chaplain endorser for the Association. The BGAV consists of 1,400 churches in the Commonwealth and many affiliated churches throughout the world.

The Office of Chaplaincy Relations is committed to training Texas Baptist congregations to become authentic Christian caregivers through pastoral ministry skill training by offering courses such as *Hands on Ministry and Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training*.

Latest efforts include a County Jail Chaplaincy Initiative to encourage and equip local churches to provide volunteer chaplains to county jails statewide. Chaplaincy Relations also began a Native American Initiative based in Sisseton, South Dakota to plant churches and train and mentor Christian tribal leaders of the local Lakota Sioux tribes.

Endorsement Totals (2002-2016):

Chaplains Endorsed	895
New Chaplain Endorsements	700

People need hope and God's Word has the power to change lives! The mission of BaptistWay Press® is to serve churches by helping connect people to God through His Word. BaptistWay Press® has been crafting quality Bible study resources for over eighteen years, serving Baptist churches in Texas and beyond. Here are some highlights from the past year.

Quality Ongoing Bible Study Resources...During the past year, BaptistWay Press® published the following Bible study products:

- *Terror & Triumph: A Study of Revelation*
- *On Your Mark: The Gospel in Motion: A Study of Mark*
- *Power & Purpose: God Unveils the Universe: A Study of Genesis 1-11*
- *Called to Serve*

Each study in English includes a *Study Guide*, a *Large Print Study Guide*, and a *Teaching Guide*. The following support materials are also available: *Premium Bible Commentary*; *Premium Bible Teaching Plans*; and *Teaching Resource Items*. Kindle editions of the Study Guide were also produced and placed on amazon.com/kindle. You can find these by going to amazon.com and searching for "BaptistWay."

Upcoming Bible studies for adults from BaptistWay include:

- *Going Viral: The Birth and Advance of the Church (A Study of Acts) (Fall 2017)*
- *GSI: Gospel Story Investigator (A Study of Luke) (Winter 2017)*
- *Character and the Crown (a Study of 1 Samuel) (Spring 2018)*
- *Rescue and Redemption (Summer 2018)*

As the **Publishing Provider for the Baptist General Convention of Texas**...BaptistWay Press® continues to partner with several offices in the BGCT to help create/update resources for their ministries.

The new name for our ongoing **BaptistWay Press®** curriculum line, **Connect 360: All the Bible for All of Life** has become more well known with our churches. Our goal continues to be for people to **Discover, Believe, and Live** the truths of the Bible.

With the new website and E-commerce engine, the number of materials ordered and purchased online has almost doubled, thus confirming that the new format makes our quality resources, both printed and digital, readily accessible to be ordered and purchased with a click. Check out www.baptistwaypress.org.

Thanks to the generosity of Texas Baptists through their gifts to the Mary Hill Davis Offering, the **Intercultural Ministry** of BaptistWay continued to add new, free, downloadable Bible studies for language groups. In the last year, two new resources were produced in Chinese and three in Korean. In addition, four new resources (each) in Laotian and Simplified English were completed as well as new (free) VBS resources in English and Spanish.

Moving Toward the Future...BaptistWay Press® will continue to seek to expand its reach in serving churches by connecting people to God through His Word. We will support the ministry teams of the BGCT as their publisher and leverage our new website to serve more churches.

MINISTRY STATISTICS FOR BAPTISTWAY PRESS®

of units sold.....97,732
Gross Sales\$392,592
of orders2866
of customers1023



SCOTT STEVENS
Publisher

STAN GRANBERRY
BaptistWay Press, Specialist

NANCY FEASTER
Ministry Assistant



TEXAS BAPTISTS®
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS



CLAY PRICE
Director

Decision Support continues to examine church and demographic data to provide contextual profiles to help churches, associations, and BGCT program offices be as effective as possible in planning and outreach. During this past year Decision Support produced 150 demographic reports and 51 ten-year church profiles. In addition to basic profiles, there were seven churches that received more in-depth reports by geocoding the locations of church member households so additional comparisons could be made between the characteristics of church members and the characteristics of the community.

An increasing number of requests coming to Decision Support were focused on Hispanic population. Currently, in Texas, Hispanics make up 40 percent of the population, compared with 42% for Anglo population. By 2030—only 13 years away—Hispanics will comprise 46% of Texas population while the Anglo population will slip to 36 percent according to projections from the Texas Demographic Center housed at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Are Texas Baptists planning aggressively enough for this period in history when Hispanics will outnumber Anglos, 15.1 million to 11.9 million? Today 1,032 Hispanic congregations are related to the BGCT compared with 2,933 predominantly Anglo congregations. The need for new Hispanic churches has never been greater. Just as important is the need to identify and train Baptist Hispanic pastors who will be the leaders of new church starts.

Since last year's report the Decision Support office has made two major presentations on trends impacting Baptist work in Texas. One was made to the Leadership Texas Baptists cohort of emerging leaders. The other was made to the directors of associational missions in their annual retreat. The goal was to better inform these existing and future leaders in the dynamics of the mission field that makes up "Texas, Our Texas."

In addition to the Hispanic trends noted above, Texas will undergo a startling age change. The Silent Generation (persons born before 1946) is expected to decline from 2 million to 0.6 million—a 69% drop as this wonderful generation passes off the scene. Even the Baby Boom Generation will decline by 17%, dropping from 5.5 million to 4.6 million. The big surprise is to realize Texas will have 6.1 million people in 2030 who have not yet been born!

Texas will always be a great state but it will also be a state with great needs. The greatest need will be the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel message. The religious composition of the state is 19 percent Catholic, 15 percent Baptist, 11 percent evangelistic Protestant, 8 percent other Protestant, and 4 percent all other faiths. That leaves 44 percent with no relationship to a faith community of any kind. May this information provide the support for BGCT churches to make decisions to make a difference in the lives of Texans both today and tomorrow.

The work of the Treasurer's Office includes overseeing endowments, legal coordination, financial matters, human resources, information technology, and conference and events. You will see in the following reports how this staff responds to the needs of BGCT staff and to the needs of our churches. In the past year, we have added a process improvement function to this work. The process improvement function has taken the place of internal audit and will focus first on implementing many of the recommendations we received during the ten years we had internal audit.

Last year I reported that we had a contract to sell the Baptist University of the Americas campus that we purchased from them in 2014 to provide relief for BUA's from the debt. Unfortunately, the buyer cancelled the sale the day before we were to close. Because the buildings were vacated, the Executive Board approved funding to demolish the buildings on the old campus to improve the salability of the property. Demolition was completed in late May, 2017.

Process Improvement

Since Process Improvement began in 2016, ministry teams have been introduced to best practices aimed at increasing efficiency and reducing waste. In addition, risk associated with managing volunteers have been addressed and mitigated as well.

The following process improvement projects were completed over the last 16 months and have helped to increase productivity among the teams involved: cash posting error tracking, file re-organization, ministry application processes, creation of desk manuals, creation of revenue maps, budget process documentation, and Lilly Grant administration.

Process Improvement has also reached volunteer management. Derived from the internal audit conducted by Weaver LLC, the project to centralize and standardize documentation and volunteer management processes is well underway. The goal is for volunteer managers to become equipped to recruit, screen, train, supervise and retain volunteers. Progress to date includes:

- Ministry Safe implemented across all teams engaged in volunteer management
- The creation of volunteer management guidelines, role descriptions and compliance forms
- The development of a CRM (Customer Relationship Manager) to assist volunteer managers with recruiting, job assignments, and tracking volunteer activity

As the work on these projects continue, the goal is for Texas Baptists' staff-members to accomplish ministry goals in the most effective ways while growing in awareness and understanding of risk.

Thank you, Texas Baptists, for allowing us to serve the ministries of BGCT!



**JILL
LARSEN**
Treasurer/CFO

KIM PATTON
Executive
Assistant

**MICHELLE
FERGUS**
Process
Improvement
Manager



TEXAS BAPTISTS®
BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2016

	2016
Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$4,225,635
Investments	126,069,974
Contribution receivable, net	658,223
Beneficial interest in trust	16,241,784
Prepaid expenses and other assets	1,210,815
Other receivables	2,035,109
Loans receivable, net	1,327,794
Notes and other receivables, net	4,402,467
Property and equipment, net	11,287,987
Total assets	<u>\$167,459,788</u>
Liabilities and net assets	
Accounts payable	\$1,803,430
Accrued liabilities	6,653,865
Due to WMU	3,667,927
Other liabilities	3,638,570
Notes payable	1,873,583
Accrued postretirement benefit	8,955,251
Total liabilities	26,592,627
Net Assets	
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	42,095,713
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	98,771,449
Total net assets	140,867,162
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$167,459,788</u>

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE BAPTIST GENERAL CONVENTION OF TEXAS
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year ended December 31, 2016

	2016
Church Support & Revenue	
Cooperative Program Income	\$30,417,385
Cooperative Program Expenses	35,965,040
Excess of Program Revenues over Program Expenses	(5,547,655)
Other Program Support	
Investment Income	6,742,449
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments (Net)	(2,644,476)
Other Program Income	11,766,633
Other Program Expenses	(9,780,122)
Gain on sale of property	-
Depreciation	(1,067,039)
Designated Gifts	
Endowment Contributions	245,544
Worldwide Designated Revenues	11,366,973
Worldwide Designated Expenses	(11,366,973)
Mary Hill Davis State Missions Offering	2,099,203
Mary Hill Davis State Missions Expenses	(2,172,797)
Change in Net Assets	(358,260)
Net Assets, beginning of year	141,225,421
Net Assets, end of year	<u>\$140,867,161</u>



**ROLLIE
RICHMOND**
Director

**RUDY
SANDERS**
HR Benefits
Coordinator

**LATAMRA
SELLS**
HR Generalist

The Human Resources Department is, foremost among our responsibilities, here to serve. In fact, our stated mission is: *To support the mission and ministries of the BGCT by helping leaders attract, train, and retain quality staff members.* We have many statistics that help to measure and validate how well we accomplish this mission. If you'd like, please let us know and we'd be happy to share that statistical information with you.

But, we wanted to, instead of just listing statistics, share a few examples of things we've done or been a part of this year that we feel better illustrates our commitment to our Human Resources ministry – which is – *to help the collective BGCT ministries happen.*

Performance Improvement – Everyone's Mission and Contribution

The success of our ministries depends heavily on the performance of our people. It is the goal of our performance management system to ensure that everyone knows what we are trying to accomplish as Texas Baptists, how what each of us does contributes to accomplishing our goals, and how well each of us is performing against job requirements. With this in mind, this year we totally restructured our performance appraisal system focusing the process on communicating organizational and individual expectations and defining specifically, for a series of competencies, exactly what it takes to perform at the highest level. Additionally, we tied our competencies to scriptural references so that everyone understands the connections between what they do and the impact of their performance on His Kingdom. We would be glad to share this redesigned system with you if you think it could be of value to your church.

Employee Health Benefits – Providing for Our Employees in a Challenging Environment

Everyone knows how challenging it is to provide good health benefits to individuals, families, and organizations in this volatile health care environment. This year we began the process of deeply evaluating not only what benefits we offer but how they are delivered to improve financial performance and the experience and opportunities for our employees and their families. We enhanced the technology delivering health care information to our employees to help them make better health care decisions for their families and the organization. Additionally, we implemented a "gain-sharing" program that monetarily rewards our employees who research and choose health care solutions that provide high quality outcomes while reducing the health care costs to themselves and Texas Baptists. As health care costs continue to raise at an unsustainable rate, we will continue to seek creative solutions that allow us to best serve the health care needs of our people while ensuring that costs are acceptable.

Recognizing our Employees for a Job Well Done

We value our employee's contribution and always are looking for ways to say, *"Good job, good and faithful servant"*. We are in the middle of a recognition program redesign that launches this fall. The recognition program will recognize the contribution of both non-management and management employees. The program will reinforce the performance expectations outline in our performance appraisal system, sending a consistently reinforced value message to everyone. The recognition program will also provide an opportunity to immediately recognize the "blessings" that employees give to each other every day.

These are but a few examples of the ways we have worked every day this year in service to our Texas Baptists staff and ministries. We in HR are blessed and we thank you for the opportunity that you give us to serve in His name.

The Office of Finance & Accounting provides accurate and timely processing of receipts from voluntary contributions, mission gifts, event registration fees and BaptistWay® Press product sales. The Office also provides assistance with budgeting and accounting information on the corporate and individual level.

The primary ministry emphases are cash receipts, accounts payable, general ledger and financial reporting. During the 12 months ended June 30, 2017 our ministry team:

- Received and recorded more than 90,000 contributions, mission gifts, product sales transactions and event registration payments.
- Processed over 14,000 cash disbursement checks and electronic payments.
- Recorded information into and prepared reports from more than 60,000 accounts in the general ledger subsidiary ledgers.
- Provided church tax information upon request.
- Continued to provide accurate financial reporting for the yearly audit.
- Coordinated the preparation of the 2017 budget.

The financial statements of Texas Baptists are audited annually by an independent certified public accounting firm. Also, the Controller assures proper internal controls are in place to help avoid financial improprieties.

This office is also responsible for risk management. Responsibilities include determining levels of insurance coverage, negotiating rates and coordinating claims.

Upon request we assist churches affiliated with Texas Baptists by providing evidence of their exemption from Federal income tax.

All members of the Finance & Accounting Staff consider our work a ministry to Texas Baptists churches. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.



**JIM
REED**
Controller/
Assistant
Treasurer

**JEANNIE
MILLER**
Administrative
Assistant



**DAVE
LYONS**
Director

Texas Baptists Information Technology (IT) exists to equip and enable the many ministries of the Texas Baptists and WMU through technology solutions. We are called to minister - just as other teams at the Texas Baptists are - and our ministry is helping make the ministries of the other teams happen.

Software Improvements

We moved to a new **online giving platform** that is easier for our staff to use and requires less intervention from the vendor. It also takes advantage of a credit card processing system that allows us to be better stewards by paying lower credit card processing fees.

We deployed a system to support accepting and managing **Lilly Grant** applications from pastors based in Salesforce.

We explored easier to use, less expensive alternatives to our Siebel Customer **Relationship Management system**.

IT User Support

Our technology support team continued to provide technology solutions to accomplish the ministry goals of Texas Baptists by keeping our systems current and protected. This included:

- Firewall upgrades
- Tablet deployment
- Microsoft Office 365/Office 2016
- Active security testing and education
- Traffic and weather displays at our Rambler offices

Information Management Team

Information Management Team (IMT) continues to partner with other Texas Baptists ministry teams to provide the most current and up to date information of churches and their respective staff and leaders. In the latest 12 months, IMT created 15,587 activities (or church touches) for Area Reps and ministry teams; created 163 targeted mail lists and custom reports; answered 7,533 incoming calls; processed 2,998 orders, 1,187 of which were made online; downloaded and processed 12,226 online donations; created 21 new reports to view church and church staff information and made 72 existing report modifications to improve those reports and 35 CRM system enhancements.

We also provided CRM functionality and reports to our Counseling ministry in August 2016 and for Boards and Committees in November 2016. IMT is committed to partnering with BGCT ministries to support what they do in the local church by performing ministry data entry, evaluation reports and other custom data collection and reporting tools.

Support Services

Our Support Services team provides these services to our staff:

- Warehouse
- Shipping and receiving
- Kitchen and meeting refreshments
- Repairs, maintenance, and adjustments at our Rambler office and warehouse
- Materials transportation, bank deposits

Johnny Knight was promoted to Facilities Operations Manager July 1, 2017 to oversee and administer the safety program as well as all of Support Services. This group serves with a laser-like focus on customer service and doing whatever it can to best serve the varied needs of our Texas Baptist ministry teams.

Information Technology and Support Services focuses on and strives to better serve the ministries of Texas Baptists.

Serving as the hands and feet, the Conference & Event Department thrives by serving in the background of many events. Our passion is that many will come to know the Savior, to grow deeper in their relationship with Him and to be assured of the Hope that is found only in a relationship with Christ. Serving the many events of BGCT allows our staff to create an environment that is creative and effective for those we serve as they share God's Word.

We use "lessons learned" and meeting industry knowledge to develop and implement meeting design strategies as well as provide the convenience of full-service planning capabilities to BGCT ministry departments. We are available for a ministry office that wants to hand off their entire project or to serve as an extension of their team. We free up time and resources so the ministry department can focus on other responsibilities - allowing flexibility, efficiency, and maximizing resources that are critical to the meeting/event success.

During the last year:

- We served many of the various languages and culture groups of the Convention - from African American, Hispanic, Asian, Youth, Western Heritage, Retirees, Children and on and on.
- We supported over 95 + meetings and events of the Convention in various ways including large scale conferences like Annual Meeting all the way to a 10-member committee meeting and everything in between - training events, summer camps even retreats.
- We assisted in securing over 100 locations for various conventions, conferences, trainings, meetings and events
- We assisted in securing over 40,000 sleeping room nights for various events.
- We recorded hours and hours of meetings then edited and prepared the recordings to be put on a webpage of a ministry, onto a download card or used to prepare official minutes of a meeting.
- We planned current events along with future events allowing for savings through multiple event packages.
- We assisted in negotiating a production bid for one ministry office that resulted in \$18,000 savings.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve Texas Baptists by providing effective and efficient conference and event planning.



COLEEN WALL
Director

REX CAMPBELL
Media
Production
Specialist

aWENDY MORRIS
Planning
Coordinator



**ABRAHAM
JAQUEZ**
President

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bua.edu

"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1Thessalonians 5:18

A sense of gratitude is essential in our walk with God. It keeps us humble and maintains in us the sense of awe that is a direct result of what God does in our behalf every day. At Baptist University of the Americas, we experience the care and provision of God on a daily basis.

During the 2016-2017 year, we moved to a brand-new one-building campus. We witnessed with sadness the demolition of the old buildings on our former campus that now belongs to Texas Baptists. However, we experienced the joy of walking into a building that was designed with hospitality as its inspiration. The new campus offers an atmosphere of collegiality and friendliness. Despite being just one building, it houses more classrooms than the old campus and has the space to accommodate our vision for an increased enrollment in the years to come.

The year also was a year of transition. After almost 10 years of faithful service, René Maciel answered a different call from God and resigned from BUA to accept a pastoral ministry position in the Waco area. President Maciel guided us through a period of significant expansion. Our curricular offerings went from two undergraduate degrees to our current six programs (one associate of arts and five bachelor of arts degrees). During his tenure, and with the assistance from our many friends and donors (with Texas Baptists being the first among them), we saw a \$9.8 million debt paid off and a steady growth in our endowment funds.

We are grateful to Dr. Moises Rodriguez for his willingness to step in as our Acting President during our transitional time. For almost a full year, Dr. Rodriguez provided stability and dedicated his time to promote a sense of continuity as well as to seek and secure financial support for our activities. He counted on the support and participation of every vice president, faculty, and staff member.

Despite the trials and challenges we faced, we were able to complete the year with many victories and with the confirmation of God's favor, as we sought to fulfill the mission He gave to Baptist University of the Americas. In May 2017, we graduated 34 students with bachelor and associate degrees. Out of these students, twelve are already employed (most of those in church or denominational ministry), and five have been accepted into graduate programs. About 100 students received different certificates from the Baptist Bible Institute and the Latina Leadership Institute. They are serving in churches across Texas, other states, and abroad!

At the beginning of this new academic year, Dr. Abraham Jaquez was installed as BUA's eighth president. He brings with him significant leadership experience from his tenure at Buckner and a deep love for students and for the Kingdom of God from his extensive service in campus ministries. We are excited about what the Lord will do for and through BUA under Dr. Jaquez' leadership. In gratitude, we look forward to a future that is God's.

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAS STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	375
Enrollment, Spring	252
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	222
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	134
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	246
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	66%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

BAPTIST UNIVERSITY OF THE AMERICAS SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$1,755,636
BGCT appropriations.....	800,000
Auxiliary enterprises	444,500
All other sources	2,390,000
Total operational revenue	\$5,390,136

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	2,682,631
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	133,200
Auxiliary enterprises	310,531
All other expenses	1,657,047
Total operational expenses.....	4,783,409
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers.....	\$606,727

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$4,394,419
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$5,996,863
Temporarily Restricted.....	2,306,702
Permanently Restricted.....	4,354,075
Total Net Assets.....	\$12,657,640



LINDA A. LIVINGSTONE
President

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Baylor University is a private Baptist university and a nationally ranked research institution. Chartered in 1845 by the Republic of Texas and affiliated with the BGCT, Baylor is the oldest, continually operating university in Texas. Baylor's mission is to educate men and women for worldwide leadership and service by integrating academic excellence and Christian commitment within a caring community.

On June 1, 2017, Dr. Linda A. Livingstone began her tenure as Baylor University's 15th president. A distinguished scholar, academic leader and strong voice for the role of faith-based institutions in American higher education, Dr. Livingstone returned to Baylor after serving as a business faculty member on the Waco campus from 1991 to 2002 and as dean of the business schools at Pepperdine and George Washington University.

In fall 2016, Baylor's record enrollment of 16,959 students included a class of 3,503 freshmen. Truett Seminary enrolled 338 students and hosted several conferences and lectures, including the Fall Preaching Convocation, E.K. Bailey Memorial Preaching Event, Dobbs Lectureship, Parchman Lectures, T.B. Maston Lecture, Willson-Addis Lecture and Drumwright Colloquium. Truett also began offering a joint master of divinity and master of science in education/master of arts degree program.

In fall 2016, 28.8 percent of Baylor students were Baptist. Nearly 2,500 students indicated an interest in vocational Christian ministry, including preaching, missions, music and education.

In 2016-2017, Baylor's Department of Religion enrolled 7,591 students in religion courses, with approximately 240 undergraduate students majoring or minoring in religion and 57 students in the graduate program. Eight students earned the Ph.D. in religion, and two earned the M.A. in religion. Baylor had 216 undergraduates who received the BGCT Ministry Scholarship.

On Oct. 5, 2016, Baylor hosted its annual Missions Fair, during which representatives from 25 international and domestic missions and ministry organizations shared about their work and helped students find ways to partner with Christians around the world to address complex issues.

For the ninth consecutive year, Baylor and Waco hosted Congreso April 28-30, 2017. The event included worship, missions and small-group training equipping young people for impactful living as disciples of Jesus.

Baylor Missions lived out its purpose in 2016-2017 by focusing on discipline-specific missions in which groups of students actively integrated their faith with service and learning.

Baylor Missions sent 35 teams of 648 Baylor students, faculty, staff and alumni to 15 countries – Brazil, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Nicaragua, Peru, Uganda and Zambia – and five domestic sites – Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and Washington, D.C.

Baylor students explored stewardship of God's creation; worked alongside teachers; served impoverished peoples through health, education and nutrition initiatives; ministered to special-needs children; installed solar panels to provide electricity; performed concerts and during church services; provided leadership training to ministries and groups that aid women and children; held medical clinics; empowered pastors and young entrepreneurs; explored hunger in America; partnered with missions and community organizations on local projects; and held sports camps in local schools.

In August 2017, Baylor Missions partnered with New Student Programs to send a team of 18 incoming freshmen, four student leaders and two Baylor staff to Antigua, Guatemala, for a combined missions trip and Baylor Line Camp experience. Incoming freshmen learned about Baylor's core values while beginning to exercise their faith and serve internationally as new members of the Baylor community.

Baylor had 28 active urban missions teams that contributed 6,655 hours of local service through children's ministries and recreation, eldercare, special-needs ministries, education and tutorials, and special interest teams, such as urban gardening.

**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

Enrollment, Fall	16,959
Enrollment, Spring	15,985
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	14,368
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	217
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	2,465
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	29%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT - UNAUDITED**
Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$688,693,000
BGCT appropriations.....	1,581,000
Auxiliary enterprises	53,584,000
All other sources	213,464,000
Total operational revenue	\$957,322,000

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	\$619,970,000
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	284,044,000
Auxiliary enterprises	40,194,000
All other expenses	-
Total operational expenses.....	\$944,208,000
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers.....	\$13,114,000

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$1,231,712,000
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$767,846,000
Temporarily Restricted.....	303,446,000
Permanently Restricted.....	780,182,000
Total Net Assets.....	\$1,851,474,000

The above amounts are "Preliminary & Unaudited" as of May 31, 2017 and are subject to change.



**DR. ADAM
WRIGHT**
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The mission of Dallas Baptist University is to provide Christ-centered quality higher education in the arts, sciences, and professional studies at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to traditional age and adult students in order to produce servant leaders who have the ability to integrate faith and learning through their respective callings. During 2016-2017, the University was blessed with many important achievements toward this end.

On May 19, 2016, the DBU Board of Trustees elected Dr. Adam C. Wright as the sixth president of Dallas Baptist University. Dr. Wright previously served at DBU as Vice President and Dean of the Gary Cook School of Leadership. He began his tenure as President on June 1, 2016, and on September 9, the DBU Family gathered together for a special Inauguration Convocation service.

During the Fall 2016 semester, the University was blessed with an enrollment of 5,156 total students, which includes more than 2,000 students living on campus. In addition, some 1,651 students are pursuing master's degrees and 282 students are enrolled in doctoral classes. DBU's total number of degrees awarded through the August 2017 commencement is 34,271. In addition, DBU ended the fiscal year in the black for the twenty-ninth consecutive year.

DBU continues to offer a wide range of undergraduate and graduate education programs, with 73 undergraduate majors, 31 master's programs, and 74 dual-degree master's programs. DBU also offers two doctoral programs, the Ph.D. in Leadership Studies, with concentrations in business, ministry, education, and general leadership, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership with concentrations in K-12 educational leadership, educational ministry leadership, higher education leadership, and general leadership.

In 2016, the National Council on Teacher Quality ranked DBU's elementary education program as one of the top programs in the nation for teacher preparation, placing it in the 99th percentile, the highest mark given.

In 2017, the University began offering a new undergraduate major in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, designed to equip students who sense a calling into diplomatic, government, and international business fields. In addition, DBU has launched two new master's degree programs, the Executive Master of Business Administration and the Master of Science in Information Technology and Management.

Also in 2017, DBU was named #1 on the "50 Most Beautiful Christian Colleges and Universities" list by Christian Universities Online. DBU's exquisite landscaping and colonial architecture were two areas that contributed to its first place position.

DBU continues to send students on mission and travel study trips to various locations around the nation and the world. This past year, hundreds of DBU students traveled to Boston, Chicago, New York City, Washington, D.C., Chile, Ecuador, England, Germany, Israel, Italy, and Peru. Past trips have taken students to international locations such as Australia, Bangladesh, China, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, South Korea, and Taiwan.

DBU's Institute for Global Engagement began in 2014 as a Christian think tank with a focus on connecting scholars and practitioners in order to become catalysts for moral and spiritual renewal. To date, the IGE Leadership Lecture Series has hosted Eric Metaxas, Dr. Jim Broadus, Dale Petroskey, Keith and Kristyn Getty, and Matthew Dowd.

In the summer of 2017, DBU launched the Transform Campaign, designed to advance the mission of Dallas Baptist University through the construction of Phase 1 of Ford Village and DBU's first Residential College. The Residential College will be home to future students seeking an intense exploration of the concept of Christian servant leadership and its impact in a variety of vocational contexts.

We are most grateful to fellow Texas Baptists for their generous support of Dallas Baptist University.

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	5,156
Enrollment, Spring	4,814
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	3,751
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	481
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	1,415
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	41%*

"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$98,390,458
BGCT appropriations.....	1,403,258
Auxiliary enterprises	12,250,152
All other sources	2,245,012
Total operational revenue	\$114,288,880

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	\$77,656,066
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	22,113,721
Auxiliary enterprises	7,451,105
All other expenses	7,056,581
Total operational expenses.....	\$114,277,473
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$11,407

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$47,235,277
--------------------------------------	--------------

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$138,170,824
Temporarily Restricted.....	11,619,274
Permanently Restricted.....	32,692,421
Total Net Assets.....	\$182,482,519



**J. BLAIR
BLACKBURN**
President

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East Texas Baptist University educates students by integrating biblical faith and learning to develop mind, body, and soul through community engagement to prepare graduates to be Christian servant leaders in their calling to God and humanity.

As the Spirit of God draws more students to join the community of faith at ETBU, the University remains committed to providing a Christ-centered transformational education. This year, ETBU achieved its highest student enrollment in over a decade. In Fall 2016, 1,461 students attended ETBU, an 11.3% increase. The retention rate for undergraduate student enrollment grew to 82%, a 4% growth over the past five-year average.

Embracing Faith

The integration of Christian faith is the foundation of the ETBU student experience. Students are encouraged to grow in their faith through Chapel services, Bible studies, discipleship, prayer, and worship. Faculty and staff challenge students in their spiritual formation through a commitment to prepare for and pursue the calling that God has for their lives.

Engaging Minds

The University's commitment to academic excellence is advanced by outstanding Christian faculty, who teach through the paradigm of a Christian worldview. ETBU Nursing graduates continue to excel on the NCLEX with successive 100% pass rates. ETBU's teacher education program pass rate for state licensure was once again 100%.

With four master's degree programs added within the last two years, ETBU now offers 42 undergraduate and 10 graduate programs. The University set a record for graduate student enrollment with a 63% increase from 2015. Launched recently, the RN to BSN program enables associate degree graduates the ability to earn a BSN within 12 to 24 months. To help working adults achieve career goals, ETBU offers a bachelor's degree program with the convenience of online course delivery.

Empowering Leadership

ETBU provides many opportunities for students to cultivate their servant leadership skills. Tigers participate in the University's Learning and Leading program, as well as co-curricular programs, such as student organizations, intramurals, club sports, and athletics. Tiger Athletics experienced another successful year and each team volunteered with a local ministry. Softball continued their winning tradition with a 2017 NCAA Regional Championship in their 11th appearance in the NCAA Division III playoffs. Women's Tennis was crowned ASC Champions and advanced to the NCAA post-season for the first time in program history. Baseball was honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association with the Team Academic Excellence Award. Bass Fishing competed in three national championship tournaments and finished the 2017 season with fifth place in the FLW National Championship.

Through the Tiger Athletic Mission Experience, ETBU is using the platform of sports to share Christ. The Softball Team served in Costa Rica and Men's Soccer ministered in Nicaragua this year.

Enhancing Community

The Tiger Family devoted over 60,000 hours ministering locally and internationally in 2016-2017. More than 130 students served in 10 countries. ETBU hosted Global Study & Serve trips to China for Biology, Germany for Music, Israel for Religion, and the Philippines for Nursing.

Students participated in local ministries such as food pantries, backyard Bible clubs, clothes closets, and ministries to the homeless. In addition, Tiger Serve events allowed the campus community to serve its neighbors. ETBU, with generous support from the Christian Life Commission and the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation, implemented the Neighborhood Renewal Initiative to address poverty, promote economic growth in

Marshall, and show Christ's love through renovating and building homes for families in need.

East Texas Baptist University is grateful for the love and generosity provided by Texas Baptists throughout our shared ministry to reach students, the community, and the world for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

EAST TEXAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	1,461
Enrollment, Spring	1,263
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	1,260
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	39
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	135
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	51%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$29,530,354
BGCT appropriations.....	670,140
Auxiliary enterprises	7,835,423
All other sources	4,338,224
Total operational revenue	\$42,374,141

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	\$22,875,028
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	12,591,747
Auxiliary enterprises	6,496,417
All other expenses	
Total operational expenses.....	\$41,963,192
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$410,949

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$71,636,114
--------------------------------------	--------------

Net Assets.....

Unrestricted	\$44,222,603
Temporarily Restricted.....	29,667,136
Permanently Restricted.....	33,542,917
Total Net Assets.....	\$107,432,656



**ERIC
BRUNTMYER**
President

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Hardin-Simmons University continued to offer students a high quality education enlightened by Christian faith and values. Recognized by U.S. News and World Report in the Top Tier of its Best Universities in the Western Region, HSU offers a 12:1 student-to-faculty ratio where students enjoy personal attention in over 70 fields of undergraduate study and 22 programs of graduate study.

In 1891, the founders stated the purpose of HSU would be threefold: “To bring young men and women to Christ; to teach them of Christ; and, to train them for Christ.” Hardin-Simmons strives each year to fulfill these dreams.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Enrolled the first cohort of students in the new Master of Physician Assistant Studies. The new program will prepare health care providers to serve the needs of West Texas and beyond.

Initiated the Master of Science in Information Science degree program for fall 2017.

Entered a first-of-its-kind partnership with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department allowing for outdoor skills training and conservation education to be offered with undergraduate classes in Elementary Education and Fitness and Sports Sciences.

Plan to offer more graduate programs online. The RN-BSN is already available online. Beginning in the fall HSU will offer the Master of Business Administration and the Master of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation.

Award-winning poet Ellen Bryant Voight, a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, presented her poetry at the annual Lawrence Clayton Poets and Writers Speaker Series.

MINISTRY PREPARATION

Logsdon Seminary’s San Antonio extension moved into a newly remodeled facility, occupying a full floor in Trinity Baptist Church. The San Antonio campus has record enrollment this year, double the size of the enrollment from two years ago.

Total hours sold at all Logsdon Seminary campuses broke records for a fifth year in a row and setting a record of hours sold.

The George Knight Lecture featured renowned Old Testament scholar Dr. Walter Brueggemann, speaking on “Why the OT Must not Go Away.”

The T.B. Maston Lectures in Christian Ethics featured Dr. Jeph Holloway of ETBU, speaking on “Christian Hope in a Posthuman World.”

Logsdon held its annual Texas Baptists/BGCT Day, with Dr. David Hardage preaching in chapel.

Logsdon faculty guided students on international mission and travel course to Greece.

BAPTIST STUDENT MINISTRIES

Baptist Student Ministries took a group of 19 students to Ireland; served over 1200 students through BSM Noon Lunch; developed outreach initiatives with women’s soccer team while continuing work with men’s team and Theater students; served eight local non-profit agencies; and assisted residents of Houston, Texas with flood clean-up.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

The Physical Therapy Department, in partnership with Joni and Friends, has organized mission trips designed to assist children with disabilities, especially children who are mobility impaired.

Students and faculty ministered to children at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas, and Lima, Peru. Students and faculty from the Department of Sociology and Social Work traveled to Camden, New Jersey to engage in Christian community renewal activities.

ATHLETICS

Hardin-Simmons won its 14th straight American Southwest Conference title in women’s soccer and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament.

The men's basketball team won its second consecutive American Southwest Conference title and advanced to the Sweet 16.

Kami Jones, a first-team academic and athletic All-American, became the first female athlete in the history of the American Southwest Conference to be named the national academic athlete of the year for their sport. She was one of 141 student-athletes named to the academic All-ASC teams for the year, the most of any school in the conference.

HSU student-athletes recorded a collective GPA of 3.0 for the 29th time in the last 30 semesters.

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	2,205
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	1,990
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	177
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry	221
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	47.1%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

HARDIN-SIMMONS UNIVERSITY SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$41,457,960
BGCT appropriations.....	762,580
Auxiliary enterprises.....	5,809,081
All other sources	14,207,510
Total operational revenue	\$62,237,131

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	36,617,980
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	18,629,882
Auxiliary enterprises	4,997,685
All other expenses	1,450,872
Total operational expenses.....	\$61,696,419
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$540,712

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$160,524,342
--------------------------------------	---------------

Net Assets

Unrestricted	41,497,764
Temporarily Restricted.....	33,866,781
Permanently Restricted.....	101,173,490
Total Net Assets.....	\$176,538,035



ROBERT B. SLOAN
President

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hbu.edu

On Houston Baptist University's grounds, stately pillars in the midst of campus serve as perennial reminders of the University's foundational elements. The institution's guiding tenets including Christian influence, advanced academics and healthy community life are summarized in its missional summary, "Ten Pillars: Faith and Reason in a Great City."

During the 2016-2017 school year, the University reached its highest enrollment ever for both undergraduate and graduate programs. HBU marked its 50th graduating class and the 20,000th graduating student in 2017. Additionally, HBU's respected MBA program reached its 40th year. President Robert B. Sloan and First Lady Sue Sloan recently received the Spirit of Excellence Award by the HBU Board of Trustees in recognition of ten years of exceptional leadership.

The school's mission of providing "A Higher Education" by combining faith and core values with superior programs is being realized more each year. The valuable traditions of the past and the promise of the future constitute HBU's unique point-of-view. We celebrate the accomplishments thus far, and believe that the legacy of providing a world-class education in an international city has only begun.

With the 2016 implementation of the institution's first doctoral program, the EdD in Executive Educational Leadership, HBU is now a national comprehensive university. The Houston Theological Seminary was also launched in 2016. Additionally, a new College of Engineering is slated after HBU welcomed leader Dr. Stanley A. Napper.

The Pinky Pampell Online Division, newly named for its benefactor, allows for the expansion of academic programs and course offerings. The Robert and Janice McNair Foundation's partnership with HBU has provided the McNair Center for Entrepreneurship and Free Enterprise. A donation from the Charles Koch Foundation, along with Sherry Smith and Jim R. Smith, is enabling the expansion of the HBU Center for Law and Liberty. Also a launching place for medical professionals, HBU became a member institution of the world-renowned Texas Medical Center.

In athletics, 17 varsity sporting teams represent the University in NCAA Division 1 play. The Women's Soccer team won the 2016 Southland Conference Tournament, the Women's Golf team won the 2017 Southland Conference Championship and the Women's Sand Volleyball team had a strong inaugural season.

On campus, the Doris and Terry Looper Learning Commons, an interactive learning space, was dedicated in the fall of 2016. Thanks to a generous gift from supporter Mary Ann Belin, the University's northwest side is being transformed into an inviting interstate-accessible entry point, including a commercial retail development, known as "The Pillars at HBU."

Seize the Moment, the HBU capital campaign to transform the institution into a far-reaching Christian university, is underway. We believe that guiding future front-runners to become educated and ethical citizens is an imperative priority.

Throughout the years, the school's impact has only grown. Our permeating passion for the Gospel message was demonstrated in the 2017 internationally released film based upon HBU Department of Apologetics Instructor Lee Strobel's book, "The Case for Christ." Strobel is one of many faculty members whose faith is indissolubly paired with the curriculum, and whose heart is dedicated to students.

At HBU, each student is prepared to carry out a profession and a God-given calling. Learners are influenced not only by programs and professors, but by dedicated staff members, and through a residential community of fellow students on similar journeys. Mission-focused endeavors are central to the student experience as well.

HBU's comprehensive approach to education makes it a visionary environment. We can't wait for the great things to come during the next 50 years!

To learn more, visit www.hbu.edu or call 281-649-3000.

HOUSTON BAPTIST UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	3,270
Enrollment, Spring	2,972
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	2,136
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	31
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	125
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	26

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

Summary Financial Statement

Operating Revenue	
Tuition and fees	\$79,241,746
BGCT appropriations	335,925
Auxiliary enterprises	10,353,733
All other sources	17,932,322
Total operational revenue	\$107,863,726

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships	\$47,808,156
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	41,635,091
Auxiliary enterprises	16,393,063
All other expenses	2,136,240
Total operational expenses	\$107,972,550
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	(\$108,824)

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$98,128,020
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$80,991,992
Temporarily Restricted	31,368,191
Permanently Restricted	57,376,716
Total Net Assets	\$169,736,899



**DR. WILLIAM
N. ELLIS**
President

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Brownwood,
Texas 76801
hputx.edu

Howard Payne University's mission is to be a Christ-centered academic community dedicated to excellence by developing and equipping the whole person for intellectual inquiry, personal and professional integrity, and service to God and humanity. A low faculty-to-student ratio allows HPU to provide individual attention to every student, ensuring the highest-quality academic experience in a wholesome, Christian atmosphere. HPU is proud of its long-standing relationship with Texas Baptists, who are a perpetual source of support and encouragement.

Institutional Advancement and Fiscal Highlights

Howard Payne continues to work towards increased engagement of its alumni and friends with increased communication through social and other media and a stepped up "Buzz Tour." The university continues to raise funds for the main campus in Brownwood through the *A Call to Send Campaign* but is also engaged in a campaign for its New Braunfels Center, *Extending a Legacy II*. Overall giving exceeded \$3.5 million and the university's Annual Fund increased by 27.5% over the previous year. Praise God.

Academic Highlights

During the 2016-17 academic year, HPU launched its newest graduate program. Taught completely online, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice started in the fall of 2016. Enrollment in this program for fall 2017 has doubled from the initial entering class.

Always the strength of the academic programs, HPU faculty continue to distinguish themselves in the classroom, in scholarly pursuits, and in service to the churches of the BGCT. An article by Dr. Elizabeth Wallace, professor of music and chair of the Department of Music, was published in *Piano Guild Notes*, Summer 2017, 67(1). Dr. Pam Bryant, professor of chemistry and dean of the School of Science and Mathematics, taught Introduction to Chemistry to 32 ministerial students at the Moffat Bible College in Kijabe, Kenya. Dr. Russell Wheelington, associate professor of Christian studies, led conferences for youth leadership at Highland Lakes Conference Center, Camp Impact at LeTourneau University, and Super Summer at HPU and Hardin-Simmons University.

Student Life Highlights

HPU students participated in experiences that supported and enhanced learning in our Christ-centered academic community during the 2016 academic year. Activities that built community included Homecoming, Cupcakes with the President, Res Life Cookout, Daze of Payne, Christmas on the Plaza, HPU Fest, Pancake Suppers, Spring Sing, Karaoke, and S.W.A.R.M. (local service projects). Twenty-five student organizations provided leadership opportunities, service experiences, and campus-wide events including Bowling Night, 9/11 Remembrance, National Night Out, '80s Skate Night, and Football Tailgate. Fifteen students attended the annual Christian Association of Student Leaders (CASL) Conference. Student-athletes participated in 1,500 hours of volunteer service within the Brownwood community. Chapel provided a weekly time of community, worship, and discipleship, and many spiritual commitments were made during Encounter Week including 25 professions of faith!

Campus Ministries

HPU's Baptist Student Ministry was led by a team of 45 students who facilitated 12 ministries. In partnership with local churches, the BSM fed 80-140 students per week through a new ministry: Free Lunch. Through this ministry churches came to campus, students were introduced to local church members, and new relationships were established providing opportunities for spiritual conversations with students. HPU BSM took 11 students to South Padre Island for Beach Reach during Spring Break. In May, the BSM partnered with the HPU Cross Cultural Studies class and took nine students to Slovakia and Poland to work with Baptist field personnel who minister to the Roma community. Eighteen students served through Go Now Missions during Christmas break, summer, and fall. HPU students also raised \$13,000 for Go Now Missions!

HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	1,098
Enrollment, Spring	935
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	964
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	67
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	111
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	35.46%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

Summary Financial Statement

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$24,849,387
BGCT appropriations.....	760,366
Auxiliary enterprises	3,672,206
All other sources	5,531,204
Total operational revenue	\$34,813,163

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	\$18,805,732
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	11,894,780
Auxiliary enterprises	1,638,267
All other expenses	2,356,736
Total operational expenses.....	\$34,695,515
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$117,648

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value).....	\$56,480,545
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$27,756,044
Temporarily Restricted.....	22,396,320
Permanently Restricted.....	38,443,257
Total Net Assets.....	\$88,595,621



**RANDY
O'REAR**
President

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umhb.edu

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor prepares students for lives of leadership, service, and faith-informed discernment in a global society. Academic excellence, personal attention, broad-based scholarship, and a Baptist vision for education distinguish our Christ-centered learning community.

Academics

UMHB has been blessed with record growth for nearly a decade and remains committed to the personal attention that has been a cornerstone of the UMHB experience for more than 170 years.

Dr. John Vassar joined UMHB this fall as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Vassar previously served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Louisiana State University in Shreveport; he holds a master's degree in theology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Baylor University, and he has served as an interim pastor at churches in Louisiana and Texas.

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor offers bachelor's degrees in 47 undergraduate majors, seven master's degree programs, and three doctoral degrees (Doctor of Education, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Physical Therapy). The university augmented its undergraduate programs this year with the expansion of its pre-engineering program into a full engineering degree; UMHB's competency-based education program for adult degree completers was also expanded to include an online RN-to-BSN degree program.

Campus Improvements

In October, the university dedicated its new Sue & Frank Mayborn Performing Arts Center. The centerpiece of the center is the Baugh Performance Hall, a 525-seat theater with a proscenium stage. The facility's design allows it to be used as a teaching facility as well as a venue for performances. Through the support of generous alumni and friends of the university, the \$20 million building was completed debt-free.

The performing arts center was the final project of the Campus Master Plan adopted in February 2011, so this fall the university is also celebrating the success of *Momentum: The Campaign for Mary Hardin-Baylor*. The campaign has exceeded its \$60 million goal by raising more than \$80 million for scholarships and Campus Master Plan projects. Since 2011 the university has completed eight new facilities, including the Bawcom Student Union, Baugh Center for the Visual Arts, Crusader Stadium, and Isabelle Rutherford Meyer Nursing Education Center.

Student Life

UMHB students take active roles in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ across the world. Last year nearly 300 students, faculty, and staff members took part in mission activities in 33 countries. In addition, more than 200 students were regularly involved in missions and service projects in Central Texas.

In April, UMHB held its 78th Annual Easter Pageant. The student-led production depicts the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The pageant performances drew more than 6,000 spectators and, for the first time ever, the performances were also streamed online, where they were watched by another 6,700 people around the globe.

Athletics

Last year was one of the greatest in the history of UMHB athletics. For the first time in its 19-year history, the Crusader football program won the NCAA Division III National Championship. The team closed out the season with a perfect 15-0 record to set new school and American Southwest Conference records for single-season victories. Ten of the university's other athletic programs went on to compete in postseason play as well.

Many Thanks

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor is able to fulfill its mission and continue to strive toward its vision of being the university of choice for Christian higher education in the Southwest through the support of the BGCT and others who share the university's commitment to helping students prepare for lives of Christian leadership. Together we are making a difference in our world!

UNIVERSITY OF MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	3,906
Enrollment, Spring	3,518
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	3,379
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	33
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	74
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	39

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$88,065,361
BGCT appropriations.....	741,748
Auxiliary enterprises	13,479,815
All other sources	3,067,013
Total operational revenue	\$105,353,937

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	-
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	\$21,673,261
Auxiliary enterprises	4,801,109
All other expenses	78,799,567
Total operational expenses.....	\$105,273,937
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$80,000

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value)	\$82,124,476
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$146,842,973
Temporarily Restricted.....	43,936,129
Permanently Restricted.....	50,418,911
Total Net Assets.....	\$241,198,013



**BOBBY L.
HALL**
President

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wbu.edu

Wayland Baptist University opened the 2016-17 academic year with a celebration of the new Jimmy Dean Museum. The museum's grand opening was held in September with Dean's widow, Donna Dean Stevens in attendance. The museum has become a showplace for the university, hosting several community events throughout the year. The \$5 million project was funded by Donna and the Dean Foundation.

A pair of cabinet positions have been filled this year. Dr. Cindy McClenagan, formerly Dean of the School of Languages and Literature, moved into the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs. She assumes some of the responsibilities vacated by Dr. Bobby Hall in his move from Executive Vice President and Provost to President. Dr. Laura Brandenburg was named the new Dean of the School of Languages and Literature. The university has also hired a Vice President of Institutional Advancement as part of an increased emphasis on fundraising and marketing. Dr. Kevin Ludlum brings a vast amount of experience to the position. He previously held development positions at both Texas Tech University and Baylor University, as well as with other schools and organizations.

Work continues on Wayland's Impact 2020 capital campaign, focusing on infrastructure improvements and other projects in order to meet student needs. The advancement team recently secured a \$500,000 grant from the Moody Foundation in Galveston that will assist with the renovation of the Moody Science Building, named for the foundation and the Moody family. The Moody Foundation originally donated \$250,000 to the construction of the building that was dedicated in 1970.

Academically, Wayland began teaching its first cohort of doctoral students in the Doctor of Management program. The School of Business continues to accept and review applications to the program that takes 2.5 years to complete. It is offered completely online with four, 11-week terms per year. Wayland hired additional full-time faculty members to fulfill requirements for the program. Dr. Kelly Warren has been named Dean of the School of Business.

The School of Mathematics and Sciences continues to earn recognition for undergraduate research as students participate in and present their research projects at regional and national meetings. Students recently had strong showings, including some first-place presentations, at the Texas Tech Symposium and the annual Texas Academy of Sciences meeting.

Wayland's Enactus team once again qualified for nationals on the strength of its community activity and business projects. Students developed a soap manufacturing and selling business for the local Central Plains Center, an organization that works with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Wayland's chapter of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society received the Star Chapter designation for the second straight year. Wayland had two students make presentations at the national convention in April.

Dr. Daniel Brown was promoted to Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives. In this newly created position, Dr. Brown, former Director of the BAS/BCM Office and associate registrar, will focus on developing new programs designed to meet niche markets. Dr. Brown was largely responsible for developing Wayland's Law Enforcement and Texas Department of Criminal Justice scholarship programs. He will also oversee strategic planning, international engagement, and staff professional development.

Wayland's athletics programs finished fourth in the Learfield Director's Cup Standings, marking the fourth straight year Wayland has placed in the top six athletics programs in the NAIA.

WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	5,065
Enrollment, Spring	4,896
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution	*1,226
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	34
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	316
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	21.40%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$47,915,426
BGCT appropriations.....	716,680
Auxiliary enterprises	6,910,631
All other sources	5,135,968
Total operational revenue	\$60,678,705

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	\$49,316,438
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	5,956,846
Auxiliary enterprises	3,866,702
All other expenses	232,787
Total operational expenses	\$59,372,773
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$1,305,932

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value).....	\$85,412,000
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$88,337,658
Temporarily Restricted	16,443,800
Permanently Restricted	23,968,842
Total Net Assets.....	\$128,750,300



JIMMIE W. SCOTT
President

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San Marcos Baptist Academy has provided excellence in Christian education for boarding and day students since 1907. Selected as one of the 30 Best Christian Boarding Schools in America, we take seriously our mission *“to educate young men and women in a nurturing community based upon Christian values.”* Our vision is to produce leaders whose lives are built on integrity, a strong moral compass and a total commitment to life-long learning and who exemplify Christ’s devotion to service and His compassionate concern for others.

Looking Back at 2016-17

In his second year as president of San Marcos Baptist Academy, President Jimmie W. Scott proposed that a Lower School be added to the academic program. Elementary grades had not been offered at the Academy since 1982, but the Board of Trustees agreed it was time to expand and approved plans to add a fourth and a fifth grade in the 2017-18 school year. President Scott also guided the Academy’s development team in raising \$1,701,800 for capital improvements on the 35-year-old campus. The largest donation was a \$900,000 gift by Miriam McCoy and the Emmett and Miriam McCoy Foundation to replace the natural grass football field with artificial turf. Additional donations from alumni Don and Nancy Mafrige and Steve Mafrige funded a new all-weather running track at the McCoy Remme Athletic Complex. Among many other projects completed during the year were the relocation of the Learning Skills Center, renovation of the Student Lounge, upgrades to Ingram Stadium and addition of new furniture in all classrooms.

The Academy returned to the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools League in 2017 and enjoyed success in athletic, academic and fine arts competitions. Three senior athletes signed letters of intent to compete on the college level in track, baseball and soccer. The 52 members of the Class of 2017 were accepted to prestigious schools across the country, including Baylor, Texas A&M, Howard Payne, Louisiana State, University of Texas at Austin, Penn State, University of North Carolina, Ole Miss, University of Alabama, Texas State University, Oklahoma Baptist, and Embry-Riddle. Many of our seniors earned college credit through our partnership with Hardin-Simmons University.

Celebrating Family in 2017-18

“It’s a Family Thing” was chosen as the theme for the 2017-18 school year, acknowledging the nurturing environment that has always been a hallmark of the Academy Experience. A confirmation of the importance of family at SMBA is the fact that almost one-third of our faculty and staff have children and grandchildren who are current or former SMBA students. The Academy is fully committed to bringing others into the family of faith by impacting the lives of young people for Christ and enthusiastically promoting our Christian heritage with the students we enroll. Because our students represent 15 or more foreign countries, we are keenly aware of the missionary opportunity we have on our campus. When our international students return to their home countries, they carry with them an understanding of the love of Jesus Christ, and a number have accepted Christ as their personal Savior during their time here.

SMBA is proud to be one of only three schools maintaining continuous accreditation for more than a century by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancEd. We not only provide teaching excellence in the traditional classroom, but also offer an online and blended curriculum.

Our partnership with Texas Baptists dates back to 1910, and we are grateful for their generous support. For more than four decades, our students have served as pages at the annual BGCT meeting; they will be assisting at the 2017 meeting in Waco as well.

SAN MARCOS BAPTIST ACADEMY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Enrollment, Fall	250
Enrollment, Spring	260
Number of students on full or partial scholarships funded by institution*	92
Number of students receiving BGCT Ministerial Tuition Grants*	N/A
Estimated total number of students preparing for ministry*	N/A
Approximate percentage of Baptist students	10%

*"Non duplicating" totals for the 2016-17 school year.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Operating Revenue

Tuition and fees	\$6,506,108
BGCT appropriations.....	192,195
Auxiliary enterprises	379,491
All other sources	1,253,661
Total operational revenue	\$8,331,455

Operating Expenses

Educational and general, not including scholarships.....	\$2,919,610
Institution funded scholarships & financial aid	493,344
Auxiliary enterprises	2,284,428
All other expenses	2,463,079
Total operational expenses.....	\$8,160,461
Excess revenue over expenses after transfers	\$170,994

Endowment and Net Assets

Total Endowment (Market Value).....	\$7,873,280
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Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$12,850,197
Temporarily Restricted.....	2,059,052
Permanently Restricted.....	6,374,095
Total Net Assets.....	\$21,283,344



3700 E. Harrison
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vbmec.org

NO REPORT GIVEN THIS YEAR

The Center, located in deep South Texas, in an area just west of the coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico bordered by the Nueces River to the north and the rolling Rio Grande to the south. This area has become one of the great crossroads of the world uniquely centered between two literal halves of the Western Hemisphere.

The Center is poised to serve the Christian community with our missions training and housing facilities. The Center has been a part of Baptist missions training since 1947. Educating and inspiring hundreds of young men and women for service was the original mission of this institution and that message is the same today.



**KEVIN
DINNIN**
President

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bcfs.net

Founded in San Antonio, Texas, in 1944, the BCFS System was established with a mission to serve those most in need, and for more than 73 years we have fulfilled that mission with love, care, compassion and courage. Comprised of six nonprofit organizations, the BCFS System's stellar programs and highly trained professional staff respond to the critical life needs of millions of children, adults, families and communities facing seemingly insurmountable challenges and hardships not only in our own backyard, but also around the world.

Throughout the BCFS System, the work we do is first and foremost part of our vision and desire to be the hands and feet of Christ; to provide care, service, and compassion that is pleasing to our Lord and honors His love of all mankind. We provide life-saving training and aid during national emergencies like floods, fires, hurricanes, and other natural disasters. We secure caring homes for youth in foster care and critical transitional services for youth aging out of the foster care system with nowhere to go. We provide adoption services by helping build forever families, and in impoverished communities across borders, we help protect children from the scourge of human trafficking and the circumstances surrounding that deplorable endeavor that would almost certainly include institutionalization or homelessness. Often, the BCFS System has been the only resource that would, or could, respond to and meet these urgent needs.

We are beholden to our "stakeholders" — the children and families who need us most. While many originate from abusive homes, some of our stakeholders are young mothers and fathers who want to become better parents. Others are grandparents seeking guidance and direction in raising their grandchildren. Unfortunately, many with whom we work are orphaned children struggling to survive, many times without a safe place to sleep at night, perpetually lured by criminals with a promise of money, preyed upon for their vulnerability, instability and poverty. These lives are our priority and we do our best to offer hope, educational opportunities, and shelter in safe, loving and stable homes. Even when they themselves might have given up on humanity, BCFS is there.

A strong moral compass guides the BCFS System, looking always to improve the world and serve the unmet needs of the downtrodden in our society. Every cent gifted or awarded to our agency supports our mission and helps those in need improve their lives. Our philosophy allows us to develop and expand, knowing that donations create a ripple effect: the more we have, the more we can give, and the more we give, the more lives we can improve. Compelled by the Word of God, we take our corporate responsibility very seriously, and we carefully manage the resources entrusted to our stewardship. Doing the right thing is not only noble, it is indeed the foundation upon which the BCFS System is built.

BCFS STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017

Provided on-campus or residential care	28,771
Served in own homes and off-campus care	194,662
Provided financial aid only	869
Provided college education or special training	34,925
Served through other ministries	4,016,170

**Total number served
through ministries (non duplicate) 4,275,397**

Professions of Faith..... 78

Number of employees:

Full-Time	1,569
Part-Time (includes PRN employees).....	2,211

Summary Financial Statement

BGCT appropriations.....	\$325,357
Contributions from churches.....	\$70,658.49
Residential support	306,449,287
Other Income.....	7,528,509

Total income.....\$314,373,811

Total expenses \$291,917,173

Funds available for continuing ministry22,456,638

Total Net Assets.....\$69,804,149

NO
PHOTO

**STEVE
DALRYMPLE**
President/CEO &
General Counsel

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baptist
community
services.com

Baptist Community Services (“BCS”) is a multi-organizational system that operates and provides a variety of facilities and services to the Texas Panhandle region of Texas. BCS’ primary focus is on the provision of quality, spiritual-based services to senior adults.

Park Central Community

The Park Central campus near Downtown Amarillo is comprised currently of seven facilities which provide independent living services, assisted living services, and long term care services to senior adults. Apartment facilities and services are provided at Park Place Towers, The Continental, The Talmage Apartments, and the Plemons Court Apartments. Park Place Towers and The Continental facilities provide a full array of services to their respective residents, including a Nurse Navigator program (health care access services), a chaplaincy program, dining services, housekeeping, and transportation services. The Talmage Apartments and the Plemons Court Apartments provide affordable housing facilities for lower income senior adults, with access to the services of the Park Central campus. A complete range of assisted living services are provided at The Harrington and the Winfred and Elizabeth Moore Assisted Living Center. The Ware Living Center provides comprehensive long term care services, including Alzheimer/Dementia and a Namaste program which provides compassionate end of life care for residents.

As new additions to the Park Central campus, BCS is constructing a 32,000 square foot assisted living facility which will provide specialized memory care/dementia services for up to 52 residents. This facility is scheduled to open in the first quarter of 2018. It is also constructing a 65,000 square foot long term care facility for up to 120 residents. It is scheduled to be finished by the end of 2018.

Roving Chaplaincy Program

This chaplaincy ministry consists of seven chaplains provided by BCS, who provide spiritual care for residents and families, as well as the staff/employees of 19 senior living facilities (i.e. nursing homes, assisted living centers, etc.) in the Amarillo area.

The Arbors

The Arbors is a skilled nursing facility located near the Harrington Regional Medical Center in Amarillo, Texas. This facility is Medicare certified, and provides a comprehensive level of skilled nursing/rehabilitation services in coordination with local acute health care facilities at the adjacent medical center.

BAPTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES

Statistical Information for 2016-2017

Provided on-campus or residential care	644
Served in own homes and off-campus care	
Provided financial aid only	
Provided college education or special training	
Served through other ministries	7,986
Total number of served through ministries (non duplicate).....	7,986
Professions of Faith.....	4
Number of employees:	
Full-Time	409
Part-Time	32

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

BGCT appropriations.....	\$37,682
Contributions from churches.....	
Residential support	24,400,543
Other Income.....	35,873,823
Total income.....	\$60,312,048
Total expenses	46,000,648
Funds available for continuing ministry	14,311,400
Total Net Assets.....	\$520,894,791



ALBERT L. REYES
President/CEO

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buckner.org

The weight of Angel Coyullo's past crushed him. It's hard to blame him. Abused by his father as far back as his memory could bear to take him, his father gave him away to work without pay when he was 9. As the oppression continued, resentment and hatred built inside Angel. When he started a family, he transferred his feelings to his wife and kids. But Angel found inspiration to turn his life around when he walked into the Buckner Family Hope Center in the Villa Hermosa community near Lima, Peru.

The Family Hope Center staff began to inspire Angel to make a change in his life, offering him and his family counseling, help and hope. Soon he began to change as he was inspired to see himself and the world around him differently. Accepting Christ as his Savior jump-started his transformation.

Our staff now notes that when he walks down the street, he is proud of the man he has become, knowing his life is in the hands of God. He is a walking embodiment of 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Like Angel and his family, we inspired more than 300,000 people last year to change, elevate or transform their lives. We preserved and elevated families through our 22 Family Hope Centers in Texas and seven countries and our Buckner Family Pathways programs for single parents. We protected children through foster care, adoption and other permanency solutions. And we dared older adults to live distinctively in our senior living communities. Our faithful service and development of best practices in Texas serves to inform and inspire the delivery of excellence in service outside the United States.

Why does Buckner make it our mission to inspire others? Because we are ourselves inspired. We're inspired by the deep, enduring roots of our unbroken 138-year history of care. We're inspired by volunteers and supporters who work alongside us as we seek to lift lives. And we're inspired by the same faith in Christ that led our founder, R. C. Buckner, to show compassion toward the world's most vulnerable people. Hand in hand with the compassion we show is the good news we share with those open to the gospel. Our staff and volunteers are always ready to share the reason for our hope in Christ.

This year I celebrated my 10th anniversary at Buckner and I am still as inspired by the need and Buckner's response as I was the day I began my ministry here. I hope you are inspired to do something with us.

Hope shines here.

Who we are.

Buckner International is a faith-based ministry dedicated to transforming the lives of orphans, vulnerable children, families and elders. Founded in 1879 in Dallas, Buckner serves people internationally and across Texas through a variety of programs designed to protect children, strengthen families and serve senior adults.

What we do best.

We focus on four key ministries:

- **Family Hope Centers.** We offer a range of services in communities where vulnerable children and families live. We engage families in relief, equip them with life skills, and elevate them to reach their God-given potential.
- **Family Pathways.** We provide single parents seeking higher education with affordable housing and support.
- **Foster Care and Adoption.** We provide families for vulnerable children in need of safety and love.
- **Senior Living.** We enrich the lives of the aging population with services including independent living, assisted living, nursing, dementia care and hospice.

To find out more about Buckner, go to buckner.org. To see our 2016 Annual Ministry Report, go to buckner.org/resources

STATISTICAL INFORMATION & FINANCIAL INFORMATION (as of 12/16)

Lives impacted through Buckner Children and Family Services International Ministries.....	224,624
Domestic Ministries	70,970
Foster Care and Adoption Services	2,764
Senior adults served through Buckner Retirement Services and Baptist Memorials Ministries	2,101
Total Lives served through Buckner	300,459

STATISTICAL INFORMATION & FINANCIAL INFORMATION (as of 12/16)**Buckner Children And Family Services, Inc.**

Contributions from Churches	\$576,000
BGCT	\$290,000
Client Support	\$13,667,000
Other	\$34,509,000
Total Income	\$49,042,000
Total Expenses	\$47,539,000
Funds Available for Continuing Ministry	\$1,503,000
Total Net Assets.....	\$44,392,000

Buckner Adoption And Maternity Services, Inc.

Contributions from Churches	\$0
BGCT	\$12,000
Client Support	\$0
Other	\$731,000
Total Income	\$743,000
Total Expenses	\$1,089,000
Funds Available for Continuing Ministry	\$(346,000)
Total Net Assets.....	\$(336,000)

Buckner Retirement Services, Inc.

Contributions from Churches	\$20,000
Client Support	\$48,973,000
BGCT	\$8,000
Other	\$1,226,000
Total Income	\$50,227,000
Total Expenses	\$51,248,000
Funds Available for Continuing Ministry	\$(1,021,000)
Total Net Assets.....	\$(3,923,000)

Baptist Memorials Ministries, Inc.

Client Support:	\$14,274,000
BGCT:	\$225,000
Other:	\$2,546,000
Total Income	\$17,045,000
Total Expenses	\$17,636,000
Funds Available for Continuing Ministry	\$(591,000)
Total Net Assets.....	\$33,945,000

*On May 4, 2016 Buckner Retirement Services Inc. issued tax exempt bonds in the amount of \$89,260,000. As a part of the issuance, \$39,540,000 was refunded from the Series 2007 tax exempt bond issuance, resulting in a special charge for partial refunding of (\$2,435,456).



**TODD
ROBERSON**
President & CEO

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www.CAHM.org

Serving Children. Strengthening Families.

In the midst of a broken world, we are surrounded by hurting people who desperately need hope and healing. As Christians, our passion for the gospel compels us to take action in order to meet those needs. With the support of partners like Texas Baptists, the Children At Heart family of ministries is able to engage those around us and make a difference in communities across the state of Texas. It's because of people like you extending the hands and feet of Jesus that children and families are able to experience healing and restoration!

In 2016, our four direct care ministries were able to offer hope and healing to over 22,000 individuals and families! Gracewood, Miracle Farm, STARRY, and Texas Baptist Children's Home (TBCH) made great strides toward providing trauma-informed care to clients by using Trust-Based Relational Intervention® principles. TBRI® was designed for children from "hard places" such as abuse or neglect, and it offers practical tools that enable staff to see the "whole person" of those in their care and to meet them at their point of need.

In Houston, **Gracewood** opened their doors to many single mothers and their children where they found the home, hope, and healing that they needed. We consider it such an honor to come alongside these single moms and their children and give them a chance to get their feet back on solid ground as they refocus their future toward safety, happiness, and independence. Gracewood also welcomed Jenny Rice as their new Executive Director! Jenny has served Gracewood in many different capacities during the past few years, and we are confident that Gracewood will continue to grow and thrive under her leadership.

In Brenham, **Miracle Farm** offered the chance of a lifetime to at-risk teenage boys who wanted to change their lives for the better. Rooted in Christian faith and western heritage, our one-of-a-kind ranch helped struggling young men experience healing, earn an education, and learn respect. Through our innovative horse program and on-site academic and vocational training, young men established and achieved goals for a lifetime, and learned to believe in themselves as something more than society painted them to be.

All across Texas, **STARRY** impacted communities by nurturing children, strengthening families, and restoring hope through counseling, foster care, and adoption. By serving the neglected, abused, and alone, STARRY helped children from hard places, as well as struggling families, along their path to healing. STARRY continues to work toward their goal of ensuring that every child across Texas has a healthy, forever family!

In Round Rock, **Texas Baptist Children's Home** embraced children and families in need in order to empower and equip them for a promising future. Children, and single mothers with their children, who come to TBCH are often lost, hurting, and hopeless, without a place to turn for help during their time of greatest need. TBCH's residential programs provided them with a safe home and stable family environment where they were able to learn, grow, and ultimately experience a happy, healthy future!

As we look back on all that the Lord did through Children At Heart Ministries in 2016, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for faithful partners like you. Texas Baptists have such a great passion for impacting their communities with the love of Jesus Christ! It is a true honor to partner with you to offer the hope and healing that our world so desperately needs. We are so thankful for your faithfulness

2016 CHILDREN AT HEART INFORMATION BY MINISTRY**Gracewood**

Provided on-campus or residential care	68
Served through community ministry and off-campus care.....	1,227
Assisted with college education or special training	10
Total number served through ministries (non duplicate).....	1,305
Total known spiritual decisions.....	-
Number of employees:.....	-
Full-Time	7
Part-Time	1
BGCT appropriations.....	\$137,048
Contributions from churches.....	101,673
Residential support	5,450
Other Income.....	1,935,245
Total income	\$2,179,416
Total expenses.....	1,601,883
Funds available for continuing ministry	\$577,533
Total Net Assets	\$2,029,958

Miracle Farm

Provided on-campus or residential care	29
Served through community ministry and off-campus care.....	812
Assisted with college education or special training	2
Total number served through ministries (non duplicate).....	843
Total known spiritual decisions.....	2
Number of employees:.....	-
Full-Time	18
Part-Time	1
BGCT appropriations.....	\$137,048
Contributions from churches.....	51,341
Residential support	12,595
Other Income.....	2,273,684
Total income	\$2,474,668
Total expenses.....	2,245,908
Funds available for continuing ministry	\$228,760
Total Net Assets	\$1,493,450



STARRY

Children served through foster care.....	135
Adoptions	8
Counseling and other ministries.....	18,272
Total number served through ministries (non duplicate).....	18,415
Total known spiritual decisions.....	1
Number of employees:.....	-
Full-Time.....	61
Part-Time	12
BGCT appropriations.....	\$137,048
Contributions from churches.....	53,772
Residential support	-
Other Income.....	5,659,203
Total income	\$5,850,023
Total expenses.....	5,654,675
Funds available for continuing ministry	\$195,348
Total Net Assets	\$2,723,197

Texas Baptist Children's Home

Provided on-campus or residential care	444
Community ministry and off-campus care	1,793
Assisted with college education or special training	3
Total number served through ministries (non duplicate).....	2,240
Total known spiritual decisions.....	31
Number of employees:.....	-
Full-Time.....	38
Part-Time	5
BGCT appropriations.....	\$137,048
Contributions from churches.....	160,007
Residential support	36,210
Other Income.....	4,001,545
Total income	\$4,334,810
Total expenses.....	4,883,978
Funds available for continuing ministry	(\$549,168)
Total Net Assets	\$3,347,420

From Deep Roots to New Horizons

STCH Ministries started as a children's home in 1952, with God opening many more doors for us to reach hurting children and families over the years. In the sixty-five years since the beginning of the South Texas Children's Home, God has blessed beyond what we could have imagined. We now provide homes, support, counseling, and life-skills training to those in need, and also reach beyond our borders through ministry work in the Dominican Republic.

The process of building healthy families is unique for each family we help. Some need a temporary place for their children to call home, while the parents are experiencing a season of crisis. Other families may be struggling financially and need to learn practical money management techniques. As we desire for God to use STCH Ministries in mighty ways, we remain open to new paths He leads us down to become all He has in store for us.

In the fall of 2016, four new areas of ministry were birthed at STCH Ministries, yet their roots have been intertwined with our history for many years. By turning these efforts into distinct ministries, we are putting a renewed emphasis on their value for strengthening families.

- Faith & Finances is a twelve-week program teaches biblical principles for managing finances.
- Family Support connects needs with resources. Whenever a family has needs that can be served by one or more of our ministries, Family Support helps them understand what we offer and how to begin.
- Pastor Care comes from the realization that pastors are on the front lines of ministry, and they, along with their families, face a unique set of challenges and pressures. Pastor Care is designed to strengthen and replenish the wellbeing of our church leaders.
- Ministry Consulting allows us to share expertise and resources with other ministries that are closely aligned with our purpose and values. Working together, we accomplish more than either one could accomplish alone.

These four new ministries will complement our ongoing work in residential care, counseling, and international mission trips.

We ask for your continued prayers in 2017. More children and families need the saving love of Christ in their lives, and with your help, we are ready to serve.



**ERON
GREEN**
President

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stchm.org



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STCH MINISTRIES STATISTICAL INFORMATION JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2016

Homes for Children – on-campus care	108
Other ministries provided	652
Homes for Families – on-campus care.....	40
Other ministries provided	42
Family Support Ministry – individuals served	157
Other ministries provided	1,055
College education or special training provided	15
Family Counseling – clients served	2,700
Other ministries provided	8,403
International Ministry – individuals served	6,416
Other ministries provided	8,463
Jobs for Life - students.....	134
Other ministries provided	875
Church and community related contacts	23,024
Served through other ministry contacts	2,431
Total number of individuals impacted through STCH Ministries	54,515
Professions of Faith.....	323
Number of employees:	
Full-Time	82
Part-Time	13
Dominican Contract Individuals	5

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR JULY 1, 2016 TO JUNE 30, 2017

Texas Baptists Appropriations through the BGCT	\$571,146
Appropriations from Supporting Corporations.....	6,414,239
(South Texas Children's Home and South Texas Children's Home Land Management)	
Other Income	747,044
Total Income	\$7,732,429
Total Expenses	\$7,709,956
Funds available for continuing ministry	22,473
Total Net Assets	\$1,626,772

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." 1 Timothy 6:18 (NIV).

Building off of the command in scripture to be generous and willing to share, the Baptist Health Foundation of San Antonio renewed its commitment in 2016 to improve the health of the greater San Antonio community by fostering and funding clinical, educational, spiritual and scientific initiatives while honoring God and its Baptist heritage. The Foundation strives to be one of the Lord's conduits to provide spiritual and healthcare services to His people and be a reflection of His presence in the community.

With a commitment to the above mission and vision, the Lord greatly blessed the Foundation in 2016 through positive investment returns which enabled 88 organizations in the San Antonio area to receive \$5,704,149 in health related grants. The 2016 grants boosted total grants awarded since inception to 880 grants totaling \$61,173,052.

A Foundation highlight for the year was the continued partnership with Trinity Baptist Church and the YMCA of Greater San Antonio to sponsor the National Day of Prayer Breakfast. This well-attended community gathering unites the community around a morning of prayer, friendship, and celebration of God's blessings.

Dr. Ernesto Gomez, founder and CEO of CentroMed, an accredited Federally Qualified Health Center that has been serving the San Antonio community for more than 40 years, was the fifth recipient of the Foundation's 2016 Spirit of Health Award. Each year the Foundation recognizes someone who makes an outstanding contribution to improving community health. The Award was given to Dr. Gomez at the Annual Grants Ceremony which was held on December 13th at First Baptist Church of San Antonio and was attended by more than 300 nonprofit leaders. In addition to the uplifting music of Jairo Varela, inspirational testimonies were heard from several grant recipients.

Dr. Gomez won the Spirit of Health Award for his dedication and commitment to providing health care to San Antonio's underserved communities since 1973. CentroMed began as a family counseling program for low-income residents called El Centro del Barrio. It has since grown to 24 service sites in Bexar and Comal counties providing health care to more than 78,000 unique patients a year. Of those, some 47 percent lack insurance and 38 percent of patients are children or youth.

The Board of Trustees granted the following dollars: Disaster Relief - \$25,000; Responsive Grants - \$3,341,415; Strategic Initiatives Grants - \$990,000; Scholarship Grants - \$1,135,300; and Community Impact Grants - \$212,434.

In 2016, BHFSa awarded 7 Baptist-related grants. Grant recipients were: Baptist Temple Church - \$5,100; Kingdom Outreach Center - \$3,500; Life Church of San Antonio - \$7,500; Texas Baptist Men - \$25,000; Woodlake Baptist Church - \$7,500; Wayland Baptist University - \$10,000; and Woodlawn Hills Baptist Church - \$3,500.

Toby Summers was elected as Chairman of the Board of the Foundation. Bill Wilson was elected to serve as Vice Chair. Earl Cutler was elected to serve as Treasurer and Dr. Dawn Stockton was elected to serve as Secretary.

Associate Trustees elected to serve for one year included: Alane Cameron, Bobby Contreras, Rob Finney, Connie Jones, Manny Ruiz, Marla Rushing, Scott Senter, and Jorge Zayasbazan.

To God Be the Glory for all things that have been accomplished in 2016. In concert with the nonprofit community, the Foundation's Board of Trustees remains focused on glorifying God by awarding grants that improve the health of the community.



CODY S. KNOWLTON
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In March of 2018, Baptist Health System (BHS) of San Antonio will mark 70 years as a distinctively Christian and Baptist ministry of healing. Though the comprehensive history of the health system goes back to 1903, it was in March of 1948 that ownership of the Medical and Surgical Memorial Hospital was transferred to the Southern Baptist Convention and subsequently re-chartered as Baptist Memorial Hospital. In 1952, ownership was transferred to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Thus, this year (2017) marks 65 years of BHS as a Texas Baptist institution.

Though today the relationship of Baptist Health System to Texas Baptists is an indirect and fraternal one, the Christian and Baptist commitment of the system remains strong. The mission of BHS is: “We help people achieve health for life through compassionate service inspired by faith”. And the 6500 plus associates of Baptist Health System seek to serve our community by being “Passionate People Providing Compassionate Care”. The office of Mission and Ministry is specifically charged with not only providing direct spiritual care to patients, families, and associates but also with fostering faith values and commitment throughout the system.

Each year, the Mission and Ministry Division partners to facilitate an Ethics Symposium as part of the Continuing Medical Education program at BHS. This year’s symposium was titled “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Medical Community’s Response to the Opioid Crisis”. The response by physicians and other healthcare professionals was extremely robust.

Another annual event sponsored by the Ministry and Mission Division is a Bereavement Retreat. Invitations to participate are sent to the families of all individuals who have passed away while under the care of BHS. Often those who attend this retreat have no other spiritual or emotional support as they deal with their loss and for many participants it becomes a milestone in moving forward with health and wholeness. BHS chaplains also facilitate several ongoing grief support groups.

Meaningful spiritual care throughout Baptist Health System is provided by 16 full-time board certified staff chaplains across the six acute care hospitals that are part of the system. A team of 5 Associate Chaplains help provide weekend and PRN coverage so that there are chaplains available at all times of day and night. A robust Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program provides chaplaincy training for some 18 students each year with 6 students involved in a full time yearlong residency and 12 student interns enrolled in two extended units.

Finally, there are several significant accomplishments and milestones to note as Baptist Health System seeks to serve the healthcare needs of San Antonio and South Texas. These include:

- The opening of Baptist Orthopedic Hospital adjacent to North Central Baptist Hospital and two Baptist Emergency Hospitals, including one in a very underserved area of the San Antonio community
- At Baptist Medical Center, a “Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome” (NAS) program was certified to support mothers struggling with addiction and the babies born to them
- Baptist Medical Center also became the first hospital in San Antonio to offer Trans-catheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR), a much less invasive means for heart valve replacement
- The Baptist School of Health professions began a Master’s level program for nurses, bringing to 13 the number of healthcare related programs offered at the school
- Triennial Survey and recertification by the Joint Commission

At Baptist Health System, healthcare is considered a “sacred vocation” of healing. Thank you, Texas Baptists, for your support and encouragement for 65 years!

BAPTIST HEALTH SYSTEM STATISTICAL REPORT, FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2016

Licensed Beds	1,773
Patients Admitted.....	65,564
Outpatients Treated	288,488
Charity Patients Admitted	1,048
Charity Outpatients Treated	973
Estimated Value of Total Charity Care	67,307,005
Enrollment in Professional Educational Programs	753
Baptist School of Health Professions.....	736
Clinical Pastoral Education.....	17
Number of Employees (FTE).....	4,995

Amount of Discounts Allowed:

Medicare	2,615,273,640
Other	2,534,165,812

Number of Chaplains:

Full-Time	16
Part-Time	5
Volunteer (excluding Eucharistic Ministers)	7
Total Number of Chaplains	28

Professions of Faith.....	Information Not Available
Rededications/Recommitments	Information Not Available
Patient Visits by Professional Staff Chaplains	84,755
Worship Services Conducted.....	276

Income from patients	\$1,028,830,037
BGCT appropriation.....	-
Other income.....	13,354,491

Total income..... \$1,042,184,528

Total expenses

Funds available for continuing ministry

Total Net Assets..... \$421,056,759



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The provision of quality healthcare in a Christian environment is the cornerstone of existence for Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas. As a member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Christian emphasis is exemplified through the interrelationships of the organization's management, the 1,500 employees and the presence and participation of the Chaplaincy in the healing process. For more than half a century, Baptist Beaumont Hospital has brought compassionate high quality care to the Southeast Texas community – and excelling at its' mission because everything Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas does is based on the philosophy that its' staff, employees, and physicians are true partners in caring.

As a part of the commitment to the members of our community, Baptist Beaumont Hospital partnered with the UTMB Health to launch a new affiliation. The partnership with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston will build on the strengths of both organizations to provide the most advanced patient care for adult and pediatric patients in the Beaumont area and the surrounding region. Other community initiatives include the Community Health Information Program. Partnering with Beaumont Health Department, UT Physicians Community Health and Wellness Center, Triangle Area Aids Network, Legacy Community Health and the Medical Center of Southeast Texas Victory Campus are conducting an ongoing series of discussions regarding health issues that are affecting our community. These sessions provide opportunity to those who do not currently have access to healthcare. Educational sessions will be conducted by qualified health professionals to educate community members on population health issues such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, HIV, Hep-C, diabetes, etc. With the lack of neurologist in Southeast Texas, a new Tele-neurology Partnership with UT Health has been created to establish neurology coverage for in-house patients.

As the need for cancer services continues to increase in our regional area, Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas Partners with Cancer Center Of Southeast Texas and Altus Cancer Center to create the Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas Regional Cancer Network. This consolidation of specialized radiation therapy, hematology and medical oncology services to expand and enhance regional cancer care in Southeast Texas. This partnership, combined with the recent Comprehensive Accreditation through the Commission on Cancer for the Baptist Cancer Center demonstrates the commitment to providing safe, efficient, and high-quality cancer services in a loving environment to members of the community.

Many new service lines have been created to enable patients to receive care faster and at a lower cost. Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas Headache Treatment Center offers a novel approach to headache care. As the only center providing same day evaluations and timely treatments, patients are able to return to normal activities quickly. This very low risk treatment available to adults and children boasts a very high success rate.

Another added outpatient initiative at Baptist Beaumont Hospital is the new Low-Dose CT Screen Program for high-risk patients. With the addition of the Siemens SOMATOM Definition AS 128-slice CT scanner, this state-of-the art technology provides high-quality imaging diagnostics and delivers radiation doses tailored to each patient.

Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas has also successfully completed the installation of new In-House PET/CT, \$2M unit that is the first of its kind in Texas. Pet Scans are used, among other things, to stage patients who are newly diagnosed with cancer and to determine if there has been any spread (metastasis) of the disease.

Regardless of the creation of new programs or state-of-the art technologies, the most unique aspect of Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas continues to be a dedicated staff of employees, physicians and volunteers helping to build a healthier community.

BAPTIST HOSPITALS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR 2016-2017

Licensed Beds	494
Patients Admitted.....	16,839
Outpatients Treated	82,682
Charity Patients Admitted	1,516
Charity Outpatients Treated	4,295
Estimated Value of Total Charity Care	62,678,017
Enrollment in Professional Educational Programs	-
Number of Employees (FTE).....	1,553

Amount of Discounts Allowed:

Medicare	610,417,665
Other	561,190,904

Number of Chaplains:

Full-Time	4
Part-Time	-
Volunteer	-
Total Number of Chaplains	4

Professions of Faith.....	1
Rededications/Recommitments	16
Patient Visits by Chaplains	8,402
Worship Services Conducted	296

BAPTIST HOSPITALS OF SOUTHEAST TEXAS SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income from patients	\$243,216,440
BGCT appropriation	170,309
Other income	8,290,670
Total Income	\$251,677,419
Total expenses	245,955,543
Funds available for continuing ministry	5,721,876
Total Assets	\$200,875,148





JAMES H. HINTON
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Baylor Scott & White Health is a faith-based health care system that includes 48 hospitals, more than 1,000 patient care sites, more than 5,500 active physicians, and 44,000 employees plus the Scott & White Health Plan, Baylor Scott & White Research Institute and Baylor Scott & White Quality Alliance — a network of clinical providers and facilities focused on improving quality, managing the health of patient populations, and reducing the cost of care. Baylor Scott & White's mission is to serve all people by providing personalized health and wellness through exemplary care, education and research as a Christian ministry of healing. The state's largest not-for-profit health system provides its patients quality care while creating a model system for a dramatically changing health care environment.

New leadership

James H. Hinton became chief executive officer of Baylor Scott & White on Jan. 16, 2017. Hinton, a recognized leader with more than two decades of CEO experience, came from Presbyterian Healthcare Services, New Mexico's largest not-for-profit healthcare system. Hinton succeeded retiring President and CEO Joel T. Allison, whose servant leadership steered the organization for 23 years.

In July, Hinton named Peter McCanna the system's president. McCanna has more than 30 years of experience in healthcare management, most recently as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Northwestern Memorial Healthcare in Chicago.

Ongoing record of excellence

Baylor Scott & White had the most nationally ranked medical centers of any health care system in Texas in the 2017-2018 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Hospitals list. Thirteen Baylor Scott & White hospitals received national rankings or high-performing ratings,

Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas was ranked No. 2 in Dallas-Fort Worth and No. 3 in Texas among regional hospitals. Scott & White Medical Center – Temple was ranked No. 7 in the state.

Office of Mission & Ministry

Through the generous funds provided by the Human Welfare Coordinating Agency, Texas Baptists directly support Baylor Scott & White's Office of Mission & Ministry (OMM) as it ministers to a service area of about nine million Texans.

OMM includes three divisions — **Pastoral Care, Pastoral Education** and **Faith in Action Initiatives** — to build relationships and foster collaborations that minister Christ's healing love to people whose lives have been disrupted by illness or injury and to enhance the quality of health in communities through relationships with local congregations throughout North and Central Texas.

Last year, **Baylor Scott & White** chaplains recorded 269,197 pastoral encounters, an increase of 12 percent. By providing 104 Fred Roach Scholarships to employees during the last year and by providing medical supplies through the system's Faith in Action **Second Life Resources**, OMM has quadrupled support for medical missions over the last four years. Clergy, seminarians and qualified laypersons earned 84 student units of clinical pastoral education.

OMM continues to engage congregations to improve access, provide needed patient and family education and enhance the health of congregations through its rapidly growing **Faith Community Health** program in collaboration with Baylor Scott & White's Office of Equitable Care. An amazing collaboration among OMM, Serve West Dallas, Baylor University Medical Center, the Dallas County Community College District Pinkston High School and others, resulted in a program to help at-risk high school students and young adults to find careers in healthcare through its **Mid-Level Career Pathways Program**.

OMM worked with the system's Office of Public Affairs to produce a documentary about the work of Mission & Ministry, **"Treating the Human Condition,"** as well as brief videos designed to help ministers and laypersons learn about spiritual care to patients and families facing medical challenges.

They can be found here: www.bswhealth.com/about/spiritual-care/Pages/default.aspx#

BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE HEALTH STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Licensed Beds	5,371
Patients Admitted.....	235,112
Outpatients Treated	11,158,507
Number of Charity Patients Admitted.....	17,059
Number of Charity Outpatients Treated	196,137
Estimated Value of Total Charity Care.....	\$812,332,000
Enrollment in Professional Educational Programs #/# Hours.....	1101 Enrollees /1,297,754 Hours
Number of Employees (FTE).....	46,477

Amount of Discounts Allowed:

Medicare	\$8,703,288,000
Other.....	\$9,739,536,000

Number of Chaplains:

Full-Time	61
Part-Time	129
Volunteer	61
Total Number of Chaplains	251

Professions of Faith.....	276
Rededications/Recommitments	3,128
Patient Visits by Chaplains.....	269,197
Worship Services Conducted.....	3,097

BAYLOR SCOTT & WHITE HEALTH SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income from patients	\$7,737,643,000
BGCT appropriation.....	\$332,000
Other income.....	\$1,343,579,000
Total Income	\$9,081,554,000
Total expenses	\$8,743,904,000
Funds available for continuing ministry	\$337,650,000
Total Assets	\$5,461,337,000



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hendrickhealth.
org

Hendrick Health System continues the tradition of delivering high quality healthcare services to residents of Abilene and the Big Country that emphasizes excellence and Christian compassion. This goal, expressed in our mission, has remained constant since our founding in 1924. While meeting the challenges of twenty-first century healthcare we maintain a timeless commitment to high quality service within the framework of financial stability. Our Baptist identity is a vital aspect of our profile and we value our relationship with Texas Baptists.

Our services range from a Level III Trauma Center to state-of-the-art surgical procedures to inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation. Hendrick has been recognized as an Accredited Chest Pain Center and Certified Primary Stroke Center by the Joint Commission. In addition to advanced neuro, cardiac and cancer care, and birthing services, Hendrick operates a freestanding rehabilitation hospital, a pediatric intensive care unit, skilled nursing and extended care facilities, and a health club. Auxiliary services are provided by Hendrick Hospice Care, Palliative Care, Hendrick Sleep Disorder Center, and The BirthPlace® at Hendrick; and we partner with ContinuCare to provide long term acute care for patients requiring longer-than-average stays.

Highlights for 2016-17 include: a new 40,800 square-foot Hendrick Hospice Care Center, to provide alternative resources for end of life and chronic illness situations; a new Hendrick Medical Plaza, which makes available an alternative location for emergency care and some specialty services in south Abilene; a new free-standing same-day surgery center for persons in the Brownwood area; and a joint venture with Texas Tech University's Laura Bush Institute to provide the Abilene area significant new opportunities for women's health and healthcare.

We participate with other institutions in training healthcare personnel: Texas Tech University operates Schools of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Public Health adjacent to our campus; Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing, Angelo State University, Cisco College, and Texas State Technical College offer nursing education; respiratory therapists train through Cisco College; and radiology techs through our School of Radiography.

Employee longevity testifies to our effectiveness in making Hendrick a safe and productive workplace. Over 840 of our 3,200-plus employees have worked for ten or more years. Additionally, for the eleventh consecutive year Hendrick received the Gallup Great Workplace Award, a rare honor among healthcare institutions.

Hendrick employees volunteer their talents and abilities to many civic and religious organizations, such as Connecting Caring Communities and the Abilene Transition Center for homeless youth in Abilene. Employees are eligible to receive additional Paid Time Off for participating in approved mission efforts. Last year, employees traveled on such trips to: Argentina, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand, and Zambia, as well as several homeland mission points.

Expressions of our Christian mission include spiritual care services. A healthcare ministry educational program is offered to students of the three Abilene universities. Chaplains conduct weekly chapel services and deliver daily inspirational messages through hospital media. Bible verses placed in the hallways remind us and our customers of our spiritual mooring.

A statue, located in our main entrance, represents the matrix of ministry and medicine that describes our heritage. It depicts a mother holding her child, who is being examined by a physician, while a minister with an open Bible compassionately observes. Hendrick strives to meet the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of our patients and to improve the health of the people of West Central Texas, with a sense of Christian compassion and care. To that end, we are grateful for the gracious and prayerful support of Texas Baptists.

HENDRICK HEALTH SYSTEM STATISTICAL INFORMATION 2016-2017

Licensed Beds	530
Patients Admitted.....	22,767
Out Patients Treated.....	296,559
Charity Patients Admitted.....	1,370
Charity Outpatients Treated	11,461
Estimated Value of Charity Care.....	\$72,257,069
Number of Employees (FTE).....	2,825

Amount of Discounts Allowed:

Medicare	\$1,029,330,935
Other	\$813,649,423

Number of Chaplains:

Full-Time	3
Part-Time	13
Volunteer	31
Total Number of Chaplains	47

Professions of Faith.....	2
Rededications/Recommitments	39
Patient Visits by Chaplains.....	10,212
Worship Services Conducted.....	391

HENDRICK HEALTH SYSTEM SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 2016-2017

Income from patients	\$415,378,926
BGCT appropriation.....	169,160
Other income	44,596,220
Total Income	\$460,144,306
Total expenses	\$426,480,187
Funds available for continuing ministry	33,664,119
Total Assets	\$542,156,726





GERALD R. JAMES, JR.
President/CEO
baptist
churchloan.org

Dear Friends,

If you had an important message that you wanted to share with others, how would you deliver that message? In the early church, the message of Christ was delivered primarily through face to face communication from Christians to unbelievers. Paul the Apostle who was responsible for the growth and spiritual maturity of the early church provided wisdom, insight and encouragement through personal visits and letters. Thankfully many of Paul's letters were preserved for us in the Bible. Today we call such person-to person communication "grassroots efforts".

The BCLC has prospered this year through grassroots efforts. As you look at the financial highlights pages of the annual report, you will see a significant increase in loan applications received over the past two years. We believe the increase was due to the grassroots efforts of our company and our friends who have told others about us. Throughout the remainder of the annual report, you'll read quotations from the pastors, church members and supporters who've contributed to our growth at the grassroots level.

We would like for you to join our efforts by sharing our message person-to-person, however it's easiest to make that happen – in conversation at work, at church, on social media, by email or phone. Please let others know that the BCLC is here, that we have a shared interest in building God's Kingdom, and that we make loans to promote that end.

To all of you have already joined our grassroots movement – and to those of you reading this – our deepest thanks for furthering the ministry and financial goals of BCLC.

Your partner in ministry,

Gerald R James, Jr.
President & CEO

BAPTIST CHURCH LOAN CORPORATION STATISTICAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

Church Loan Requests.....	\$154,260,214
Assets per Employee.....	\$18,539,125
Average Church Loan Rate	3.70%
Equity / Assets.....	71%

HighGround Advisors, formally Baptist Foundation of Texas, was founded in 1930 to offset the crippling economic disaster the nation faced that threatened the existence of Texas Baptist universities, schools, children's homes and hospitals. It was a daring endeavor undertaken by a handful of innovative businesspeople who had faith, foresight and a firm belief in putting the Lord's business ahead of their own. Their vision was to build an organization that would play a unique role in enabling Baptist institutions to carry out their missions. The founders knew that by providing endowment management and charitable trust services, HighGround could provide invaluable support to its client institutions, and thus enhance each institution's ability to perform its charitable work.

For the past 87 years, HighGround Advisors has consistently and successfully carried out this mission. Net assets have grown to almost \$2 billion with over 6,000+ endowments and 1,100+ split-interest accounts currently under administration. Throughout our history, the organization has had a rich practice of adding capabilities to its scope of services to better support Baptist ministries.

The tradition of innovative leadership, supported by strong board members from the respective areas in which HighGround serves, has been a constant throughout the decades and continues today. In 2015, HighGround completed a brand study and as a result of this study, the decision was made to realign our brand and service offerings to reflect the evolution of our organization and our clients, while also paying tribute to our heritage.

With our current lease expiring and the development of the HighGround brand, it was decided to relocate offices to Comerica Bank Tower, which is just across the street from our current office. The building and our new space are a great fit for our organization, aligning well with our new brand identity and core values.

2016 Giving Trends

During 2016, HighGround Advisors assisted donors in establishing gift arrangements totaling \$8.4 million. Somewhat more volatile markets yielded a decrease in gifts of appreciated securities and an increase in cash gifts. The year also saw an increase in the number of qualified charitable gift annuity arrangements established. This is a trend that has been expanding over the past several years, reflecting the growing popularity of this gift vehicle.

Investment Performance

HighGround Endowment Fund's (HGEF) investment performance in 2016 returned 5.8% as a result of strong double digit gains from public equity. HGEF's three and five-year performance continues to rank in the top quartiles of our nonprofit peer group.

New Share Classes, Investment Funds & Name Changes

At the end of 2016, we implemented a tiered share class structure within HGEF. This new structure provides a flexible platform for efficient and effective alignment of costs and resources based on assets under management.

To align the investment funds with our new HighGround brand and create consistency and clarity regarding investment objectives, we updated our fund names. We also added five new investment funds to the platform: Large Cap Fund, Mid Cap Index Fund, Small Cap Fund, Developed Markets Fund and Emerging Markets Fund. These new funds represent core strategies that are key components of our investment program and are now available for direct investment, enhancing our ability to customize investment solutions for our clients.

Looking Ahead

Today, our vision is clear. We aim to continue to be an innovative and vigilant caretaker of the funds and assets entrusted to us by the institutions we serve and by the generous individuals who donate to those institutions. To this end, we will continually strive to develop strategies for enriching client and donor relationships, enhancing service offerings and fortifying funds to further causes of the nonprofits we serve.



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For 129 years, the *Baptist Standard* has informed, inspired and challenged people to think deeply about their faith and the church's role in our world. Staying faithful to this mission has required the discipline to consistently champion the historic Baptist principles many Texas Baptist Churches hold dear. These include the Lordship of Christ, the priesthood of all believers, local-church autonomy, religious liberty, and the importance of cooperative missions and ministry.

While somewhat counterintuitive, the *Baptist Standard's* ability to remain faithful to this calling depends upon its willingness to change constantly in response to the needs of our people, churches and society. As theologian Kevin Vanhoozer writes, "Sometimes faithfulness requires change, not sameness."

Our historic Baptist principles have not changed. Neither has our churches' need for informed, independent and reliable news. What has changed is almost everything else. This is why the *Baptist Standard* finds itself in an almost continual season of adapting to new forms of gathering, reporting and delivering the news.

Through the years, the *Baptist Standard* has led the way among denominational newspapers away from print media to digital formats. In the last year, the *Baptist Standard* once again made significant adjustments to its website in order to better serve Texas Baptists and those interested in Texas Baptist life. As a result, our number of unique visitors to the website continues to grow. In the first quarter of 2017, that included over 120,000 unique visitors to the website, a 24.3 percent increase over the same time period in 2016.

The ability of the *Baptist Standard* to navigate the radical changes in both technology and denominational life are due in part to the creative and faithful work of its former editor, Marv Knox. Marv began working for the *Baptist Standard* in 1995 and became the newspaper's 13th editor on January 1, 1999. On July 26 of this past year, Marv penned his last editorial for the *Baptist Standard*, stepping down to become the first coordinator of Fellowship Southwest, a new regional network within the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Texas Baptists owe Marv an enormous debt of gratitude for his faithful stewardship of the *Baptist Standard's* mission and legacy. Texas Baptists can take heart that even with a change in leadership, the *Baptist Standard* remains committed to faithfully executing its mission for the benefit of Texas Baptist churches and the glory of God. The staff of the *Baptist Standard* continue to deliver an exceptional product daily through baptiststandard.com, weekly through the digital edition, and quarterly through CommonCall: The Baptist Standard Magazine. In addition to the staff's diligent efforts, faith leaders from around the state continue to help the Baptist Standard inform, inspire and challenge readers through the "Texas Baptist Voices" column.

In this season of change, it is important to remember that the *Baptist Standard's* ability to remain faithful to its mission depends upon Texas Baptists' willingness to remain faithful to the *Baptist Standard*. The *Baptist Standard* does not receive Cooperative Program dollars. In fact, it never has. The lack of direct funding from the denomination allows the *Baptist Standard* to operate in an independent-yet-beneficial relationship with the convention. It also means that the Baptist Standard depends upon subscriptions, advertising and the generous gifts of donors.

Do your part in helping *Baptist Standard* to remain faithful to its mission in this season of change. Visit www.baptiststandard.com today to subscribe. Encourage your church to offer subscriptions to its members, as well. Remember, a good Baptist is an informed Baptist.

The Denison Forum was established in 2009 by Jim Denison and Jeff Byrd to help Christians engage their culture by resourcing them to experience and advance God's Kingdom. More than 110,000 subscribers in more than 200 countries receive Dr. Denison's Daily Article (formerly called the Cultural Commentary) which looks at today's news in spiritual perspective. The ministry also provides spiritual formation resources, Christian parenting resources, and Bible studies through a variety of digital and printed platforms.

Cultural Engagement and other resources –
denisonforum.org

Spiritual Formation resources –
first15.org
craigandracheldenison.com
janetdenison.com

Christian Parenting resources –
Christianparenting.org

Highlights for 2016-2017

- Denisonforum.org hosts Dr. Denison's daily article (formerly called the Cultural Commentary). The "tag line" for the Denison Forum has recently been updated to "News Discerned Differently." A major subscription/follower campaign will be launched in early 2018 to boost daily readership by at least 10-fold.
 - In early 2017 Dr. Denison launched a weekly email for preaching pastors called Cultural Preaching. Nearly 2100 pastors on all parts of the globe receive the sermon he's preaching that week, pastoral tips and stories and a personal word of encouragement. Preachers can subscribe at denisonforum.org.
 - In the fall of 2017 the Denison Resource Library will be launched, where all of Dr. Denison's writings, including his sermons, Bible studies and white papers, will be catalogued for use by the public.
- First15.org reached over 35,000 subscribers and launched a smartphone app available on iPhone and Android devices. The daily devotional/personal worship seeks to give believers of different backgrounds a consistent and impactful experience with God in the first 15 minutes of their day. Many churches have begun to recommend First15 as a resource for their members.
- Christianparenting.org has recently completed its content gathering phase and is currently planning ways to engage parents of children of all ages with practical help. Social media and periodic "conversations" will address topics and needs identified by readers.
- Janetdenison.org contains Janet's blog focusing on biblical wisdom and Bible studies written by Janet, applying God's word to everyday life. Nearly 12,000 subscribers receive Janet's blog.

Denison Forum Staff

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Craig Denison
Author and founder of First15

Janet Denison
Director of Spiritual Formations and
Founder of ChristianParenting.org

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GuideStone.org

"The Year of Influence" was the theme that guided our work during 2016 as we challenged our team to look for opportunities, both large and small, to be people of influence for the benefit of all GuideStone's participants.

2016 was a record year for Mission:Dignity® as it continued to enhance the financial security of retired ministers, workers and their widows through much-needed grant assistance. Mission:Dignity receives no Cooperative Program funding; it is funded primarily through the gifts of individuals, groups and churches across the SBC. Because of the faithful contributions of churches, individuals, Sunday school classes, GuideStone® employees and trustees, direct cash gifts have nearly doubled since 2007. Gifts from donors increased by \$500,000, or 8.8 percent. Assistance payments totaled \$6.99 million. Qualifying individuals receive \$225 per month; couples are eligible for \$300. The neediest individuals with at least 25 years of Southern Baptist ministerial service may qualify for double those amounts.

At midyear, despite minor bumps along the way, equity markets continued their upward climb during the first six months of 2017. Over the first half of the year, both the S&P 500® and the Dow Jones rose approximately 8 percent and the NASDAQ about 14 percent. In addition, investment grade bonds, high-yield bonds and foreign stocks all rallied during the second quarter, demonstrating a desire by investors to own a variety of investments. The stock market has proven to be remarkably resilient as tightening monetary policy and the political acrimony in Washington continue to take center stage. As a reminder, GuideStone encourages investors to focus on their long-term goals and not respond to short-term moves, positive or negative, in the performance of the financial markets.

On March 23, 2016, lawyers for GuideStone and other plaintiffs argued before the U.S. Supreme Court their litigation against the contraceptive mandate issued under the Affordable Care Act. The Court issued a unanimous opinion May 16 ordering the government to work out a solution in the contraceptive mandate cases that would protect the religious beliefs of objecting religious organizations. This decision included GuideStone and the ministries it serves.

The Court vacated the lower-court decision that had gone against the religious organizations and ruled that the government cannot fine the ministries as the cases proceed. No new proposed regulations have been issued out of the ruling as of this writing. The mandate would have required certain ministries served by GuideStone to provide abortion-causing drugs or devices as part of their health plan or face crippling penalties. Churches and integrated auxiliaries of churches are exempt from the mandate and its penalties. As of publication time, the case is stayed.

The GuideStone executive team worked throughout 2015 on an update to GuideStone 100, the long-range plan that will reach its fruition in 2018. GuideStone 100 is entering its final stretch; the major objectives of that strategic plan are largely completed or underway. A new plan, Vision 2020, was approved by trustees at the February 2016 trustee meeting. It will overlap with the final years of GuideStone 100.

GuideStone launched online paperless withdrawals in 2016. In launching online paperless withdrawals, the goal was to provide participants with the ability to initiate and complete a single sum withdrawal online, including in-service, termination and required minimum distribution (RMD) transactions. This initiative helps GuideStone remain in step with industry practices and participant expectations in providing a more efficient handling of participant withdrawal needs, and it offers GuideStone efficiency gains.

2017 saw the launches of *The Christmas Code: Daily Devotions Celebrating the Advent Season* and *The Believer's Code: 365 Devotions to Unlock the Blessings in God's Word*. All author proceeds benefit Mission:Dignity.

STATISTICS AS OF JUNE 30, 2017

Number of active churches in the Church Retirement Plan: 1,668

Percentage of churches active in the Church Retirement Plan: 43%

Number of persons in TX receiving retirement income: 6,137

Number of persons in TX helped by Mission: Dignity ministry: 233

If you want more information about the products and services of GuideStone Financial Resources, call us toll-free at **1-888-98-GUIDE (888-984-8433)** or visit our web site at www.GuideStone.org. We want to serve you.



MICKEY B. LENAMON
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texas
baptistmen.org

The goal of TBM is to share Christ and His love to others. In Peru and Ghana, our **Water Ministry** witnessed several professions of faith after training teams on business principles to help them become self-sufficient and water well recovery techniques that now provide 900 people in three villages with water. In Sierra Leone, TBM drilled two new wells and trained 27 leaders to teach the Hygiene program. TBM taught 314 people that program with 75 accepting Christ during class. TBM conducted information gathering trips for future projects in Vietnam and Cambodia. TBM drilled two new wells in Ghana and repaired 10 pumps bringing water to over 10,000 people, including one that is a city water source. Our Philippines team drilled and presented the hygiene class. They trained 26 and taught 63 hygiene and Bible lessons. Teams visited Texas churches, GA/RA camps and VBS presenting our ministry to over 1,493 people. Our team trained 37 people in security, drilling, pump repair, WASH (Water, Access, Sanitation and Hygiene), the addition of soapmaking, and giving aid to indigenous peoples without developing dependency. TBM Soap Ministry provides soap to those in need, but also teaches soap-making as a business, which provides an income for women. Recently, in Ghana, 50 pounds of soap was given to individuals, two clinics and churches.

Disaster Relief responded to 34 disaster sites (12 out-of-state) providing 4,287 volunteer days (33,121 volunteer hours), cooked and served 19,221 meals, 1,699 hot showers, washed 1,240 loads of laundry, handed out 8,958 moving boxes, performed 535 property assessments, handled 494 recovery jobs, completed 371 chainsaw jobs, 600 heavy equipment hours resulting in 4,259 ministry contacts, 102 Gospel presentations, eight professions of faith, 439 Bibles distributed and trained 938 new Yellow Cap volunteers.

Long Term Recovery mobilized 700 volunteers working on nearly 100 homes affected by flooding in Houston, Brazoria, Southeast Texas and Jennings, LA.

At the request of **WMU**, TBM partnered with them and raised more than \$25,000 to provide food for families in drought-stricken Kenya.

The **Men's Ministry** led four No Man Left Behind training seminars with 90 attending, led a men's retreat with 22 men, participated in three associational Pastor Informational meetings and commissioned a new chapter of FAITH Riders motorcycle ministry. The Military Fellowship cooked for 96 soldiers at the Army Reserve Base in Seagoville. Restorative Justice Ministry provided Christian books and Bibles for TDJC prisons and led two retreats for prison chaplains. Our Korean Fellowship made three trips to Southeast Asia to work with the underground church and delivered 60 tons food to another closed and hostile Asian country.

The **Builders** had over 58 camp and church projects. These projects are built with free labor provided by our volunteer men and women as they minister and spread the Gospel to others.

There were 20 in-state **Royal Ambassadors and Challengers** camps totaling 2,686 campers and 353 decisions for Christ. We trained 18 high school-aged, State Staffers and eight Associational Staffers who served at those camps. Missions Mania saw 621 participants from 44 churches with 29 decisions. The Challengers State Basketball Tournament had 21 teams participate in the annual tournament, with 20 young men and leaders making decisions for Christ. The State Race was held in April, with 209 registered participants from 33 churches with 99 event leaders. There were 26 Regional Training Conferences for RA/Challengers leaders conducted.



TEXAS BAPTISTS®
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Restoration of Brokenness

An annual report often focuses on dollars received and activities conducted. All of those have a part in telling the story but they fall short. WMU of Texas believes in the restoration of brokenness through hope in Jesus. We are intent on making disciples who make disciples. We see these things lived out across our state. Here are glimpses into our story.

When a team of 20 women built a house for Alberto and Maria Luisa Morales in October of 2016, they had no idea how close their family came to breaking apart into a thousand pieces. The living conditions for six people staying in a cramped, old travel trailer was taking a toll on their marriage and their children. It seemed hope had disappeared.

Maria Luisa was overwhelmed that women would come to help her family. When she was asked to drive the first nail, she did so with tears of joy. Throughout the building process, she gave glory to God.

Several months after the family had moved into their new home, team members made a visit. The children were proud to show their rooms and the smile on Maria Luisa's face was wide. She looked around her home and into the faces of her four children and said, "Look what Jesus did in one year." Brokenness restored through hope in Jesus Christ.

We have also celebrated the 20th anniversary of Christian Women's Job Corps®, a ministry that provides life and employment skills in a Christian context. Add to that Christian Men's Job Corps® which began in 2004. Since 1997, these ministries have been about **Impacting Lives . . . Transforming Generations**. Over 1.2 million hours of service has been invested in the lives of 40,000 men and women who have come to CWJC and CMJC seeking hope and restoration. Numerous graduates state they joined CWJC to gain computer and job readiness skills but Bible study had the greatest impact on their lives.

Hanna said she came to CWJC a broken woman and through the ministry her life was put back together. Brandy was lonely and only had one small bag that contained all she owned. Because of her involvement at CWJC she knows she is not alone because God is always with her. Irma had lost her job and was afraid and discouraged. At CWJC she began to grow in her faith and realized that God has great plans for her. Darrin went from a man with no plans to someone living a life for Christ and serving as a community service director and associate pastor. Brokenness restored through hope in Jesus Christ.

God will use whatever it takes to bring the message of restoration to the broken. In many parts of the developing world, women and girls live without hope because of poverty. Something as natural as a monthly menstrual cycle can keep a girl out of school each month or a woman away from work if she only has leaves, ash, rags, or nothing to use.

The Pad Project was born from God's heart and developed through the expertise of a missionary nurse. Teach a woman that she is fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Explain to her how her body is made. Help her learn to care for her body so she can bear healthy children. Thousands of pads have been made and shared with women in South Asia, Ethiopia, and Togo. Women and girls give their lives to Jesus. We partner with others in this project because we believe in the restoration of brokenness through hope in Jesus Christ.

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Article I – Name and Nature

Section 1. The name of this corporate body shall be The Baptist General Convention of Texas, hereafter Convention.

Section 2. This Convention is and always shall remain, only and solely a medium through which Baptist churches may work harmoniously in cooperation with each other, promoting the work and objects set forth in this constitution. It has not, to any degree, and shall never have any ecclesiastical authority. It shall not have and shall never attempt to exercise a single attribute of power or authority over any church, or over the messengers of the churches in such wise as to limit the sovereignty of the churches, but shall recognize the sovereignty of the churches under the one Sovereign, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Article II – Object

The object of this Convention shall be to awaken and stimulate among the churches the greatest possible activity in evangelism, missions, Christian education and benevolent work and enterprises; to cultivate a closer cooperation among the churches and promote harmony of feeling and concert of action in advancing all the interests of the Redeemer's Kingdom.

Article III – Membership

Section 1. This Convention in session in all its meetings shall be composed of messengers elected by Baptist churches that shall voluntarily cooperate with the Convention. All messengers must be members of the church by which they are elected. A messenger must be enrolled at the Convention in session to be qualified to vote. The messengers have no right to act except for annual or special meetings constituting the Convention in session for which they have been elected by their cooperating churches.

Section 2. Each church cooperating with this Convention shall be entitled to:

- A** Two messengers for the first one hundred (100) members or fractional part thereof. Two additional messengers for the first two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) given during the previous fiscal year to the Texas budget as adopted by The Baptist General Convention of Texas in annual session, and
- B.** One additional messenger for each additional hundred members and each additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) given during the previous fiscal year to the Texas budget as adopted by The Baptist General Convention of Texas in annual session, and
- C.** If, as calculated under B above, a church's giving surpasses its membership, then one additional messenger for each two thousand dollars (\$2000) given during the previous fiscal year to the Texas budget as adopted by The Baptist General Convention of Texas in annual session, not to exceed six additional messengers, provided, however, that
- D.** No church shall be entitled to more than twenty-five messengers.
- E.** A mission church shall be considered a church under the Constitution solely for the limited purpose of electing messengers to the Annual Meeting if it is identified as a body of believers separate from its sponsoring church; it contributes to the BGCT in an identifiable way either directly or through the sponsoring church from its own resources; it exists to address some specific mission need, such as language, culture or location, it regularly practices baptism and the Lord's Supper separate from its sponsoring church; and it identifies itself with, aligns itself with, and endorses, generally, the purposes and work of the Convention. The total number of messengers a mission may qualify for is four (4) as specified in Article III, Section 2.A.

Article IV – Meetings

Section 1. The Convention shall meet annually at such a time and place, based on Convention site guidelines, as determined by the messengers at least two years prior to the annual meeting.

In case of emergency, the Executive Board is empowered to change the time and place of the meeting. The minutes of the annual meeting of The Baptist General Convention of Texas are to be approved by the Executive Board of the Convention at the first meeting of the Executive Board following the Convention.

Section 2. No notice of annual or regular meetings of The Baptist General Convention of Texas shall be required. Notice of a special meeting shall be given at least 10 days prior to such meeting by publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the community in which the principal office is located.

Section 3. The right to vote is limited to the duly elected and enrolled messengers who are actually present in the session at the time the vote is taken. There will be no proxy or absentee voting.

Section 4. The quorum for conducting business during any session of the annual meeting of The Baptist General Convention of Texas shall be a minimum of 25% of the enrolled messengers.

Section 5. Special meetings of the Convention may be called by the Executive Board by a two-thirds vote of the votes entitled to be cast by directors of the Board. The call for a special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting and the date, time and place for the meeting. The special meeting shall be limited to the purpose stated.

Article V – Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Convention shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary of the Corporation, a recording secretary and a registration secretary. With the exception of the recording secretary who serves by virtue of serving as Treasurer, these shall be elected annually by ballot not later than the second day of the annual meeting. By unanimous consent any officer of this Convention may be elected by acclamation. Officers shall hold their offices until the end of the last session of the Convention meeting at which their successors are elected. In case of the death, resignation, or disability of the president, or if the president is no longer a member of a cooperating church, the vice presidents shall automatically succeed to the office of president in the order of their election.

Section 2. In any election for office, the nominee who receives the vote of a majority of the enrolled messengers present in the session shall be elected. If on the first ballot no nominee is elected, there shall be a run-off election between the two nominees who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot.

Section 3. No one shall be eligible for the office of president or eligible for the same vice president's office for more than two successive years.

Article VI – Committees

Section 1. The committees of the Convention shall be: (1) Committee on the Annual Meeting, (2) Committee on Credentials, (3) Committee on Committees, (4) Committee on Resolutions, (5) Committee on Memorials, (6) Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors, (7) Committee on Nominations for Boards of Affiliated Ministries. The duties of the committees are included in the Convention Bylaws.

Section 2. Special committees may be established by action of the Convention to serve for specified periods of time to perform specific duties that in the judgment of the Convention cannot be effectively performed by one of the regular committees of the Convention or by the Executive Board.

The Convention shall specify the number of members to be appointed to each special committee and the method to be followed in selecting members. In the absence of other provisions, the president and the two vice presidents shall jointly appoint the members.

Article VII – Executive Board**Section 1. Functions**

The Executive Board speaks for the interest of the Convention and has authority and accountability over the work of the Convention in the interim between annual meetings, except for that which is reserved for the Convention in session as noted in the Articles of Incorporation, the Constitution and the Bylaws.

- A. The Executive Board shall have charge and control, except when otherwise directed by the Convention, of all of the work of the Convention, including missions, education, and beneficence, in the interim between its sessions.
- B. The Executive Board has authority to elect and employ, to evaluate performance and set compensation for the Executive Director who shall serve as chief executive officer of The Baptist General Convention of Texas and its Executive Board.
- C. The Executive Board also has authority to elect an Associate Executive Director and a Treasurer/ Chief Financial Officer, both of whom shall serve under the direct supervision of the Executive Director. The Executive Director is authorized to employ other staff as provided by the plan of work and the financial plan of the Convention. The Board shall approve a compensation plan for Convention employees.
- D. The Executive Board shall hold in trust and shall administer all the properties, annuities, trusts, and invested funds of this body except as otherwise provided for by the Convention, and the Board shall report annually to the Convention the state of all funds which the Board administers.
- E. The Executive Board provides the Convention annually with a report of its work and with a complete financial accounting of all funds received and disbursed, including properties, trusts, and invested funds which the Board administers.
- F. The Executive Board determines the organization, functions, responsibilities and working relationships of the Executive Board committees.
- G. The Executive Board maintains an official organization manual setting forth the plan and organization of the Convention and its programs. It shall also maintain a policy manual (including business, financial and personnel) for those policies adopted by the Convention in session and by the Executive Board.

Section 2. Membership

- A. The authorized number of elected directors shall be 90 directors from 30 sectors in the Convention. The sectors are based on resident church membership in counties, and such sector criteria will be included in the Bylaws upon recommendation of the Executive Board.

A minimum of three directors will be elected from each sector. The number of elected directors of the Executive Board will exceed ninety (90) until expiration of the terms of directors elected prior to the effective date of adoption of this amended Constitution.

- B. One-third of the number of directors is elected each year to serve a three-year term. Directors are eligible for election to a second three-year term but are not eligible to serve more than six consecutive years.
- C. Voting directors of the Executive Board shall be the elected directors, the convention president, and the two convention vice presidents, and the presidents of the Convention-recognized fellowships, provided that these presidents are members of churches supportive of the BGCT. Non-voting directors of the Executive Board shall be the executive director, recording secretary, and the presidents of Woman's Missionary Union of Texas, Texas Baptist Men and Baptist Student Ministry.

- D. All Executive Board directors, including the ex officio directors, must be members of churches that are supportive of The Baptist General Convention of Texas.
- E. No one who is an employee of the Convention or member of the immediate family of an employee, except an ex officio director of the Board, shall be eligible for membership on the Executive Board.
- F. The membership of the Executive Board shall be generally representative of the Baptist membership in the Convention and shall include men and women, Anglo and non-Anglo persons, persons who are members of larger membership churches and smaller membership churches, and those who have abilities and experience needed by the Board. There shall be a minimum of forty percent (40%) of the persons elected each year who are church/denominational employees and a minimum of forty (40%) who are non-church/denominational employees.

Section 3. Officers

- A. Officers shall be chairperson, vice chairperson, recording secretary and other such officers as the Executive Board may determine needed from time to time.
- B. Term of service for elected officers is one year. A person is limited to a maximum service of two consecutive years in the same office. The exception to these provisions is the recording secretary who serves by virtue of serving as Treasurer.
- C. Nominations for election of officers are from the floor. A person must be elected by majority vote.

If on the first ballot no nominee is elected, there shall be a run-off election between the two nominees who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot.

Section 4. Committees

The Executive Board has the authority to establish and dissolve committees as required to carry out their responsibilities. Duties of the committees will be included in the Executive Board Policy Manual.

- A. The Executive Committee plans, coordinates and monitors the general progress of the Executive Board, including the budget and financial affairs. The Executive Committee will be composed of the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Executive Board, the president and vice presidents of the Convention, and the chairperson of each Executive Board committee. The chairperson of the Executive Board will serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee. The executive director and the recording secretary will serve as ex officio members, without vote.
- B. The Audit Committee is to oversee the financial audit function.
- C. The Institutional Relations Committee is to give broad oversight of the institutions related to the Convention, recognizing that the institutions are managed by a separate board of trustees according to their articles of incorporation and bylaws.
- D. The Church Ministries Committee shall set the direction for the operation of core ministries of the Convention.
- E. The Administration Support Committee shall set direction and recommend general policies for the administrative functions of the Convention. The committee shall include a finance subcommittee for budget development and general financial oversight.

Article VIII – Affiliated and Related Ministries**Section 1. General Provisions**

- A. Institutions or agencies which associate with this Convention in compliance with this Article are affiliated. Institutions or agencies which associate with this Convention pursuant to an adopted Special Agreement are related.
- B. A new agency or institution may be established or a change in relationship with an agency or institution may be approved by a majority vote of the votes entitled to be cast by the messengers when the vote is taken without regard to the total enrollment at any meeting of the Convention upon the recommendation of the Executive Board, and must be considered by the Executive Board not later than a September meeting of the Board preceding the annual meeting of the Convention. In the case of a new agency or institution, the recommendation must include a comprehensive plan of development, a set of proposed articles and bylaws, and a proposed annual budget.
- C. An affiliation or relationship with an agency or institution may be discontinued by the Convention upon recommendation by the Executive Board and by majority vote of the votes entitled to be cast by the messengers present when the vote is taken without regard to the total enrollment at any meeting of the Convention.

Section 2. Affiliated Ministries

- A. Trustee Membership of Boards
 - 1. Each institution affiliated with this Convention shall have a board consisting of thirteen (13) or more trustees of which at least a simple majority shall be elected by this Convention in its annual meetings. When the charter of such institution provides for a specific number of trustees, the number so provided for shall be elected. Those persons elected by the Convention to serve as members of these boards shall be active members of cooperating churches of The Baptist General Convention of Texas.
 - 2. No person shall be eligible for concurrent membership on more than one affiliated board or board of related institutions or agencies.
 - 3. Each institution affiliated with this Convention shall be eligible to elect those members of its trustee board not elected by the Convention in accordance with criteria adopted by its board. All trustees so elected shall be active members of a Baptist church and shall meet other criteria established by the Executive Board.
 - 4. Trustees of affiliated institutions shall be elected in classes so that the terms of one class only shall expire with each Convention year. The term of office of each member of the boards of affiliated institutions shall be three years. A member who has served three full successive terms shall not be eligible for re-election until he or she shall have been out of office for one Convention year.
 - 5. The board of trustees and the administrator of an institution may request that a trustee, whose continued service is considered imperative to meet an emergency or a special need, be elected for an additional year. Such an exception must be approved by the Committee on Nominations for Boards of Affiliated Ministries. No more than two exceptions may be made for any given term for any one institution. In the event of such an exception, the position filled by that trustee shall revert to its previous class at the completion of the extra year.
 - 6. No Trustee shall be allowed to name his or her successor by resigning in favor of another person.

7. No elected trustee of the board of an affiliated institution who resigns from that board before the expiration of his or her current term shall be eligible for nomination to another board of the Convention until one year after such resignation is filed. A trustee elected by the Convention who no longer meets the qualifications for service set forth by the Convention as determined by the Executive Board, shall cease to be a trustee and that place shall be deemed vacant, or the Executive Board upon a 75 percent vote of those present may recommend to the Convention the removal of a trustee.

A vote of 75 percent of the votes entitled to be cast by the messengers when the vote is taken without regard to the total enrollment at any annual meeting of the Convention is necessary for removal. The Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of affiliated institutions shall not contain provision inconsistent with this Section 2 (A)(7).

8. The Recording Secretary of the Convention shall be notified immediately of vacancies that occur on an institutional board for any cause. Should a trustee position elected by the Convention become vacant for any cause, the Convention shall name a replacement trustee for that position through its adopted processes.
- B. The board of each institution affiliated with this Convention shall submit any and all changes or amendments to the institution's charter to the Executive Board for approval. Any changes that significantly alter the mission of the institution or the institution's relationship to The Baptist General Convention of Texas shall be referred to the Convention for approval.

Section 3. Related Ministries

- A. The institution's Articles of Incorporation and Special Agreements with the Convention shall guide the election and terms of trustees.
- B. No person shall be eligible to concurrently serve on more than one related ministry board or affiliated ministry board.
- C. The board of an institution may request, with a 75 percent vote of its board, that the institution relate to the Convention through a contractual Special Agreement rather than as an affiliated institution. Such agreements must be approved by the Convention at its annual meeting and may be considered only after favorable action by the Executive Board. Special Agreements must be negotiated in accordance with policies established by the Executive Board.

Section 4. Reports and Reviews to the Convention

- A. The board of each agency or institution affiliated with or related by Special Agreement to this Convention shall submit to the Convention at each annual meeting such written reports as will keep the Convention fully informed concerning the activities, plans, resources, financial condition, and legal status of the institution.
- B. The board of each agency or institution, except general acute care hospitals and health care systems, affiliated with this Convention shall submit for review and approval to this Convention, or to a committee designated by this Convention, each and every project or policy that involves a level of indebtedness of the institution beyond the policies of The Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Article IX – Contributions and Funds

Section 1. The Cooperative Program shall be the chief means through which this Convention shall support its missionary endeavors. The mission causes shall be reviewed and the Cooperative Program Budget through which they are supported shall be adopted annually.

Annual adoption of the budget shall be voted at the Annual Meeting held in the fall. The Executive Board will be responsible for budget adoption at its fall meeting in years when a summer Annual Meeting is held.

Section 2. All funds of this Convention shall be raised by voluntary contributions provided this does not prevent acquiring funds, or property, by bequest or use of any income on property that may be bequeathed to or purchased by the institutions or agencies hereof.

Section 3. All designated offerings or special gifts shall be strictly applied according to the expressed will and direction of the contributor.

Article X – Offices

The Convention shall maintain a principal office within the State of Texas and shall continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office which is identical with the principal office and a registered agent who is the recording secretary of the Convention as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The Executive Board shall, from time to time, amend the Articles of Incorporation of the Convention as necessary to reflect the then current address of the registered office and the registered agent.

Article XI – Amendments

Any alterations may be made in these Articles by two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by the messengers present when the vote is taken without regard to total enrollment at any annual meeting of the Convention, provided (1) no amendment may be considered after the second day of the Convention and (2) that an amendment shall be so approved by two successive Conventions.

Article I – General Provisions

Section 1. For purposes of usage in the Constitution and these Bylaws, a church is deemed to be affiliated with the Convention if such church (1) identifies itself with, aligns itself with, and endorses, generally, the purposes and work of the Convention, and (2) is otherwise eligible to send messengers to the annual meeting of the Convention. For purposes of usage in the Constitution and the Bylaws, “supportive” and “cooperating” shall have the same meaning as “affiliated” has in these Bylaws.

Section 2. All Convention officers, members of Convention committees, all Executive Board directors, and all non-director members of any special committee, subcommittee, group, team, council or other entity created under or permitted to be created under these Bylaws shall be members of affiliated churches. An exception will be made for members of groups, teams, councils or other entities who are Baptists and live outside the state of Texas.

Section 3. If a person named in Section 2 is no longer a member of a church affiliated with the Convention, or otherwise vacates the position, the position will be deemed vacant and the vacancy will be filled according to the provisions of these Bylaws.

Determination of vacancies and the date of such vacancy will be made by the Executive Board or a committee of the Board so authorized by the Executive Board.

Article II – Messengers

Section 1. Each messenger shall register with the Registration Secretary by presentation of proper credentials prior to being seated as a messenger to the Convention.

Section 2. The credentials of a registered messenger may be reviewed by the Credentials Committee as deemed necessary.

Section 3. Any challenges to the seating of the messengers of a church will be presented in writing to the Credentials Committee during the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. Any challenges to the ability of a church to have the opportunity to send messengers to the Annual Meeting will be presented in writing to the Executive Board.

Article III – Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of the Convention shall be a gathering for the purpose of worship, fellowship, mobilizing, encouraging, informing and uniting Texas Baptists to accomplish the Great Commission, as well as to elect officers; receiving recommendations and reports of officers, committees and boards; and for any other business that may arise or be scheduled.

Section 2. The Convention shall determine its order of business at the first session of the annual meeting.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 4. In all questions covering the proceedings of the Convention in both annual and special meetings, Robert’s Rules of Order (latest revised edition) shall be the authority used by the presiding officers and by the Convention, unless the Constitution or the Bylaws have special rules of order that apply.

Article IV – Duties of Convention Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the president to preside over the deliberations of the Convention and to discharge such other duties as are usually incumbent on the presiding officer of a deliberative body.

If the president is no longer a member of a church cooperating with the Convention, a vice president shall succeed to the office according to provisions of the Constitution, and this fact shall be so recognized by a resolution of the Executive Board.

Section 2. The vice presidents shall discharge such duties as requested by the president. In the absence of the president from a Convention session, a vice president in the order in which he or she was elected shall preside.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the recording secretary to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Convention, and to file and keep all papers in order deemed important to be preserved.

Section 4. The registration secretary shall be responsible for registration of all messengers of the Convention.

The registration secretary shall report to the chairperson of the Committee on Credentials the number of messengers registered as of the hour the Convention convenes and periodically thereafter as prescribed by the chairperson of the Committee on Credentials.

Following the Convention the registration secretary shall provide the recording secretary the number of messengers registered, arranged by associations.

Section 5. The duties of the secretary of the Corporation shall be to attest legal papers of the Convention.

Article V – Convention Committees

Those committees that use sector criteria for membership shall use the same sectors as used for the Executive Board membership in the Bylaws, Article VI, Section 1, A.

Section 1. The Committee on Annual Meeting shall be responsible for recommending the time and place of future annual meetings of the Convention, for selecting the worship leaders and for formulating the agenda for the annual meeting and submitting the agenda to the messengers for approval at the opening session.

The committee shall have eighteen members appointed for three year terms with six appointed each year by the president and the vice presidents acting jointly.

The president and vice presidents may appoint replacements to fill vacancies.

- A.** This committee shall provide periods of time during the early sessions of the Convention annual meeting for the introduction of all matters requiring a vote not scheduled on the agenda and when introduced shall fix times for consideration for the same, unless the Convention gives its unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.
- B.** This committee shall be responsible for formulating and recommending the Standing Rules of the Convention to the Convention for adoption. The Standing Rules of the Convention may be amended without notice by majority vote.

It also shall be responsible for recommending the disposition of motions made during consideration of miscellaneous business but not finally disposed.

Section 2. The Committee on Credentials shall be responsible for verifying credentials of prospective messengers, enrolling messengers, for investigating any contention arising out of the enrollment of messengers, and for reporting its findings to the Convention. Any challenges to the seating of messengers of church that are based upon the assertion that a church is no longer in harmonious cooperation with Texas Baptists will be referred to the Executive Board and not reported on until the next Annual Meeting. At the time scheduled by the Committee on Annual Meeting, the chairperson of the Committee on Credentials shall report the number of messengers registered as of the opening of the annual meeting or special meeting and periodically thereafter.

The committee when established shall have ten (10) members appointed for two years with five (5) appointed each year by the president and the vice presidents acting jointly. The president and vice presidents may appoint replacements to fill vacancies.

Section 3. The Committee on Committees shall be responsible for nominating persons for election by the Convention to serve on the Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors and the Committee on Nominations for Boards of Affiliated Ministries, and for such special committees as the Convention shall designate. The committee shall have fifteen (15) members appointed for three-year terms with five (5) appointed each year by the president and the vice presidents acting jointly. The president and vice presidents may appoint replacements to fill vacancies.

Section 4. The Committee on Resolutions shall be responsible for receiving all resolutions proposed by messengers and for reporting its findings to the Convention.

The committee shall have ten (10) members appointed for two-year terms with five (5) appointed each year by the president and the vice presidents acting jointly. The president and vice presidents may appoint replacements to fill vacancies.

All resolutions shall be automatically referred to the Committee on Resolutions without public reading or discussion.

This committee is directed to report back to the Convention such resolutions as it deems proper, whether submitted to or prepared by the committee.

Section 5. The Committee on Memorials shall be responsible for preparing and presenting to the Convention suitable memorial statements in remembrance of active Baptists whose death occurred during the year preceding the Convention session.

The committee shall have five (5) members appointed for one-year terms by the president and the vice presidents acting jointly. The president and vice presidents may appoint replacements to fill vacancies.

Section 6. The Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors shall be responsible for nominating persons for election by the Convention to serve on the Executive Board.

- A. The committee shall have fifteen (15) members, five (5) of whom shall be elected each year to serve for three-year terms. Members of this committee shall be elected by the Convention on the nomination of the Committee on Committees.

A member may serve one three-year term and is not eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed. No two members of this committee shall be from churches in the same sector.

The committee shall publish its list of nominees at least two full days prior to the day on which directors of the Executive Board are to be elected by the Convention

- B. All members should be persons with experience in Convention affairs. In the election of the fifteen (15) members, a minimum of six (6) shall be church/denominational employees and a minimum of six (6) non-church/denominational employees. Spouses of church/denominational employees shall be considered in that category. Retired persons and their spouses who served as church/denominational employees shall be considered in that category.
- C. If a member moves from a church in one sector to a church in another sector that is already represented on the committee, the member shall continue to serve until the succeeding Convention at which time the position will be deemed vacant and the Committee on Committees shall make a nomination to the Convention to fill the unexpired term.

If a member resigns or is no longer a member of a church affiliated with the Convention, the position will be deemed vacant and the Committee on Committees may nominate to the Executive Board at its next meeting a person who shall be elected on a temporary basis to serve until the succeeding Convention at which time the membership shall be terminated.

Thereafter, the persons or committee charged with nominating the members of such committee shall make a nomination to the Convention to fill the unexpired term.

- D. The committee shall conduct its work in accordance with a policy adopted by the Executive Board. The policy adopted shall provide for the committee to seek information and suggestions from persons in all sectors.

Section 7. The Committee on Nominations for Boards of Affiliated Ministries shall be responsible for nominating persons for election by the Convention to serve on the boards of trustees and boards of directors of all Convention institutions, agencies, and affiliates.

- A. The committee shall have fifteen (15) members, five (5) of whom shall be elected each year to serve for three-year terms.
Members shall be elected by the Convention on the nomination of the Committee on Committees. A member may serve one three-year term and is not eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed. No two members of this committee shall be from churches in the same sector.
- B. All members should be persons with experience in Convention affairs. In the election of the fifteen (15) members, a minimum of six (6) shall be church/denominational employees and a minimum of six (6) non-church/denominational employees.

Spouses of church/denominational employees shall be considered in that category. Retired persons and their spouses who served as church/denominational employees shall be considered in that category.

- C. If a member moves from a church in one sector to a church in another sector that is already represented on the committee, the member shall continue to serve until the succeeding Convention at which time the position will be deemed vacant and the Committee on Committees shall make a nomination to the Convention to fill the unexpired term.

If a member resigns or is no longer a member of a church affiliated with the Convention, the position will be deemed vacant and the Committee on Committees may nominate to the Executive Board at its next meeting a person who shall be elected on a temporary basis to serve until the succeeding Convention, at which time the membership shall be terminated.

Thereafter, the persons or committee charged with nominating the members of such committee shall make a nomination to the Convention to fill the unexpired term.

- D. The committee shall conduct its work in accordance with a policy adopted by the Executive Board. The policy adopted shall provide for the committee to seek information and suggestions from persons in all sectors. The policy adopted also shall provide for the committee to establish one nominating subcommittee for each institutional board, agency, and affiliate to assist the committee by suggesting names of persons who shall be considered for nomination for election to boards. The committee shall determine the composition of each subcommittee and select the members of each subcommittee.
- E. The subcommittee shall develop the lists of suggested nominees in accordance with criteria established by the Executive Board. The committee shall develop its list of nominees on the basis of the list of suggested nominees presented by the subcommittee, screening those lists to eliminate duplications and to assure compliance with established criteria.

The committee shall publish its list of nominees at least two full days prior to the day on which members of institution boards, agencies, and affiliates are to be elected by the Convention.

Article VI – Executive Board

Section 1. Membership

- A. The elected membership of the Executive Board shall be ninety (90) directors from thirty (30) sectors in the Convention. At least three directors will be elected from each sector. The composition of the Executive Board shall be that as defined in the Constitution. Additionally, at least thirty percent (30%) of the membership shall be non-Anglo persons.

The sectors are based on resident church membership in counties with additional consideration given to the number of churches and Cooperative Program giving for Texas causes. The drawing of sector boundaries is based on the following weighted criteria by county: resident church membership, fifty percent (50%); number of churches, twenty-five percent (25%); and Cooperative Program giving for Texas causes, twenty-five percent (25%).

Large population counties may contain multiple sectors, and smaller population adjacent counties may be grouped into one sector. Counties containing more than one sector will not be subdivided.

Sector boundaries will be evaluated every five years by the Executive Committee of the Board and any changes recommended to the Board for approval.

- B. The Executive Board shall have ex-officio directors in addition to the ninety (90) elected directors. The ex-officio directors shall be divided into these two classes.

Class 1. The president and vice presidents of the Convention and presidents of the recognized fellowships, provided that these presidents are members of churches supportive of the Convention. These persons shall by virtue of office serve with all rights, privileges, and duties of, and shall in all matters be treated as elected directors.

Class 2. The non-voting directors named in the Constitution, Article VII, Section 2, C. These persons shall by virtue of office serve with all rights, privileges, and duties of, and shall in all matters be treated as elected directors, except these persons shall not have the right to vote in regard to actions of the Executive Board or in regard to actions of any committee of the Executive Board, and shall not be counted for purposes of ascertaining a quorum of the Executive Board or of any of its committees nor in the number needed for adoption of certain actions.

- C. If a director of the Executive Board moves from a church in one sector to a church in another sector, the director shall continue to serve until the succeeding Convention at which time the membership shall be terminated and the Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors shall make a nomination to fill the unexpired term.

In order to achieve the purposes and structure dictated by the Constitution, as each incumbent director completes the term to which he or she was elected prior to the adoption of these Bylaws, or in the event any director, prior to the expiration of his or her term, dies, resigns, is no longer a member of a church affiliated with the Convention, is removed by the Convention, or otherwise vacates the office of director, such director's position on the Executive Board determined by the previous provisions shall be deemed eliminated and no vacancy shall be deemed to exist, except as follows: if a sector has less than three directors on the Executive Board or after the time the number of directors positions has been reduced to ninety (90) elected directors, then when a vacancy occurs for any reason outlined in the foregoing sentence, the Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors shall nominate to the Executive Board at its next meeting a person who shall be elected on a temporary basis to serve until the succeeding Convention at which time the membership shall be terminated and the Committee to Nominate Executive Board Directors shall make a nomination to fill the unexpired term.

Should an ex-officio director resign, be unable to continue to serve, or no longer be a member of a church affiliated with the Convention, the position will be deemed vacant.

The Executive Board shall give the entity responsible for the election of such person written notice that such person's position as a director has been deemed vacant and that such director position shall remain vacant until it is filled by such entity's presentation to the Executive Board of another person qualified to serve as such entity's ex-officio director under the Constitution and these Bylaws.

- D. The Constitution and Bylaw provisions in regard to the composition of the Executive Board directors pertain to directors elected under these Bylaws and not to previously elected directors continuing during the transition period.

Section 2. Elected Officers

The Board shall elect a chairperson and a vice chairperson annually. The treasurer/chief financial officer of the Convention shall serve as recording secretary. The officers shall have the following duties:

A. Chairperson

1. Presides at all meetings of the Board.
2. Chairs the Executive Committee.
3. Assists the executive director as the director provides leadership in the planning and implementation of Convention operations and ministries.
4. Consults with the executive director and secretary prior to each meeting to set the agenda.
5. Appoints special committees as authorized by the Board.
6. Represents the Board in meetings of Convention agencies as invited to do so.
7. Serves the Board by carrying out responsibilities assigned to the chair.

B. Vice Chairperson

1. Assists the chairperson throughout the term as may be requested.
2. Presides at meetings of the Board and Executive Committee in the absence of the chairperson or at the request of the chairperson

C. Recording Secretary

The recording secretary is to keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Executive Board and to file and keep in order all papers deemed important to be preserved.

Section 3. Election of Officers

A. Nominations

Nominations shall be made from the floor at the last regular meeting of the year. Nominations shall be made in this order: chairperson and vice chairperson.

B. Voting

The election of officers shall be the first order of business on the agenda at the last regular meeting of the year.

Election shall be by show of hands unless the chairperson with the appointed parliamentarian shall agree that the vote be by ballot. A majority of votes cast shall determine the person chosen.

C. Terms

Officers of the Board shall serve one-year terms and be eligible for one additional term. Terms begin immediately following the close of the last session of the annual meeting of the Convention. Should for any reason the office of chairperson be vacated prior to completion of the term, the vice chairperson shall become chairperson for the remainder of the term.

In such case, the vacancy of the vice chairperson would be filled at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board.

Section 4. Meetings

A. Authority

The Board shall meet at times and on a schedule that it adopts. The meeting date of the Convention should be a strongly influencing factor in the determination of when the Board meets.

The meetings should be calendared so as to supplement and facilitate the total work of the Convention in support of all Convention-adopted programs.

The meeting schedule of the Board shall be recommended to the Board by the Executive Director.

B. Meeting Times

The Board shall determine three-to-five years in advance the three times during each calendar year it meets.

C. Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Board shall be the one conducted prior to but not necessarily in conjunction with the annual Convention meeting. At this meeting, the Board will elect officers, may appoint committees, and consider other business as may come before the meeting.

D. Place of Meeting

The Board may designate any place within the State of Texas as the place of meeting.

E. Notice of Meetings

Written notice stating the place, day, and hour of any meeting of directors shall be delivered either personally, by mail, or by electronic means to each director, not less than 10 days or more than 60 days before the date of such meeting by or at the direction of the chairperson.

F. Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the executive director and/or the chairperson with the consent of two of the following: the vice chairperson of the Board and the president and vice presidents of the Convention; or may be called by not less than twenty percent (20%) of the directors.

The call for a special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting, and the time, date, and place for the meeting. The special meeting shall be limited to the purpose stated.

G. There will be no proxy voting.

Section 5. Committees

Descriptions of the committees and duties of the Executive Board Committees will be described in the policy of the Executive Board as adopted by the Executive Board.

Section 6. Voting by Mail or Electronic Means

Any action required by law to be taken at a meeting of directors or any action which may be taken at a meeting of directors may be taken without a meeting if consented to and signed by a requisite number of directors of the Executive Board who are entitled to vote, either in writing, by mail ballot, by electronic means, or by some combination of both, with respect to the subject matter thereof.

The requisite number is the number that would be necessary to take that action at a meeting at which the directors were present and voted. Where a specific business item may need action prior to a regular meeting, the chairperson, or the vice chairperson in his absence, may conduct the voting by mail or by electronic means, or by some combination of both.

No vote shall be taken by electronic means or by telephone unless notice of such proposed vote to be taken has been communicated by electronic means, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by any of these means, to all members of the Executive Board or to the committee or subcommittee proposing to take a vote at least three (3) business days prior to the first day on which votes will be accepted. Notice by mail shall be deemed properly given if deposited in the U.S. Mail at least five (5) business days prior to such first day.

Voting by fax, email, dedicated website, any similar technology, or any combination of such means shall constitute "electronic means" for purposes of this and the following section.

"Signing" of a ballot or other confirmation of a vote by way of electronic means shall be broadly construed to permit effective utilization of such means.

In addition, committees and subcommittees of the Executive Board, together with any group authorized under Section F. of this article, but not the Executive Board as a whole, may take votes telephonically as a part of a committee or subcommittee meeting via conference telephone call or any other electronic conferencing media (and without necessity of a signed ballot). Written memoranda or minutes shall be made of all meetings and votes undertaken by electronic means or telephonically or by mail, and shall be entered into the records of the Executive Board or the appropriate committee or subcommittee as of the next meeting in which the members assemble in person.

There will be no proxy voting and therefore voting by mail or by electronic means shall not be considered to be voting by proxy.

Section 7. Quorum

The directors holding one-half (50%) of the total votes which may be cast at any meeting shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. Compensation

Directors shall not receive any salaries for their services but may receive reimbursement for appropriate travel expenses.

Article VII – Convention Employees**Section 1. Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer Recruitment**

The Executive Board is to establish a search committee composed of seven (7) members of the Executive Board appointed by the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Executive Board and eight (8) members of the Convention-at-large appointed by the president and vice presidents of the Convention.

The chairperson and vice chairperson of the Executive Board and president and vice presidents of the Convention will nominate a chairperson of the Search Committee from among the fifteen (15) members. The Executive Board is to approve the Search Committee and the chairperson.

Section 2. Associate Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer Recruitment

The executive director with the chairperson and vice chairperson of the Executive Board and the president of the Convention shall compose the search committee for the associate executive director/chief operating officer and the treasurer /chief financial officer as needed.

Section 3. Other Employees of the Convention

The executive director is authorized to employ other staff as needed in the plan of work and as provided by the financial plan of the Convention.

Article VIII – Amendments

These Bylaws may be changed or amended at any regular session of the Convention’s annual meeting, except the last session of the meeting, provided said change or amendment is offered at the first session of the annual meeting, and carries over to some subsequent session during the same meeting, and then receives a two-third’s majority of messengers present and voting in the session.

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