



**SECOND DAY  
October 25, 2023**

**Report of the  
Committee on Nominations**

**MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
CONVENTION**

*IMPACT Mississippi*  
1 Peter 4.10

**First Session – Tuesday Morning**

(1) The Combined Baptist University Choirs and Orchestra led in a Call to Worship singing *Thou Oh Lord*.  
 (2) President Lloyd Sweatt, Pastor of Meadowood BC, Amory, called the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to order by the sounding of the gavel.  
 (3) President Sweatt recognized Gee Ogletree who will serve as the Convention Parliamentarian.  
 (4) Sam Taylor, Senior Pastor, FBC, Petal, voiced the prayer.  
 (5) Chip Stevens, Senior Pastor, FBC, Jackson, welcomed the convention messengers to FBC, Jackson.  
 (6) President Lloyd Sweatt organized the 187<sup>th</sup> Convention. Michael Weeks, Recording Secretary and Pastor of Pleasant Hill BC, Olive Branch, made the **MOTION** "That the duly elected 508 messengers from the churches who had registered by 8:35 a.m. and those yet to be registered shall constitute the Body of the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention for the transaction of the business thereof."  
**MOTION SECONDED and PASSED.**  
 (7) Kristopher Smith, Chair of the Committee on Order of Business and Worship Pastor of Carterville BC, Petal,  
*...continued on page 2*

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION  
100-MEMBER BOARD**

- \* Indicates **At Large Members**  
Underlined if a new term or new member filling unexpired term  
**Term Expires 2024 – (5 At Large Members\*)**
- Attala----- Rev. James Young-----Sallis
  - Calhoun ----- Rev. Roger Reeder-----Derma
  - Carroll----- Rev. David Bartlett-----Greenwood
  - Cov/Jeff Davis-----Dr. Roland McMillan-----Prentiss
  - George Co----- Dr. Paul Brashier \*-----Lucedale
  - George-Greene-----Dr. Tommy Mitchell-----Lucedale
  - George-Greene-----Rev. Perry Robbins-----Leakesville
  - Golden Triangle(Clay)-----Dr. Joe Wiggins----- West Point
  - Holmes ----- Mr. Bill Barrett-----Lexington
  - Jasper ----- Rev. Ed King-----Bay Springs
  - Jones ----- Rev. Billy Dowdy-----Laurel
  - Lamar County ----- Rev. Terry Phillips-----Sumrall
  - Lawrence----- Rev. Matt Robinson-----Oak Vale
  - Lee ----- Dr. Keith Cochran-----Tupelo
  - Lee ----- Rev. Matt Powell \*-----Tupelo
  - Lincoln ----- Rev. Wayne Moak-----Wesson
  - X-Tended Msns (DeSoto)-----Rev. Dean Stewart\*--Olive Branch
  - Mid-Delta (Leflore)--Rev. Collin Montgomery-----Greenwood
  - Mississippi (Amite)-----Ms. Michelle VanNorman-----Liberty
  - Monroe-----Rev. Jimmy McFatter-----Amory
  - Montgomery-----Rev. Ben Hill-----Stewart
  - North Central (Grenada) --Rev. Eugene Heimbach--Grenada
  - North Delta (Quitman)----- Rev. Jon Hood-----Marks
  - North Delta (Tunica) -----Mr. Charles Hailey-----Tunica
  - Pearl River -----Mr. Mike Tyson-----Picayune
  - Perry ----- Rev. Josh Dunn-----Richton
  - Pine Belt ----- Rev. Neil Harvison-----Hattiesburg
  - Rankin----- Rev. Donnie Stuart \*-----Pelahatchie
  - Washington-----Rev. Eddie Jones \*-----Greenville
  - Washington Co-----Dr. Jack Manor-----Hollandale
  - Winston ----- Rev. Mark Mayo-----Louisville
  - X-Tended Msns (Tate)-----Rev. Tim Smith-----Coldwater
- Term Expires 2025 – (7 At Large Members\*)**
- Adams-----Rev. Carl Smith-----Washington
  - Alcorn----- Dr. Nathan VanHorn-----Corinth
  - Benton-Tippah----- Rev. Fred McGuffin---- Hickory Flat
  - Choctaw ----- Mrs. Allegra Brigham\*----- Ackerman
  - Choctaw ----- Dr. Danny Irvin-----Ackerman
  - CMN (Marshall) ----- Mr. Mike Hamblin-----Byhalia
  - Golden Triangle (Oktibbeha)---Dr. Grant Arinder---Starkville
  - Issaquena ----- Mr. Jimmy C. Newman---Valley Park
  - Itawamba ----- Rev. Randy Spencer-----Tremont
  - CMN (Lafayette)-----Rev. Don Gann \*-----Oxford
  - Pine Belt (Forrest)-----Rev. Steven Platt \*-----Hattiesburg
  - Lincoln ----- Rev. Greg Warnock \*-----Brookhaven
  - Marion ----- Rev. Zachary Smith-----Sandy Hook
  - Metro (Hinds)-----Rev. Greg Divinity \*-----Jackson
  - North Delta -----Rev. Danny Smith \*-----Tunica

- Newton----- --Dr. Corey Fontan-----Union
  - North Central (Tallahatchie)---Rev. Gary Bunch-----Tillatoba
  - North Delta (Coahoma)---Rev. Joel Stroud -----Lyon
  - Prentiss----- -- Rev. Jason Reed-----Booneville
  - Rankin ----- -- Dr. John Cofer-----Flowood
  - Scott ----- --Rev. Gary Wyatt-----Morton
  - Sharkey-----Mr. Penley Sorrels-----Delta City
  - Simpson County-----Dr. Jim Taylor-----Magee
  - Tishomingo County-----Rev. Barry Holcomb-----Belmont
  - Union (Jefferson) ----- Mr. Carey Buckles-----Smithdale
  - Walthall ----- --Rev. Justin Knight -----Tylertown
  - Wayne ----- Rev. Michael Stevenson-----State Line
  - Webster ----- Rev. Travis Gray-----Eupora
  - XMN (DeSoto)-----Rev. Brian Hood\*-----Hernando
  - Yazoo-----Rev. Luke Edwards-----Yazoo City
- Term Expires 2026 – (6 At Large Members\*)**
- Benton-Tippah ----- Rev. Stanley Phillips-----Ripley
  - Chickasaw ----- Rev. Patrick Collins-----Houlka
  - Clarke ----- Dr. Gene Neal-----Quitman
  - Copiah ----- Rev. Chris Teasley-----Crystal Springs
  - Covington-Jeff Davis----- Rev. Brooks Porter----- Collins
  - Franklin ----- Rev. Leon Wallace-----Meadville
  - Golden Triangle(Lowndes)---Rev. Mel Howton-----Columbus
  - Golden Triangle (Noxubee)---Rev. Sean Greer-----Macon
  - Golden Triangle (Oktibbeha)---Dr. Andy Brown \*-- Starkville
  - Gulf Coast (Hancock)---Rev. Derek Fortenberry---Bay St. Louis
  - Gulf Coast (Hancock)----- Dr. Barry Ginn \*-----Bay St. Louis
  - Gulf Coast (Harrison)-----Mr. Lucky Langston-----Gulfport
  - Gulf Coast (Stone)----- Mr. Dana Parsons-----Wiggins
  - Humphreys----- Mr. Ronnie Ferrell-----Isola
  - Jackson----- Dr. Michael Barnett-----Ocean Springs
  - Kemper----- Mr. Larry Waller----- Scooba
  - Collaborative (Lafayette)----- Mr. Bob Jackson-----Oxford
  - Lauderdale ----- Dr. John Temple-----Meridian
  - Leake County ----- Rev. Stephen Evans-----Walnut Grove
  - Metro (Hinds)----- Dr. Andy Fullington ----- Jackson
  - Metro (Hinds)----- Mrs. Camea McDaniel \*----- Jackson
  - Metro (Madison)----- Dr. Jon Daniels-----Flora
  - Mid-Delta (Bolivar)----- Rev. Andrew Harper-----Cleveland
  - Mid-Delta (Sunflower)--- Rev. Jimmy Pender-----Indianola
  - Mississippi (Wilkinson)--- Dr. George Bannister---Woodville
  - Monroe ----- Dr. Allen Simpson \*-----Amory
  - Neshoba County----- Rev. Curt Pace-----Philadelphia
  - New Choctaw ----- Rev. Charles Henry \*----- Philadelphia
  - Panola ----- Rev. Keith Bolen-----Batesville
  - Pearl River ----- Rev. Justin Anderson \*----- Picayune
  - Pike----- Rev. Tim Daniels-----Magnolia
  - Pontotoc County----- Dr. David Hamilton-----Pontotoc
  - Smith County ----- Rev. Keith Ramage----- Raleigh
  - Union (Claiborne)----- Mr. Ronnie Hynum -----Port Gibson
  - Union County----- Dr. Andrew Chesteen-----New Albany
  - Warren----- Rev. Bill Wright----- Vicksburg
  - X-Tended Msns (DeSoto)--- Rev. Eddie Barlow---Southaven
  - Yalobusha ----- Rev. Elbert McKnight-----Coffeeville

**OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
2024-2026**

\* Beginning a new term.  
Underlined if not on board last year.  
\*\* Completing an unexpired term.

**BOARD OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mrs. Judy Huddleston ----- New Albany  
Rev. Ryan Reed ----- Bruce  
Rev. Louis Zinc ----- Oxford

**Term Expires 2025**

Rev. Austin Bahm ----- Hattiesburg  
Dr. Brian Rushing ----- Meridian  
Rev. Neil Tullos ----- Wiggins

**Term Expires 2026**

Rev. Lee Faler \* ----- Collins  
Rev. Reid Stevens \* ----- Forest  
Rev. Jason Webb ----- Magee

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION, INC.**

**Term Expires 2024**

Rev. Phillip Gandy ----- Waynesboro  
Mr. Fred M. Harrell, Jr. ----- Brandon  
Dr. Wayne Marshall ----- Clinton  
Dr. Valerie Morgan ----- Indianola  
Rev. Dan Robertson ----- Starkville

**Term Expires 2025**

Mrs. Jane Earnest ----- Brandon  
Mrs. Robin Knapp \*\* ----- Gulfport  
Dr. Russell Mord ----- Crawford  
Mrs. Lynn Wagner ----- Hickory  
Rev. David Westmoreland ----- Vaiden

**Term Expires 2026**

Dr. Bruce Cappleman ----- Brandon  
Rev. Jerry East \* ----- Oxford  
Rev. Chris Layton \* ----- Brookhaven  
Mrs. Diane Thompson ----- Corinth

**EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mr. Trent Baldwin ----- Ridgeland  
Dr. Jeff Doremus ----- Brookhaven  
Dr. Ken Hester ----- Pontotoc  
Rev. Derrick Wilson ----- Meridian

**Term Expires 2025**

Dr. Willie Greer ----- Meridian  
Ms. Pam Harrison ----- Meridian  
Rev. Brian McKee ----- Summit  
Dr. Ben Skipper ----- Petal

**Term Expires 2026**

Mr. Jeremy Nicholas ----- Starkville  
Dr. Tom Prather \* ----- Clinton  
Dr. Billy Stewart ----- Jackson

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mrs. Johanne Bryant ----- Kosciusko  
Mrs. Cathy Moss ----- Natchez  
Rev. Truman Scarborough ----- Grenada

**Term Expires 2025**

Rev. Don Hicks ----- Brandon  
Rev. Mark McArthur ----- Columbia  
Rev. Dionne Williams ----- Gulfport

**Term Expires 2026**

Dr. Rory Lee \* ----- Clinton  
Dr. John Maxey \* ----- Marion

Rev. JR Ray ----- Pontotoc

**THE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mr. Jay Michael Drake ----- Pickens  
Mrs. Chyrl Grubbs ----- Madison  
Mrs. Jan Polk ----- Hattiesburg  
Dr. Victor Walsh ----- Summit  
Rev. Larry Young ----- Pace

**Term Expires 2025**

Rev. Wayne Edwards ----- Meridian  
Mrs. Ann Huber ----- Cleveland  
Mr. Chris Jones ----- Madison  
Dr. Steven Smith ----- Waynesboro  
Mr. Percy Thornton ----- Clinton

**Term Expires 2026**

Rev. Steve Jordan \* ----- Kosciusko  
Mr. James "Jimmy" Johnson \* ----- Brandon  
Mr. Dale Jackson \* ----- New Albany  
Mr. Larry Glass \* ----- Flowood  
Dr. Jim Hurt \* ----- Starkville

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mr. Robert Don. Baker ----- Amory  
Mr. Jim Ford ----- Columbus  
Mr. Jerome (Jerry) Hoeniges ----- Brookhaven

**Term Expires 2025**

Mr. Ricky Ferguson ----- Randolph  
Mr. David Gladden ----- Cleveland  
Mr. Shawn Harris ----- Hattiesburg  
Mrs. Robin Sanderson ----- Columbia  
Mr. Kearney Travis ----- Hattiesburg

**Term Expires 2026**

Mr. Jonathan Adcock \* ----- Madison  
Mr. Paul Breazeale \* ----- Jackson  
Mr. Lee Gill \* ----- Hattiesburg  
Mr. Eddie Joe \* ----- Madison  
Mr. Steve Narbo \* ----- Madison  
Mrs. Brittney Pickering \* ----- Laurel

**BAPTIST MEMORIAL  
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, INC.**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mr. Ward Bloodworth ----- Hernando  
Mrs. Margaret Elizabeth Fitts ----- Oxford  
Dr. John Stanford ----- Ripley

**Term Expires 2025**

Mr. Sherwin Haynie ----- Abbeville  
Mr. Allen Puckett, II ----- Columbus

**Term Expires 2026**

Mr. Ronnie Sleeper \* ----- Corinth  
Mr. William Rhodes Thompson \* ----- Hernando  
Mr. Gary Wilkinson \* ----- Lauderdale

**BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**Term Expires 2024**

Dr. Randy Bostick ----- Corinth  
Mr. Mike Clayborne ----- Tupelo  
Dr. Leora Duce-Byrd ----- Ripley  
Mrs. LuAnne Travis Ford ----- Booneville  
Mrs. Joy Hurt Hill ----- New Albany  
Dr. Tommy Vinson ----- Collierville, TN

**Term Expires 2025**

Mr. BJ Canup ----- Tremont  
Mr. Walter Grace ----- New Albany  
Ms. Linda Gholston ----- Baldwin  
Mrs. Norma Ruth Lee ----- Madison  
Rev. James Lewis ----- Southaven  
Mr. Mike Staten ----- New Albany

**Term Expires 2026**

Mr. Bob Glover \* ----- Ripley  
Mr. Harold Wayne Hankins \* ----- Ripley  
Mr. Greg Pirkle \* ----- Belden  
Mrs. Melissa Scott \* ----- New Albany  
Mr. Tommy Tapp \* ----- Amory  
Dr. Carl White \* ----- Clinton

**MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE**

**Term Expires 2024**

Rev. Barry Corbett ----- Brandon  
Ms. Tina Fulcher ----- Madison  
Congressman Gregg Harper ----- Pearl  
Ms. Jane Hederman ----- Jackson  
Dr. Jeff Holland ----- Vicksburg  
Judge Tom Lee ----- Forest  
Mr. Paul Moak ----- Ridgeland  
Mr. Ronnie Smith ----- Franklin, TN  
Dr. Robert Watson ----- Ridgeland

**Term Expires 2025**

Mr. Ralph Barnes ----- Canton  
Dr. Ronnie Falvey ----- Madison  
Mr. Roy Fountain ----- Forest  
Mr. Oscar Miskelly ----- Flowood  
Rev. Hugh Plunkett ----- Tylertown  
Mr. Bill Sones ----- Brookhaven  
Mr. Art Stevens ----- Ridgeland  
Mr. Tony Stringer ----- Tylertown  
Mr. Bob Waller \*\* ----- Jackson

**Term Expires 2026**

Ms. Amanda Alexander-Taylor \* ----- Madison  
Rev. Brian Crawford \* ----- Vicksburg  
Dr. Eddie Donahoe \* ----- Indianola  
Ms. La'Verne Edney \* ----- Jackson  
Dr. David Eldridge \* ----- Birmingham, AL  
Dr. Susan Fortenberry \* ----- Clinton  
Mr. Wally Henry \* ----- Pontotoc  
Mr. Tony Huffman \* ----- Flowood  
Dr. Marjorie Lenoir \* ----- Canton  
Dr. Dwayne Pickett \* ----- Crystal Springs  
Dr. Chip Stevens \* ----- Flowood  
Mr. Gary Watts \* ----- Madison

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY**

**Term Expires 2024**

Mr. Odean Busby ----- Flowood  
Mrs. Nell Henderson ----- Sumrall  
Dr. Dan Hull ----- Gulfport  
Dr. Raymon Leake ----- Meridian  
Dr. Eric Lindstrom ----- Laurel  
Mrs. Brenda Ross ----- Hattiesburg  
Dr. LaRue Stephens ----- Long Beach

**Term Expires 2025**

Mr. Ted Bower ----- Hattiesburg  
Rev. Leander Bridges ----- Ellisville  
Mr. Stan Burton \*\* ----- Ellisville  
Mrs. Joey Fail Garner ----- Ridgeland  
Dr. Gary Gordon ----- Bay Springs  
Mr. Brett Jones ----- Columbia  
Dr. William K. Ray ----- Hattiesburg  
Mr. Jack Simmons ----- Hattiesburg  
Mr. Brett Valentine ----- Sumrall

**Term Expires 2026**

Dr. Brian R. Dix \* ----- Pass Christian  
Hon. Charles Pickering, Sr. \* ----- Taylorsville  
Dr. Robert Donnell \* ----- Hattiesburg  
Mr. Phil Hanberry \* ----- Hattiesburg  
Mr. Gary Shows \* ----- Hattiesburg  
Mr. Alan Sudduth \* ----- Pascagoula  
Dr. Brent Parker \* ----- Vandleave

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made the MOTION "That the printed order of business and any adjustments to be made constitute the program for

the 187<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.”

MOTION PASSED. Other members serving on the Order of Business Committee are: Breck Ladd, Senior Pastor, FBC, Madison; David Oliver, Worship Pastor, Crossgates BC, Brandon; Tommy Mitchell, Senior Pastor, Agricola BC, Lucedale; Grant Stegall, Associate Pastor, DeSoto Hills BC, Southaven; and Brian Rushing, Associational Missions Strategist, Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Gulfport.

(8) President Lloyd Sweatt announced the Tellers and Credentials Committees as follows:

**The Tellers Committee** – Mark Mayo, Murphy Creek BC, Louisville; Brent Barker, Emmanuel BC, Grenada; Zack Carter, Central Grove BC, Aberdeen; Justin Haynes, Bigbee BC, Amory; Mel Howton, New Salem BC, Columbus; David Jay, County Line BC, Union; Caleb Monaghan, Northcrest BC, Meridian; Timothy “Bobo” Phillipson, Scott County Baptist Association, Forest; Dean Stewart, LaBelle Haven BC, Olive Branch; and Jason West, Hamilton BC, Hamilton. **The Credentials Committee** – Allen Simpson, Chair and Senior Pastor, FBC, Amory; Michael Barnett, Pastor, FBC, Ocean Springs; John Maxey, AMS, Lauderdale BA, Marion; Jim Phillips, Senior Pastor, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; and Stanley Phillips, Pastor, FBC, Ripley.

(9) President Sweatt called for resolutions to be presented. Carl White, Messenger, Pineview BC, Clinton, presented a “Resolution of Gratitude for the Work and Accomplishments of William H. Perkins as Editor of The Baptist Record.” Don Gann, Messenger, FBC, Oxford presented a “Resolution in Support of Mississippi Laws Regarding Pastor Sexual Abuse.”

(10) Jimmy Stewart, Chairman of the Committee on Committees and Senior Pastor of FBC, Gulfport, introduced the committee members: Scott Hanberry, Pastor, Hardy Street BC, Hattiesburg; Hal Selby, Senior Pastor, Adaton BC, Starkville; Bill Hurt, Senior Pastor, Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus; and Lowell Walker, Jr, Pastor, Mt Sinai BC, Tupelo; and made a **MOTION** to adopt the

report as printed in the First Day Bulletin. **MOTION PASSED.**

(11) Jason Carson, Minister of Music, Meadowood BC, Amory, and Praise Team led in Congregational Worship – *Psalm 150, Doxology, Praise Him, Praise Him, and Revive Us Again.*

(12) Danny Smith, President of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and Pastor, FBC, Tunica, was recognized to give the Convention Board Report. He was joined by Debbie Battle, American Sign Language Interpreter and Member, Liberty BC, Flowood.

(13) President Sweatt called for nominations for president of the Convention to serve in 2024. Russell Mord, AMS, Golden Triangle BA, Columbus, nominated Bill Hurt, Senior Pastor, Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus, as President. Brian Hood, Lead Pastor, Community Point Baptist Church, Hernando, seconded the nomination. Nominations ceased. No other nominations were made. Michael Weeks, recording secretary, cast the single ballot “All for one and one for all.”

(14) President Sweatt called on Doug Gunn, Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee and member of FBC Jackson, to make a presentation.

### **Amendment Process for the Mississippi Baptist Convention’s Constitution and The Plan of Organization and Action**

#### **Article VIII, Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Convention by a two-thirds vote of the messengers present subject to the following four stipulations:

- (1) Notice in writing setting forth the exact wording of the proposed amendment shall have been given at the annual meeting of the Convention of the immediately preceding year;
- (2) Such proposed amendment shall be published in the Annual and in **The Baptist Record**, and referred to the standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for study and recommendations;
- (3) Such amendment shall be adopted before the last day of the annual meeting;

(4) A quorum of the messengers shall be present at the time the vote is taken.

#### **Article XXII, Amendments**

This Plan of Organization and Action may be amended in the same way as the Constitution proper (see Constitution, Article VIII, Amendments).

*Proposed Amendments:*

### **THE CONSTITUTION**

#### **Article VII, Powers**

Section 1. The Convention shall have power and authority to own, aid, support, and control schools, colleges/universities, hospitals, residential child care agencies,...

### **THE PLAN OF ORGANIZATION AND ACTION**

#### **Article I, The Convention Board**

Section 4. ... The Convention Board is authorized to receive gifts, accept donations, borrow money, execute notes, and make any and all other necessary financial arrangements ~~in~~ on behalf of the Convention; ...

#### **Article VII, Trustees of Colleges/Universities, Hospitals, Child Care Agency**

Section 1. Each college/university, hospital, or child care agency owned and supported by the Convention shall be operated and controlled by a board of trustees of at least fifteen but not more than thirty members elected by the Convention for terms of three years in the manner prescribed by the Bylaws of the Convention.

#### **Article IX, The Education Commission**

Section 2. The Education Commission serves as a liaison between the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Mississippi Baptist institutions of higher learning. In particular, the Education Commission shall:

- (1) Cultivate the interest and financial assistance of Mississippi Baptists on behalf of Christian higher education;
- (2) Seek to strengthen the colleges/universities of Mississippi Baptists and unify the efforts of these institutions in the Convention program of to fulfill the

Great Commission through Christian higher education;

~~(3) Receive, study, evaluate and offer necessary recommendations on annual reports, audits and recommendations of the educational institutions and the Board of Ministerial Education;~~

~~(4) Inaugurate, promote and direct any program of study, survey, research or evaluation of the institutions as may be deemed necessary to the welfare and health of the institution or the Convention;~~

~~(5) (3) Make recommendations observations, through the Convention Board to the Convention, concerning all cooperative efforts in the field of Christian higher education; for the promotion and/or enhancement of the Convention's educational institutions;~~

~~(6) (4) Recommend to the Convention Board institutional apportionments or methods for determining these from the funds set aside by the Convention for Christian higher education;~~

~~(7) Be the channel through the Convention Board to the Convention for all matters relating to the total program of the Convention's educational institutions, including new or additional programs or projects, involving additional financial assistance from the Convention.~~

**Article XVI, New Enterprises**

~~Section 1. No new objects or enterprises involving the expenditure of money shall be projected by any institution or agency of the Convention until such object or enterprise is approved by the Convention. Announcement of the purpose to seek such approval shall be made through columns of **The Baptist Record** at least 30 days before the meeting of the Convention in which such request is to be made.~~

~~Section 2. Construction on no new object involving the expenditure of money shall be begun until sufficient means is in hand for the completion of such project, the sole exception being that large projects planned to be completed in units may be begun when means are in hand for the completion of first units; each subsequent unit may then be begun when means are in hand for the completion of it.~~

**(Update remaining Roman Numerals in the Plan of Action and Organization, accordingly)**

**Article XIX XVIII, Reports**

Section 2. The report of the Convention Board shall be divided into ~~four~~ **three** parts as follows:

(1) Administration, including a resume of the principal activities of the year, **The Baptist Record** report, the treasurer's report, and the principal ~~promotional~~ **ministry/program** activities of the year.

(2) The audit summary required in Article ~~XVIII XVII~~, above.

~~(3) Missions in Mississippi, including Sunday School, Discipleship & Family Ministry, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, Student Work, Evangelism, Missions Extension & Associational Administration, Church Minister Relations & Annuity, Church Music, Church Administration Pastoral Ministries, and any and all other activities promoted by the Convention Board in Mississippi.~~

~~(4) Missions outside Mississippi, including current activities of the North American and International Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention.~~

Section 4. The report of the Education Commission shall include the reports of the ~~schools and colleges and universities,~~ the report of the Ministerial Board,...

**Proposed amendments for presentation current year 2023, discussion and vote during the 2024 Convention:**

**Article V, Convention Institutions, Commissions, Boards and Other Units of Work**

The institutions sponsored and supported by the Convention shall be as follows: **EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:** Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi; Blue Mountain ~~College~~ **Christian University**, Blue Mountain, Mississippi; William Carey ~~College~~ **University**, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; ~~the School of Allied Health Programs of the Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi.~~ **HOSPITALS:** The Mississippi Baptist Health Systems, Inc., Jackson, Mississippi; and in cooperation with the

~~Arkansas and Tennessee Baptist Conventions, the~~ **The Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc., Memphis, Tennessee, in cooperation with the Arkansas and Tennessee Baptist Conventions.** **CHILD CARE AGENCY:** The Baptist Children's Village, Jackson, Mississippi. ...

**Article XX XIX, The Convention Annual**

Section 2. One copy of the annual of the Mississippi Baptist Convention shall be ~~mailed~~ **provided** to each ~~pastor of cooperating church in the state as soon as practicable. after publication.~~

(15) A quorum was present when the vote was taken. President Sweatt called for a vote. The MOTION passed.

(16) Marty Evans, Messenger, Mt. Pisgah BC, Enid, asked if printed minutes would be available. It was confirmed that printed minutes would be available.

(17) President Sweatt noted that the two changes that were presented this Convention will be discussed and voted on in 2024.

(18) The Combined Choirs and Orchestra led in Worship through Music – *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me.*

(19) Sam Ivy, Director, Collegiate Ministries, MBCB, gave a report of 100 Years of BSU Ministry in Mississippi.

(20) A summer missions video highlight was presented.

(21) Meadowood Worship Team led the congregation in singing *Hallelujah What a Savior with My Savior's Love and Victory in Jesus.*

(22) The Combined Choirs led in Worship through Music – *I See Grace and Amazing Grace.*

(23) Chip Stevens, Senior Pastor, FBC, Jackson, was introduced to give the Bible Treasures. The theme of his message was "God is the Exceedingly Great Reward – Part 1" from Genesis 12.1-4; 15.1-3.

(24) Justin Anderson, Senior Pastor, Pine Grove BC, Picayune, read 1 Samuel 3.1-11.

(25) Rita Sweatt, Mary Megan Parker, Molly Steed, and Shelby Sweatt led in Worship in Song – *Hymn of Heaven.*

(26) Lloyd Sweatt gave the President's Address entitled "Challenge to Those Called" from Mark 9.30-35.

(27) Mark Gurley, Minister of Missions, Meadowood BC, Amory, led the benediction.

### Second Session – Tuesday Afternoon

(28) The Mississippi Singing Churchmen under the direction of Slater Murphy, presented a Choral Praise and a Concert of Praise: *Thou Oh Lord, Be Thou My Vision, I Will Not Be Shaken*, and *And Can it Be*.

(29) Bill Hurt, First Vice President and Senior Pastor of Pleasant Hill BC, Columbus, called the Second Session to order.

(30) Rita Sweatt, Member, Meadowood BC, Amory, led the prayer.

(31) Bradley White, Worship Pastor, FBC, Summit, read Jeremiah 1.4-10.

(32) Chip Stevens brought Bible Treasures, "God is the Exceedingly Great Reward – Part 2," from Exodus 18.

(33) The Mississippi Singing Churchmen presented a Concert of Praise: *Favorite Song of All* and *Hymn of Heaven*.

(34) President Lloyd Sweatt presided over the Business Session. The number of registered messengers was 728.

(35) President Sweatt recognized Greg Warnock, Chair of the Budget Committee, and Pastor of FBC, Brookhaven, to present the proposed 2024 Cooperative Program Budget in the amount of \$30,890,325. Other members serving on the committee are: Eddie Barlow, Pastor, Boulevard BC, Southaven; Mike Barnett, Senior Pastor, FBC Ocean Springs; Brian Hood, Lead Pastor, Community Point Baptist Church, Hernando; Jon Hood, Pastor, FBC Marks; Mel Howton, Pastor, New Salem, Columbus; Roland McMillan, Pastor, Prentiss BC, Prentiss; Michael Stevenson, Pastor, FBC Stateline, State Line; and Leon Wallace, Pastor, Siloam BC, Meadville. The proposed 2024 Cooperative Program Budget presented was a .70% percentage increase from the 2023 Budget. The discussion and vote will be taken in the Wednesday morning Business Session.

(36) President Sweatt called for nominations for First Vice President. Scott Hanberry, Pastor, Hardy Street BC, Hattiesburg, was nominated by Shane Freeman, Messenger and Pastor, Macedonia BC, Petal. Randy Sims,

Messenger, Temple BC, Hattiesburg, and AMS, Pine Belt BA, seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Michael Weeks, recording secretary, cast the single ballot "All for one and one for all."

(37) President Sweatt called for nominations for the Recording Secretary. There was a MOTION and SECOND from the floor to nominate Michael Weeks, Pastor, Pleasant Hill BC, Olive Branch. No other nominations were made. Will McNeese, Associate Recording Secretary, cast the single ballot, "One for all and all for one."

(38) President Sweatt called for nominations for Associate Recording Secretary. There was a MOTION and SECOND from the floor to nominate Will McNeese, Pastor, FBC, Polkville. There were no other nominations and Michael Weeks, Recording Secretary, was asked to cast the single ballot, "One for all and all for one."

(39) President Sweatt called for the presentation of Resolutions. Joel Stroud, Messenger and Pastor, Lyon BC, Lyon, presented a "Resolution Regarding Hamas' October 7<sup>th</sup> Attack on Israel."

(40) President Sweatt called for miscellaneous business. There was none.

(41) A summer missions video highlight was presented.

(42) Mark Mathis, Pastor of Worship and Media, FBC, New Albany, led the congregation in singing *Who Can Satisfy My Soul Like You* and *Mercy*.

(43) President Sweatt called the Convention back into business session and asked for nominations for Second Vice President. Gary Wyatt, Member, North Morton BC, Morton, was nominated for Second Vice President by Don Gann, Messenger and Senior Pastor, FBC, Oxford. Seconded from the floor. David Haynes, Senior Pastor, Trinity BC, Fulton, was nominated by David Hamilton, Messenger and Senior Pastor, West Heights BC, Pontotoc. Ronald Meeks, Messenger and Member, FBC, Corinth, seconded the nomination. The President called on the Recording Secretary to give instructions about the ballot vote.

(44) President Sweatt called for miscellaneous business. There was none.

(45) Rev. Brad Eubank, Chair of the Sexual Abuse Response Team, and Senior Pastor, Petal FBC, was recognized to give the Sexual Abuse Response Team report. Rev. Eubank introduced members of the Response Team: Melanie Benson, Member, East End BC, Caledonia; Don Gann, Senior Pastor, FBC Oxford; Laura Gee, Interim Preschool/Children's Ministry Coordinator, FBC Vicksburg; Jim Phillips, Senior Pastor, North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; Wade Phillips, Senior Pastor, Northcrest BC, Meridian; Will Wall, Senior Pastor, FBC, Meridian; and Lydia Warren, Member, Crossgates BC, Brandon. Advisory positions: Angie Boydston, Preschool/Children's Consultant, MBCB; John Damon, Member, Broadmoor BC, Madison; and Joyce Hall, Member, Broadmoor BC, Madison. Messengers received a brochure and booklet entitled Pathway to Abuse Response and Prevention. Materials can be found at [www.mbc.org/sart](http://www.mbc.org/sart).

(46) FBC New Albany led in a Music Feature: *Ain't No Grave, Total Praise*, and *I Believe*.

(47) Andrew Chesteen, Senior Pastor, FBC, New Albany, delivered the Convention Sermon, "Our Compassionate Christ" from Luke 7.11-17.

(48) 41. President Lloyd Sweatt called on the Dr. Michael Weeks, Recording Secretary to announce the results of the election for 2nd Vice President. Dr. Sweatt announced that David Haynes was elected.

(49) Tom Sumrall, Pastor Emeritus, FBC, New Albany, led in the benediction prayer.

**REPORT OF THE  
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Resolutions Committee recommends that the following Resolutions be approved:

**NO. 1 RESOLUTION OF  
APPRECIATION**

**WHEREAS**, the 187th Annual Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the recipients of the kind hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

**WHEREAS**, we the messengers of the 187th Annual Session have been blessed, encouraged and challenged by the fellowship, worship, reports and have had the opportunity to conduct business as planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions, and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the Convention officers and committees:

**THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED** that with hearts filled with gratitude we express appreciation to:

Dr. Chip Stevens, Senior Pastor, and members of First Baptist Church of Jackson,

The speakers, singers and instrumentalists who led us in worship during the convention,

Dr. Lloyd Sweatt, our Convention President, who has led as president with a marvelous Christ-like spirit and has been an outstanding ambassador across Mississippi and far beyond,

And to all of the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully.

**NO. 2 RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE  
FOR THE WORK AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WILLIAM H.  
PERKINS AS EDITOR OF THE BAPTIST  
RECORD**

**WHEREAS**, William Perkins was elected Editor of The Baptist Record by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board on June 18, 1996, and;

**WHEREAS**, William Perkins is retiring from The Baptist Record on October 31, 2023 after nearly 31 ½ years of service, and;

**WHEREAS**, He served for four years as the Associate Editor of The Baptist Record, instituting several new features, including the Bible-based "Bibliocipher" and the "Life Answers" counseling column, and;

**WHEREAS**, He was baptized at age 12 at First Baptist Church, Belzoni, was a Royal Ambassador; he achieved the rank of Eagle Scout along with the God and Country Award and Order of the Arrow, and;

**WHEREAS**, Since age 12, he felt called into print journalism, graduating with a double major in Journalism and English from the University of Mississippi, then served as a general assignment reporter/photographer at the Daily Sentinel-Star in Grenada, receiving several awards from the Mississippi Press Association, and ;

**WHEREAS**, He worked as press secretary and photographer for Mississippi Governor William F. Winter, and then as the public information officer for the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency before joining The Baptist Record, and;

**WHEREAS**, upon being named Editor, he led in a redesign of The Baptist Record, and in reestablishing The

Record as the news journal for all Mississippi Baptists, and;

**WHEREAS**, He has served 27 ½ years as Editor making him one of the longest serving editors in The Baptist Record;

**WHEREAS**, During his tenure, he wrote over 1300 editorials, wrote or edited over a thousand news articles and feature stories. He wrote with clarity and consistency on matters of concern to Mississippi Baptists, such as denominational issues, the pro-life movement and, most importantly, evangelism, while always advocating for the work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. He also consistently opened the pages of The Record to its readership by publishing thousands of Letters to the Editor and inviting many guest editorials, and;

**WHEREAS**, William Perkins has kept the local church close to his heart, accepting invitations from churches and associations across the state to speak about the world of the Convention and for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and as a member of First Baptist Church, Jackson, he served as a Sunday School teacher and preschool volunteer. He helped plant First Baptist Church Jackson/Madison Campus in Gluckstadt, now Grace Crossing Baptist Church, where he served as a Sunday School teacher and a deacon, and;

**WHEREAS**, William Perkins has been a faithful family man, married 38 years to the former Marla Karen Davenport of Hattiesburg. Together, they raised two children, Brynne, a pediatric registered nurse and Will, a recent law school graduate.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the messengers of the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, gathered at First Baptist Church, Jackson on October 24-25,

2023, do hereby express our sincere gratitude to William H. Perks for over three decades of faithful service as the Associate Editor and then Editor of The Baptist Record;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that we thank our God for bringing such an exceptionally prepared and capable leader to guide in the important tasks of advocating for and sharing the news of our Convention and of the Kingdom of God;

**AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we congratulate William H. Perkins for successfully keeping the pledge he made to Mississippi Baptists in his first editorial on July 18, 1996:

“I pledge to be an advocate of no cause, except the cause of Christ.”

Well done, good and faithful servant of the Lord!

### **NO. 3 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MISSISSIPPI LAWS REGARDING PASTOR SEXUAL ABUSE**

**WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse is an abomination before God and an affront to the teachings of Scripture (Psalm 11:5; Proverbs 6:16-20; Mark 7:20-34; 1 Corinthians 5:1-2; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 1:15-17); and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse grieves Christ and contradicts the heart of the gospel (Mark 12:31; 1 Corinthians 6:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:27); and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse violates the demands of Scripture for the holy living of God’s people (1 Corinthians 6:18-19; Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; 1 Timothy 1:8-11); and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse is an affront to the Imago Dei, dishonoring and

degrading human dignity, especially in those most vulnerable among us (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 9:6; Psalm 8:3-5); and

**WHEREAS**, Pastors, ministers, staff, or counselors are in a position of trust, which is broken when the one in authority engages in a coercive sexual act with the victim, even with a misguided sense of consent, because the position of authority, trust and power held by the pastoral leader creates an unhealthy opportunity for abuse; and

**WHEREAS**, Those in pastoral ministry are entrusted with the responsibility, under the authority of Christ, to serve, shepherd, and guard those whom the Lord entrusts to their care (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9); and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse perpetrated by pastoral leaders or church members is a violation of the sacred trust for pastoral leaders and all believers to care for and minister to people (Psalm 82:3-4; Proverbs 28:13; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9); and

**WHEREAS**, Scripture makes clear that teachers will receive a stricter judgment, and therefore overseers must be above reproach, keeping watch over their souls as those who will give an account (James 3:1, Hebrews 13:17); and

**WHEREAS**, Sexual abuse causes grievous harm to those who are entrusted to the church’s care and protection (Proverbs 31:8-9; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 22:3-5; Micah 6:8; 1 John 3:16-18); and

**WHEREAS**, The Baptist Faith and Message, Article XV, condemns “all forms of sexual immorality” and states, “We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, [and] the abused”; and

**WHEREAS**, Churches and individuals within our churches should be encouraged to report all cases of abuse to the appropriate authorities, and should be protected from civil liability in doing so. This obligation to report is particularly compelling when the abuser continues to have the opportunity for abuse with minors or other vulnerable individuals, and immunity should fully extend to such situations; and

**RESOLVED**, That the messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting in Jackson, Mississippi, October 24-25, 2023 affirm the Bible’s teaching to seek justice for those who have been harmed, protect the vulnerable, and honor the dignity and worth of survivors of sexual abuse (Genesis 1:26, Psalm 82:2-4, Isaiah 1:17, Micah 6:8); and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That we encourage the enactment and implementation of laws and actions that protect and support the innocent victims within our churches while removing the fear of civil liability from those who report instances of abuse in the church setting.

### **NO. 4 RESOLUTION REGARDING HAMAS’ OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> ATTACK ON ISRAEL**

**WHEREAS**, God chose Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the nation of Israel as His special treasure above all the nations on earth;

**WHEREAS**, God drove out the inhabitants of the land of Canaan and gave it to the Jewish people for an everlasting possession;

**WHEREAS**, God disciplined His people with captivity to Babylon in 586 BC

and ultimately with dispersion among all the nations of the world by the Romans in AD 70;

**WHEREAS**, At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, God began to fulfill His ancient promises to gather His people from the ends of the earth, and in 1948 He restored their national identity;

**WHEREAS**, The nation of Israel has endured continual attacks from Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups in neighboring countries;

**WHEREAS**, On October 7 Israel suffered the most horrific terrorist attack in the 75 years since her rebirth into the family of nations;

**WHEREAS**, God promised to bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse them;

**WHEREAS**, He who touches Israel touches the apple of God's eye; and Scripture commands us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem;

**WHEREAS**, the unprovoked and barbaric attack on innocent men, women, children and babies coupled with the rising tide of antisemitism in the US and the world summon God's people to prayer;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Mississippi Baptist Convention meeting at First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi October 24-25, 2023 requests its affiliated churches to ...

**PRAY** for the protection of Israel and the success of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in their war against Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

**PRAY** for the release of all hostages and the protection of innocent

civilians in Gaza and other affected areas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be encouraged to ...

**PRAY** regularly for the light of the gospel to penetrate the darkness of the Middle East, for the salvation of the Jewish people, and for a great harvest of souls from the Muslim world.