



189th ANNUAL MEETING 2025



**OCTOBER 28-29, 2025
BROADMOOR BAPTIST CHURCH
MADISON, MS**

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION OFFICERS

DR. BILL HURT
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbus
President

DR. DAVID HAYNES
First Baptist Church, Senatobia
First Vice President

DR. SHANE FREEMAN
Macedonia Baptist Church, Petal
Second Vice President

DR. MICHAEL WEEKS
Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Olive Branch
Recording Secretary

REV. DONNIE STUART
Rock Bluff Baptist Church, Daniel
Associate Recording Secretary

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

REV. GRANT STEGALL, *Chair*
DeSoto Hills Baptist Church, Southaven

REV. DUSTIN LONG
Carrollton Baptist Church, Carrollton

REV. TIM MCMILLEN
Shady Grove Baptist Church, Batesville

DR. BRIAN RUSHING
Gulf Coast Baptist Association, Gulfport

MRS. RITA SWEATT
Meadowood Baptist Church, Amory

REV. MARK VINCENT
Clarke Venable Baptist Church, Decatur

GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4.7-8

Tuesday Morning | First Session | October 28, 2025

8:30 Call to Worship – Mississippi Singing Churchmen and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

8:35 Call to Order – Bill Hurt
President, Mississippi Baptist Convention
Senior Pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbus

Prayer – Will Livingston
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Mathiston

Welcome – Josh Braddy
Lead Pastor, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Madison

Organization of the Convention – Bill Hurt
Recognition and Seating of Messengers

Committee on Order of Business Report – Grant Stegall
Chair; Senior Pastor, DeSoto Hills Baptist Church, Southaven

Announcement of Credentials and Tellers Committees – Bill Hurt

8:55 Report of Committee on Committees – Andrew Chesteen
Chair; Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, New Albany

9:00 Congregational Worship – Bobby Sanderson
Worship Pastor, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Columbus

9:10 Convention Board Report – David Hamilton
President, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Senior Pastor, West Heights Baptist Church, Pontotoc

9:20 Business Session: Election of the President – Bill Hurt

9:45 Worship through Music – Mississippi Singing Churchmen and Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

9:50 MBCB Report – Rick Blythe
Team Leader, Church Support Team

10:00 Testimony Video – North American Mission Board

Congregational Worship – Bobby Sanderson, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

10:15 Bible Treasures – Robert Smith, Jr.
Distinguished Professor of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL

10:40 Scripture Reading – Deuteronomy 7.6-9
Matt Olson
Senior Pastor, Sharon First Baptist Church, Laurel

10:45 Worship Through Music – Combined Choirs

10:50 President's Address – Bill Hurt

11:35 Benediction – Al Hurt
Member, First Baptist Church, Clinton

GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4.7-8

Tuesday Afternoon | Second Session | October 28, 2025

1:30 Worship through Music – Mississippi College Worship Collective

1:45 Call to Order – David Haynes
First Vice President, Mississippi Baptist Convention
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Senatobia

1:50 Prayer, Scripture Reading (Psalm 42.5-8), and Greetings from the SBC Executive Committee – Jeff Iorg
President & CEO, Nashville, TN

2:10 Bible Treasures – Robert Smith, Jr.

2:35 Concert of Praise – Mississippi College Worship Collective

2:45 Business Session – Bill Hurt

Presentation of 2026 Budget – Michael Barnett
Chair, Budget Committee
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Ocean Springs

Results of Election of President
Election of Convention Officers
Miscellaneous Business

Testimony Video – International Mission Board

3:25 Congregational Worship – First Baptist Church, Biloxi and Gulf Coast Baptist Association Worship Ministries
Todd DuBose, Associate Pastor: Worship, First Baptist Church, Biloxi

3:35 Business Session – Bill Hurt
Election of Convention Officers
Miscellaneous Business

3:45 MBCB Report – Kristopher Smith
Team Leader, Church Health Team

3:55 Music Feature – First Baptist Church, Biloxi and Gulf Coast Baptist Association Worship Ministries

4:15 Convention Sermon – Smokey Gibson
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Biloxi

4:50 Benediction – Mike Wilson
Associate Pastor: Discipleship, First Baptist Church, Biloxi

GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4.7-8

Tuesday Evening | Third Session | October 28, 2025

6:30 **Orchestra Prelude** – William Carey University Worship Choir and Band

6:35 **Call to Order** – Bill Hurt

6:40 **Congregational Praise and Worship** – Kristopher Smith
Director, Worship Ministries, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Prayer – Oscar Geeslin
Pastor, Meadow Brook Baptist Church, Byhalia

Scripture Reading – Ephesians 4.14-19
Israel Cox
Lead Pastor, Crosspoint Church, Gulfport

Testimony – Wade Stevens
Senior Pastor, Longview Point Baptist Church, Hernando

7:20 **Message** – Shawn Parker
Executive Director-Treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

8:00 **Benediction** – Leander Bridges
Pastor/Teacher, Springhill Missionary Baptist Church, Ellisville

GOD'S LOVE

1 John 4.7-8

Wednesday Morning | Fourth Session | October 29, 2025

- 8:30** **Call to Order** – Shane Freeman
Second Vice President; Pastor, Macedonia Baptist Church, Petal
- Prayer** – Rolando Ortiz
Pastor, Iglesia Hispana, Richland
- Scripture Reading** – 1 John 4.7-12
Derek Fortenberry
Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Bay St. Louis
- Memorial Service** – Greg Barker
Consultant, Bivocational Ministries, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
- 8:50** **Congregational Praise** – Blue Mountain Christian University Chorale and Exalt
- 9:00** **Bible Treasures** – Robert Smith, Jr.
- 9:25** **Business Session** – Bill Hurt
- Adoption of 2026 Budget** – Michael Barnett
- Committee on Nominations Report** – Will Wall
Chair; Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Meridian
- Resolutions Committee Report** – Wade Phillips
Chair; Senior Pastor, Northcrest Baptist Church, Meridian
- Miscellaneous Business** – Bill Hurt
- Time, Place, and Preacher Committee Report** – Matt Powell
Chair; Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Tupelo
- 9:55** **Recognition of Bivocational Pastor of the Year** – John Pace
Director, Leadership, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
- Testimony Video** – Summer Missionary
- 10:15** **MBCB Report** – Sam Ivy
Team Leader, Church Engagement Team
- 10:25** **Introduction of University Presidents** – Bill Hurt
- 10:30** **Blue Mountain Christian University Report** – Barbara McMillin, President
- 10:40** **Congregational Praise** – Blue Mountain Christian University Chorale and Exalt
- 10:55** **Message** – David Eldridge
Senior Pastor, Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Homewood, AL
- 11:40** **Closing Remarks** – Bill Hurt
- 11:45** **Benediction** – Ivan Parke
Member, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton
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FEATURED SPEAKERS



Dr. Robert Smith, Jr. served as professor of Christian preaching at Beeson for more than 25 years and held the Charles T. Carter Baptist Chair of Divinity. Previously, he served as the Carl E. Bates Associate Professor of Christian Preaching at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky. Smith is the 2017 E. K. Bailey Expository Preaching Conference Living Legend. A popular teacher and preacher, he received Southern's 1996 Findley B. Edge Award for Teaching Excellence. An ordained Baptist minister, he served as pastor of the New Mission Missionary Baptist Church in Cincinnati, OH, for twenty years. He earned his Ph.D. while serving as a pastor. His research interests include the place of passion in preaching, the literary history of African American preaching, Christological preaching and theologies of preaching. Smith has contributed essays and articles to various books, magazines and commentaries. He and his wife, Wanda Taylor-Smith, Ph.D., are the parents of four adult children (two in heaven).



Dr. Bill Hurt is the senior pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Columbus, Mississippi. Before coming to Pleasant Hill in 2012, he pastored churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky. A native of Cleveland, Mississippi, he graduated from Mississippi College in 1983. He also earned a Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, Louisiana. Bill's passion is preaching. He is the author of *Start Here – The Beginning Point for Starting a Daily Devotional Life*. He is also an avid runner. Bill and his wife, Tommi Jo, have been married since 1983. They have two daughters: Laura Jo (Grant) Ferguson and Melanie (Morgan) Brashier. Bill and Tommi Jo are the proud grandparents of Will and Miles.



Rev. Smokey Gibson has served as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church Biloxi since March of 2015. He also served from 2004-2008 as the Student Pastor at First Baptist Church Biloxi. With over 28 years of ministry experience, Smokey has served in churches in Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. Smokey is a graduate of Leavell College and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jennifer, have the incredible honor of raising their two daughters, Emma and Isabella.



Dr. David Eldridge Dr. David Eldridge began serving as the Senior Pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Homewood, AL, in September of 2017. David received his Ph.D. in preaching from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2010, Master of Divinity from Beeson Divinity School in 2004, and BA in Christian Studies from Mississippi College in 2001. David is married to the former Danielle Robertson, and together they have three boys: Hayden, Luke, and Jonathan. Danielle holds a BS in Elementary Education from Mississippi College. She has taught elementary school in both Alabama and Mississippi. Additionally, David has served as an adjunct professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Beeson Divinity School. His hobbies include spending time at the ball fields with his boys, running, reading, and rooting for the Chicago Cubs.

NOTES

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MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

Shawn Parker, Executive Director-Treasurer

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