



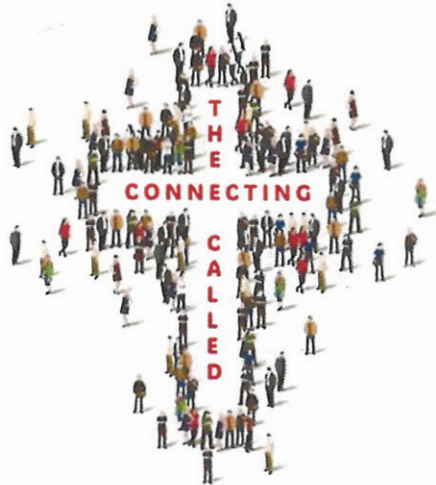
2023 Annual Meeting

Book of Reports

*Mid Lakes Southern
Baptist Association*

Monday, October 9, 2023 FBC, Bolivar

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 Berean Baptist Church



Connecting the Called

2 Tim 1:3-7

³ I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, ⁴ greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, ⁵ when I call to remembrance the ^[b]genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. ⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. ⁷ For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Mid Lakes Baptist Association, 755 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO 5613

Office Phone: 417-326-4667; AMS Phone 573-579-5993

Email: midlakessba@gmail.com

Website: www.midlakesba.com

Face Book: Mid Lakes Baptist Association

Rev. John Rhodes, Associational Missions Strategist

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MLBA 157th Annual Meeting

“Connecting the Called”

Monday, October 9, 2023
First Baptist Church, Bolivar, MO

Meal begins at 6:00 PM Meeting 6:45 PM

Welcome and Opening Prayer – Dr. Adam Hughes, Pastor, FBC, Bolivar

Call to Order: Rev. Chase Wagner, Moderator, Brighton Baptist Church

Children’s Camp Video

Attendance Count and official Seating of the Messengers

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to accept written reports.

Time of Worship: Bret Stanford, FBC Bolivar and the FBC Orchestra and Choir

Theme Introduction: Bro. John Rhodes

Message by Guest Speaker: Dr. John Marshall

Worship: Bret Stanford, FBC Bolivar

Presentation of Financial Report – Proposed budget (To be voted on Tuesday evening)

Nominating Committee Presentation (to be voted on Tuesday evening.) Moderator will nominate a person to serve on the Nominating Committee for a three-year term.

Old Business:

New Business:

Message: Dr. John Marshall

Introduction of any new pastor or staff.

Tuesday evening agenda and place. – Berean Baptist Church: Meal 6:00 PM; Meeting 6:45 PM

Closing Prayer: Our newest Pastor Bro. Jeff Robidou, Rondo Baptist Church

157th Annual Meeting

“Connecting the Called”

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 Berean Baptist Church

Welcome and Prayer – Rev. Derrick Lewright, Pastor Berean Baptist Church

Call to Order: Rev. Chase Wagner, Moderator Brighton

Youth Camp Video

Worship: Berean Worship Team

Proposed Budget Vote

Nominating Committee Presentation Vote

Message: Rev. Hazael Rodriguez, Pastor Iglesia Cristiana Casa Oracion

Worship: Berean Worship Team

Message: Bro. Hazael Rodriguez, Pastor of Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Oracion

Interpreter: Scott Hudgins, Missionary

Worship Invitation: Berean Worship Team

Associational Missions Strategist Report: Bro. John Rhodes

Installing of New Officers (Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer)

Closing Prayer

- Memorial slides and announcements will be played before and after both sessions.



MLBA 2023-2024 Calendar Dates

Beginning October 2023 – December 2024

2023

- 10/9/23 Annual Meeting – FBC, Bolivar
- 10/10/23 Annual Meeting - Berean Baptist Church
- 10/21/23 Pastor's Family Cookout at AMS house
- 10/23-24 MBC Annual Meeting, Crossway Baptist, Springfield
- 10/27-29/23 MLBA Camp Youth Fall Retreat, Baptist Ridge, Warsaw
- 10/25/23 DOM Fall Retreat, Crossway, Springfield
- 11/5/23 Time Change (Fall Back)
- 11/7/23 Election Day
- 11/11/23 Veteran's Day
- 12/24/23 Christmas Eve (Office Closed)
- 12/27-29/23 Office Closed for Holidays
- 12/31/23 Camp Youth New Year's Eve Party

2024

- 1/1/24 New Year's Day (Office Closed)
- 1/8/24 Personnel Committee Meeting
- 1/9/24 Executive Board Meeting
- 1/15/24 MLK Day
- 1/21/24 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 2/2/24 Groundhog Day
- 2/14/24 Valentines Day

2/18/24 Focus on WMU Sunday
2/19/24 President's Day
3/1-31/24 Pastor's Wives Appreciation Month
3/3-10/24 Week of Prayer for North American Missions
3/10/24 Time Change (Spring forward)
3/31/24 Easter Sunday
4/9/24 Executive Board Meeting
4/21/24 MLBA Semi-Annual Meeting
5/2/24 National Day of Prayer
5/12/24 Mother's Day
5/27/24 Memorial Day (Office Closed)
6/2/24 Disaster Relief Sunday
6/10-12/24 SBC Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Indiana
6/14/24 Flag Day
6/16/24 Father's Day
6/23/24 Missions Dignity Sunday
7/4/24 Independence Day
7/15/24 Executive Board Meeting
8/3-6/24 MLBA Kid's Camp
8/7-11/24 MLBA Youth Camp
8/13/24 Nominating Committee Meeting
8/19/24 Budget Committee Meeting
9/6-7/24 Bolivar Country Days
9/8/24 Grandparents Day
9/25/24 See You at the Pole

10/1-31 PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH
10/6/24 Cooperative Program Sunday
10/14/24 MLBA Annual Meeting
10/15/24 MLBA Annual Meeting
10/19/24 Pastor's Family Cookout
10/25-27/24 MLBA Camp Youth Fall Retreat
10/28-29/24 MBC Annual Meeting – St Charles, MO
10/30/24 DOM Fall Conference
11/3/24 Time Change (Fall Back)
11/5/24 Election Day
11/11/24 Veteran's Day
11/28-29/24 Thanksgiving Holiday (Office Closed)
12/1-31/24 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING
12/1-8/24 Week of Prayer for International Missions
12/23-31/24 Christmas Holiday (Office Closed)
12/31/24 MLBA CAMP Youth New Year's Eve Party

Some dates may be subject to change.

Mid Lakes Baptist Association

Annual Meeting, October 10-11, 2022 (6:00 p.m. for meal, meeting to begin at 6:45)

First Baptist Church, Fair Play, October 10, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Ken Spurgeon, First Southern Baptist, Stockton, at 6:55 p.m.

Opening prayer led by Chase Wagner, Vice-Moderator, Brighton.

Attendees viewed a video reporting on children's camp. The attendance rosters were counted and it was reported 43 messengers and 9 visitors representing 16 churches were in attendance. David Stunkel, First Baptist, Fair Play, moved the messengers be seated. Seconded by Chase Wagner, Brighton. The motion carried and the messengers were seated.

Derrick Lewright, Berean, moved the adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Josh Lobdell, Bethel. Motion carried.

Phil Guthrie, Pleasant Hope, moved to accept the written reports. Seconded by Breanna Piper, Berean. Motion carried.

A time of worship was led by Bret Stanford, First Baptist, Bolivar, accompanied by Dr. Sarah Howes, First Baptist, Bolivar, singing "Victory in Jesus", "Because He Lives", and "In Christ Alone".

John Rhodes, AMS, introduced the theme for the meeting: "Where Every Church Matters." If each individual or church is where God wants you to be, then you are in the best place possible.

David Stunkel then preached the first short sermon on "What the Church Should Mean to a Community." Using James 2 and Matthew 14:13-21, he contrasted a mindset of being results-focused with being compassion-minded, like Jesus. Then faith will produce fruit that God intends.

Bret Stanford and Sarah Howes led another time of worship, singing "Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It" and "O Praise the Name".

Ken Spurgeon shared a testimony of God's faithfulness through his personal trials of the last couple years, including a report on Baby Amos who is now seven months old and weighs 12.5 pounds!

Because Steve Ewing, First Southern Stockton, was unable to attend because of covid, Adam Hughes, new pastor at First Baptist, Bolivar, preached on "Outside the Four Walls of the Church" using Acts 11:11-26. God is looking for normal churches full of normal Christians who will obey God normally. This results in evangelism/church growth and discipleship. Never underestimate what God can do with a little bit of normal obedience.

Another time of worship was led by Bret Stanford and Sarah Howes, singing “Amazing Grace” and “Living Hope”.

Financial reports and the budget were presented. The budget will be voted on Tuesday evening. The Nominating committee’s report was also presented (pages 21-23 in the Book of Reports). This will also be voted on Tuesday evening.

In old business, the Personnel Committee recommends that Shephard’s Way Church in Pleasant Hope become a member of the Association. As this comes from a committee, no second is needed. The motion carried unanimously.

In new business, Bro. John Rhodes, AMS, brought up the need for new chairs in the Association office. The old ones are deteriorating. Estimated cost would be approximately \$1000. Dustin Vann, First Baptist, Bolivar, made the motion that \$1000 be added to the Miscellaneous Expenses line to the proposed budget for the purchase of nine chairs for the office. Second by Phil Guthrie, Pleasant Hope. Motion carried. This is an amendment to the proposed budget and the budget will still need to be approved with the amendment.

Chase Wagner, Brighton, made the motion the proposed budget be further amended to increase the allocation for camp from \$2000 to \$3000. Seconded by Lisette Shire, Rondo. Motion carried. Again, this is an amendment to the proposed budget and the budget will still need to be approved with the amendment.

Bro. John Rhodes, AMS, introduced new pastors/church staff from the last year: Adam Hughes, First Baptist, Bolivar, as the newest pastor in the Association and Josh Lobdell at Bethel was considered interim pastor and is now the pastor at Bethel. He mentioned the need to continue to pray for First Baptist, Humansville, in their search for a pastor or interim, for Caplinger Mills and their interim pastor Larry Johnston, and for Harry Moore, Rondo, and Steve Ewing, First Southern, Stockton, who are ill with covid, and for Judy Coppedge who had back surgery this morning.

Joe Rhoads, New Hope, announced a seminar they will be hosting in April, 2023: *Clouds without Water*. More information will be forthcoming to the churches.

The Tuesday evening meeting will be at Mount Olive with the meal at 6 and the meeting to begin at 6:45.

Joe Nogalski, new area representative for the Missouri Baptist Children’s Home, was in attendance and available before and after the meeting with information for attendees.

The meeting was recessed until Tuesday evening. Josh Lobdell, Bethel, led the closing prayer.

Mid Lakes Baptist Association

Annual Meeting, October 10-11, 2022 (6:00 p.m. for meal, meeting began at 6:45)

Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar, October 11, 2022

Meeting was called to order by moderator, Ken Spurgeon, First Southern, Stockton. Opening prayer was led by Chase Wagner, Brighton, Vice-Moderator.

Attendees viewed a video reporting on Youth Camp and announcing the upcoming Youth Retreat, October 28-30.

James Bohner, First Baptist, Bolivar, led in a time of worship with “This is Amazing Grace”.

The proposed budget was presented for a vote. Ken Spurgeon, moderator, reminded the assembly of the two amendments to the budget that had been passed Monday night (\$1000 to be added to Misc.Expenses for chairs for the Associational office and an increase in the camp allocation from \$2000 to \$3000). Coming from the budget committee, no second was needed. The budget was approved by voice vote.

The slate of proposed officers and committee members was presented from the nominating committee. The moderator appointed Gary Walton, Heritage, to serve a three year term on the Nominating Committee. Though there is no treasurer listed, there is a plan to cover the responsibilities temporarily.

Coming from a committee, the proposal needed no motion or second. Approved by voice vote.

Mrs. Lisette Shire, Rondo, was recognized for her work she has done for the last several years as treasurer of the Association. Bro. John Rhodes, AMS, presented her with a certificate of appreciation and chocolate candy.

James Bohner, First Baptist, Bolivar, led the congregation in worship, singing “Who You Say I Am” and “Jesus Paid it All”.

Joe Rhoads, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Stockton, preached on “Bloom Where God has Placed You” using Acts 17:26-27. An understanding of the sovereignty and providence of God impacts our growth and contentment. The “bloom” is Christ-likeness; the “place” is “in Christ.”

Another time of worship was led by James Bohner, First Baptist, Bolivar, singing “Living Hope”, “Lord I Need You”, and “I Need Thee Every Hour”.

The second message of the evening was brought Gary Walton, pastor of Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar. He preached from 1 John 5:13-21 on “The NT Church in the Bible and the Church Today – Same Call, Same Commission.” We have a five-tiered assurance as we follow Christ: eternal life, He hears us and answers prayers in our best interest, victory over sin, belonging to the family of God (holiness), and God is the only true God – all else is “sinking sand.”

James Bohner, First Baptist, Bolivar, led another time of worship with the congregation singing “O Praise the Name” and “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”.

John Rhodes presented the AMS report, “Hearing the Voice of God Where You Are.” From James 1:22-25, he preached we are to be doers of the Word – but first we have to be hearers, to slow down, to listen. The video “Listen to the Voice” by David Gibbs was shown, aptly illustrating his point.

A time of prayer at the altar allowed attendees to commit themselves to listening to God. Bro. John Rhodes, AMS, then led in prayer.

The new officers of the Association (Chase Wagner, Brighton, moderator, David Chapman, Grace Fellowship, assistant moderator, and Jennifer Smith, Grace Fellowship, clerk) were announced for the coming year. The gavel was passed to Chase Wagner, Brighton, as the new moderator.

Attendance for the Tuesday meeting was announced at 42 people representing 16 churches.

The pastor/staff cookout was announced for October 22. Adam Hughes, First Baptist, Bolivar, will bring the devotional thoughts.

Joe Rhoads, New Hope Stockton, announced the seminar *Clouds without Water* to be presented in April 2023 featuring Justin Peters.

Prayer requests included the people in Florida after Hurricane Ian and First Baptist, Humansville, in their pastor search.

Closing prayer was offered by Chase Wagner, Brighton.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.



Mid Lakes Baptist Association

722 E. South Street, Bolivar, MO 65613 417-326-4667

12/12/2022

Dear Executive Board Members,

This is being sent on behalf of our Moderator, Bro. Chase Wagner. **This is a special called Executive Board Meeting per email, as authorized by our By-laws, Article 7, Section 10.**

This letter will be submitted as Mid Lakes Baptist Association minutes along with the responses received.

The Mid Lakes Baptist Association Nominating Committee (Jamie Root, Ted Bachmann, and Gary Walton) have a few items they wish to present to the Association. These motions come from a standing committee and has a built in second. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Association office or one of the Nominating Committee members.

Please respond by written vote to the entire email or respond per item. If you respond per item, please list the item number and your response, and vote per item. Also, please list the church you represent.

To secure a new treasurer for the Association, we (Nominating Committee) have had difficulties. We would like to present the following items as our solution:

Item #1: We the Nominating Committee (Jamie Root, Ted Bachmann, and Gary Walton) nominate Mrs. Leidra Stunkel (FBC Fair Play) as our new MLBA Treasurer to begin immediately.

Item #2: We the Nominating Committee, along with our Moderator (Chase Wagner, Brighton), AMS, (John Rhodes), Assistant Treasurer (Breanna Piper, Berean), Leidra Stunkel, FBC Fair Play, move that **Roxy Hudson CPA (Grace Fellowship), be hired as contract employee of the Association for \$1,200.00 per year**, and that the money to be taken from the current line item designated as clerk/secretary which is in the amount of \$1,200.00, and the line name be changed to CPA expense.

Her responsibilities would be to reconcile our financial bookkeeping, assist with our financial statement based upon our QuickBooks Online Data, and to manage the decisions we make. She would also file tax forms for the Association.

Mrs. Roxy Hudson's employment would begin on January 1, 2023. She would work with, and be under the direction of, Mrs. Leidra Stunkel (treasurer). We also recommend that the Association authorize our moderator (Bro. Chase Wagner) to approve the Engagement Letter submitted by Mrs. Roxy Hudson, CPA to our Association.

Item #3 The Nominating Committee moves that Mrs. Leidra Stunkel, treasurer, and Breanna Piper, assistant treasurer be authorized as check signers and responsible for all Mid Lakes Baptist Association banking accounts. Mrs. Lisette Shire's name would be removed from these accounts.

Item #4 The Nominating Committee moves that Bro. Scott Burgess (Shepherd's Way Church, Pleasant Hope) be placed in the open position for the finance committee of the Association.

Item #5 The Nominating Committee moves that Bro. Kyndle Katzer fill the blank position on the Technology Committee.

Thank you for your quick response, as we need to get things in place by the first of the year, and with the holidays coming, the sooner we handle this, the better.

Thank you for your assistance and vote.

Sincerely,

Rev. Chase Wagner,

Mid Lakes Baptist Association Moderator

Those voting in favor of all items:

Chase Wagner, Brighton Baptist

John Rhodes, AMS (Mt Olive)

Jamie Root, Noble Hill Baptist (Nom. Com.)

Ted Bachmann, Southern Hills Baptist (Nom. Com.)

Gary Walton, Heritage Baptist (Nom. Com.)

Tim Cossins, FBC Bolivar

Dennis Mays, Noble Hill Baptist

Breanna Piper, Berean Baptist

David Chapman, Grace Fellowship Baptist

Richard Webb, Bethel Baptist

David Stunkel, FBC Fair Play

Jennifer Smith, Grace Fellowship Baptist

Ken Spurgeon, First Southern Baptist, Stockton

Derrick Lewright, Berean Baptist

Scott Pruitt, Mt Etna Baptist

Stacie Spurgeon, First Southern Baptist, Stockton

Lindell Shelton, Southern Hills Baptist (by phone)

Chadd Caldwell, Mt Olive Baptist

No Opposed.

The Clerk has a copy of all Email replies.

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, January 10, 2023, 7:00 p.m., Brighton Baptist Church

Meeting was called to order by Moderator Chase Wagner, Brighton. Opening prayer was led by Charles Jackson, FBC Morrisville. A devotion from Hebrews was presented by Chase Wagner, Brighton.

The roll was presented of churches (attached). Twenty six persons (including Joe Nogalski from the Missouri Baptist Childrens Home) representing 13 churches were in attendance. A quorum was met.

The consent agenda of: 1) approval of agenda for January 10, 2023; 2) approval of minutes for October 10 and 11, 2022, and December 12, 2022 E-mail vote; 3) approval of quarterly financial statement; and 4) presentation of written reports for filing was presented. Ken Spurgeon, FSBC, Stockton made the motion, seconded by Derrick Lewright, Berean. The motion carried.

In old business, in absence of any trustees in attendance, John Rhodes, AMS, reported the roof to the MLBA office has been put on. Waiting on the siding company to start the siding. This should be completed by the end of January or first part of February. Since this was a point of information, no action was needed and no action was taken.

In new business, the Missions Committee presented guidelines for usage regarding the block trailer (attached). Since the motion came from a committee, it does not require a second. The motion carried.

A letter of resignation was presented from Jill McCracken as WMU director. Cynthia Walker, Brighton, made the motion the resignation be accepted. Seconded by Stacy Spurgeon, FSBC Stockton. The motion carried.

Joe Nogalski, new area representative from the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, shared information and updates from the children's home. He also had information available at a table in the foyer.

John Rhodes, AMS, presented his report, attached. He introduced Randy Hargis, new pastor at Caplinger Mills, and presented a certificate to Jill McCracken in recognition of her many years of service to the association as WMU director. In addition, he announced that FBC Pleasant Hope has closed their doors. The property was transferred to Shepherd's Way Church, Pleasant Hope.

In announcements:

- 1) The MBC Youth Evangelism Conference will be January 15-16 in Jefferson City.
- 2) January 22 is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
- 3) The next Executive Board meeting is April 11, 2023, at 7 p.m. at Mt. Etna Baptist Church. Guest speaker will be Spencer Hudson from the Baptist Home.
- 4) The Semi-Annual meeting will be Sunday evening, April 23, 2023, at Noble Hill Baptist Church.
- 5) Reservations are being accepted for the Block Party Trailer on a first come/first served basis.

Prayer requests and praises were shared: Bro. Harry Moore, former pastor of Rondo, continued health needs and Bro. and Mrs. Larry Johnston, former pastor and wife of Caplinger Mills. Mrs. Johnston is on hospice and Bro. Larry is caring for her. Rondo and FBC Humansville are currently seeking a pastor. Closing prayer was led by Randy Hargis, Caplinger Mills. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Submitted by Jennifer Smith, MLBA Clerk

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, April 11, 2023, Mt. Etna Baptist Church

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Moderator David Chapman, Grace Fellowship and he led in opening prayer.

A devotion from 1 Corinthians 9 was presented by Scott Pruitt, Mt. Etna.

The roll was presented of churches (attached). Seventeen persons from 10 churches and two guests were in attendance.

The consent agenda of 1) approval of agenda for April 11, 2023; 2) approval of minutes for January 10, 2023; 3) approval of quarterly financial statement and 4) presentation of written reports for filing was presented. Ken Spurgeon, First Southern, Stockton, made the motion the consent agenda be approved. Seconded by Richard Webb, Bethel. Motion carried.

In old business, the trustees report the siding has been replaced since storm damage last spring. There is still some painting on trim to finish. It is hoped to be able to move a donated 10' x 14' shed behind the building to use for Disaster Relief and Camp supplies.

In new business, the Trustees recommend (and move) that \$2000 be designated for two projects: 1) to replace the large conference room window and 2) remodel the bathroom as the bathtub leaks and possibly the commode leaks and the floor probably needs some repair. They would also like to paint and put in a shower for mission teams to use. Coming from a committee, a second is not needed. Motion carried. (Motion attached)

The Nominating Committee recommends (and moves) that Mrs. Dorothy Soldavini be installed as our new treasurer. That Mrs. Soldavini, along with assistant treasurer Mrs. Breanna Piper, be placed on, and in charge of, all current and any future Mid Lakes Southern Baptist Association checking accounts, savings accounts, credit card accounts, and QuickBook online accounts. As soon as possible she will work with Mrs. Leidre Stunkel and Mrs. Breanna Piper to transfer all legal paperwork required from the financial institutions with which we deal. Mrs. Soldavini will also work in cooperation with our accountant, Mrs. Roxy Hudson. Coming from a committee, a second is not needed. Motion carried. (Motion attached)

There was no other new business.

Bro. Spencer Hudson, Church Relations Specialist with The Baptist Home, presented a report of happenings at The Baptist Home's various campuses and needs that they have. Each campus has a campus pastor who works with residents, families and staff. Surprisingly each campus has many unsaved residents, family members, and staff members. The Baptist Home is opening a memory care area at the Vandalia campus and have acquired a building and will be opening a campus in Adrian. There are many opportunities for churches or associations to visit a campus, provide a program or church services for residents, or engage in other projects.

John Rhodes presented his report of events since the last meeting (attached) and announcements.

1. Preached eight times since last quarterly meeting, January 10.
2. Assisted in ordination of Dan Stanley, Heritage

3. Attended the Spring DOM Conference in Jefferson City – where our guest, Spencer Hudson, was honored for 40 years with the MBC.
4. Worked to get the Block Party Trailer ready.
5. Trustees have worked hard. The roof and siding are now on the building and we are now painting the pink brick.
6. The Camp Youth Spring Retreat (Lock-in) at Stockton First was a success.
7. The Semi Annual meeting will be Sunday, April 23, 2023, at Noble Hill Baptist Church. Noble Hill will provide a meal at 5 with the service beginning at 6:30. Speakers include Bro. Ted Bachmann, Southern Hills; Bro. Chadd Caldwell, Mount Olive; and Bro. Jacob Miller, Shepherd's Way, Pleasant Hope. Music will be led by Ron George, Jr.
8. Sixteen people Attended the MLBA Block Party planning meeting on April 2. All are invited to the associational block party on April 29 at Fellowship Park, just east of First Baptist, Bolivar.
9. Block Party Trailer request forms and guidelines are including in the packet along with a sample of certificate of insurance with MLBA as additional insured.
10. Registration is open for camp! Camp Dates are Children's Camp August 5-8 and Youth Camp August 9-13. Costs are going up. Children's Camp is \$135/student and Youth camp is \$150 per student. Adults should also pay or have their church pay as the expenses involved with camp apply to adults as well!
11. Mt. Etna was recognized for their giving to the Missouri Mission Offering in 2021; Rondo received distinction for 2023 but no one from Rondo was in attendance.
12. A list of ministries of the Association was included in the packet for attendees.
13. Special thanks to Mrs. Leidra Stunkel for her work as treasurer! She did a good job!

In announcements, the next Executive Board meeting will be July 11, 2023, at Grace Fellowship Baptist Church. Bro. Kelly Rehm of Child Evangelism Fellowship will be our guest speaker. Caplinger Mills will be celebrating their Centennial Anniversary on Saturday June 3rd. Rondo is having a Family Day/Fish Fry/Gospel Concert beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 30. The Block Party trailer will be there, and Phil and Pam Morgan will be in concert at 6:00 p.m.

Several churches are already planning their VBS. Please let the office know dates for VBS. June 5-9, FBC, Bolivar; June 12-16, Heritage; June 26-30, Fair Play; July 10-13, Humansville; July 10-12, Mount Olive.

Reservations are being taken for the Block Party trailer on a first come-first serve basis. It is automatically reserved for camps.

Prayer requests from The Baptist Home – that they will be able to eliminate the use of Agency (provider for staffing) and have only staff they have hired and conform to their principles and expectations and that they will be able to build census at all their sites but particularly for the new Adrian campus. Ron George is undergoing cancer treatment again. Gayle Rhodes is down in her back. Another prayer request from The Baptist Home is for the maintenance man, Dale Maylee, at the Ashland campus and his family. His son and family were involved in a head-on collision near Moberly. The daughter-in-law and an unborn child were killed. His son is in critical condition. Another child was also in the wreck. This is not a Christian family. Pray for the campus pastor at Ashland as he ministers to the family.

Closing prayer was led by David Stunkel, Fair Play, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, July 11, 2023, Grace Fellowship Baptist Church

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Moderator Chase Wagner, Brighton, and he led in opening prayer.

David Chapman, Grace Fellowship, welcomed attendees and presented a devotion from Isaiah 40:38-41.

The roll was presented of churches (attached). A total of twenty three persons from 10 churches, including 4 guests) were in attendance.

The consent agenda was presented. Approval of agenda for July 11, 2023 – motion to approve made by Josh Lobdell, Bethel, seconded by Jacob Miller, Shepherd's Way. Approval of minutes for April 11, 2023 – motion to approve made by Jacob Miller, Shepherd's Way, seconded by Judy Webb. Approval of quarterly financial statement – motion to approve by Derrick Lewright, Berean, and seconded by Ray Vanish, Rondo. The written reports were presented and filed.

In old business, the trustees report a 10' x 12' shed has been donated and is now in place behind the office building. Thank you to Bob Brown for the donation of the building.

In new business, the Trustees recommend the Association allow them to use the rest of the money left over from the hail damage for building updates. In the kitchen, flooring, countertops, paint, some lighting, wiring, etc, are needed. A like-new matching stainless refrigerator, stove and microwave vent hood have been donated to the kitchen and an upright deepfreeze was donated to be used for camp. One thousand dollars was donated for updating the conference room with a much larger TV, an accent wall to go behind it, and fresh paint to match the rest of the newly remodeled building. We already voted to redo the bathroom which will begin ASAP. There is approximately \$4200 for kitchen renovations. Coming from a committee, the motion doesn't need a second. Motion carried.

John Rhodes, AMS, requested \$300 for an honorarium for Dr. John Marshall who will be bringing four messages (two each night) at this year's Annual Meeting on October 9th and 10th. He will be address the theme, "Connecting the Called." Motion by Josh Lobdell, Bethel, and seconded by Richard Webb, Bethel. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee recommends the Association accept the withdrawal letter (e-mail) from New Hope Baptist Church, Stockton, from the MLBA, MBC, and SBC. Coming from a committee, the motion does not need a second. Motion carried.

The current Mid-Lakes credit card, which the AMS uses for the Association, has been tied to a former treasurer's name and will be shut down very soon. In consultation with our accountant and the bank, it has been recommended that the AMS be given a Debit Card (which would be used in the same manner the Credit Card was – with limits), in order to conduct normal business without tying someone's individual credit ratings to the Association. All transactions can be instantly viewed online and the CPA and treasurer will have immediate knowledge of what is being purchased and guidelines are in place for its use. With all transactions, a paper trail and the proper forms are filled out with each transaction. This comes from the treasurer, moderator, and AMS, which are not a committee and will require a motion and second. It is further recommended a Debit Card be made available for the Camp checking account. Many places will not take checks, and this will help Mrs. Breanna Piper (who oversees this account with

the help of the treasurer) to pay the bills more efficiently. These recommendations were combined into one motion by Charles Jackson, Morrisville, and seconded by Jeff Robidou, Rondo. Motion carried.

There was no other new business.

Bro. Kelly Rehm presented information regarding Good News Club, an evangelistic club for children in grades K-5, conducted under the auspices of Child Evangelism Fellowship. CEF provides the materials and the training. Several schools in the area already have a Good News Club, however, they would like to see a club started in other schools such as Fair Play, Halfway, Morrisville, and Pleasant Hope. Clubs meet once a week after school, usually in a classroom, the library, gymnasium, or cafeteria. There will be a training session on August 26, 2023. Churches interested in sponsoring a Good News Club should contact Bro. Rehm.

John Rhodes presented his report of events since the last meeting (attached) and announcements.

1. Welcomed to Bro. Jeff Robidou as the new pastor of Rondo Baptist Church
2. Introduced Mrs. Dot Soldivini, Fair Play, as our new treasurer.
3. Presented Certificate of Recognition to Rondo Baptist Church for highest per-capita giving church in MLBA for the MO Missions Offering in 2022.
4. Announced a detail page in the reports that tells exactly what was spent on the block party trailer and the Block Party that was given for all our churches.
5. Announced a detail page in the reports showing amounts churches gave to the Camp Maintenance Fund. A total of \$7,842.51 has been given.
6. Announced Camp will be August 5-8 for Kids and August 9-13 for Youth.
7. Thanked all the churches and pastors who have allowed the AMS to preach in their pulpits. Last Sunday (July 9) was the first time in a long time I was not preaching somewhere.
8. Announced a donation of \$1000 to go to improvements in the conference room. Mainly a larger TV, accent wall, and paint.
9. Announced the bathroom remodel will begin ASAP. It will be a complete gut because the floor must be replaced.
10. Announced a like-new set of appliances for the kitchen (stainless steel refrigerator, stove, and microwave/vent hood) have been donated. Also an upright deep freeze has been donated that will be particularly beneficial for camp use. Because of the new appliances, the kitchen will need to be re-arranged which will necessitate some remodeling – flooring, countertops, paint, and maybe a better light.
11. During the week of July 10-14, youth from Heritage Baptist Church will be volunteering at the office. They will be painting baseboards, handrails, and such.
12. A mission trip to Chillicothe, MO, to the Baptist Home is being considered to assist with some remodeling. Tentative dates are the second week in September.
13. The kayak ministry went to Deaf Youth Camp the last week in June.
14. The shuttle ministry is being used.
15. Disaster Relief needs more volunteers. There will be blue hat training this Friday and Saturday (July 14-15).
16. Thank you for giving! Several churches have increased their giving and that helps keep the ministries of the Association going. Remember, these ministries are YOUR ministries which you ALL do together.

In announcements:

1. Camp registration is online. Please encourage your students to sign up.
2. Reservations are being taken for the Block Party Trailer. It is on a first come/first serve basis. It is automatically reserved for camps. So far it is being used each week.
3. Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday August 15, at 5 p.m.
4. Budget Committee Meeting, Monday, August 21, at 5 p.m.
5. Possible mission trip to Baptist Home in Chillicothe September 11-15.
6. October 9, 2023, Annual Meeting at FBC, Bolivar. Guest Speaker will be Dr. John Marshall.
7. October 10, 2023, Annual Meeting at Berean. Guest Speaker will be Dr. John Marshall.
8. October 21, 2023, Pastor's Family Cookout. Rain date October 29.
9. October 23-24 MBC Annual Meeting at Crossway Baptist Church, Springfield.
10. Saturday July 22, Ozark Berry Festival at Macedonia Baptist Church in Springfield to Benefit Missouri Baptist Children's Home.
11. Saturday September 23 Men's Conference at Southern Hills
12. An MBC Multicultural Church Strategist will be visiting with the AMS on Wednesday July 12. This is the beginning of a feasibility study for a Hispanic church plant in Bolivar.

Closing prayer was led by David Chapman, Grace Fellowship, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Member Memorial Page

These are our loved ones who have gone to be with the Lord since our last annual meeting.

Bethel: Lois Hunter, George Rhoades, Tony Kaisler

Brighton: Margie Horstman

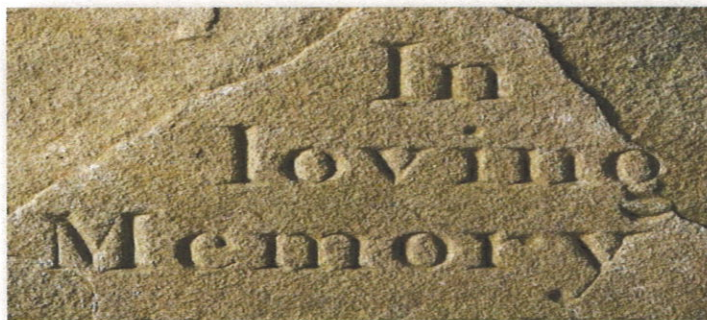
Caplinger Mills: John Huebner

FBC, Bolivar: Shirley Boren, Matt Bushey, Mike Erickson, Mary Etter, Willis Gabriel, Nary Gallivan, Larry Hodges, Gary Ligman, Shirley Padgett, Keith Parminter, Peter Prewitt, Marvel Surette, Vernice Warner.

FBC, Fair Play: Edwin Coker, Shirley Weston

Heritage Baptist Church: Mary Etter, William Noll

Rondo: Jan Henry, Linda Woods, Lou Ann Weaks





Associational Missions Strategist Report

John Rhodes, AMS

Greetings, Mid Lakes Family.

This past year has seen so many things happening, that there is no way I can share it all. So allow me to share some of the highlights.

First, I would like to say thank you to all the churches who have invited me to preach in their pulpits. I have always said that God controls my preaching calendar and wow, has He kept it busy! It is always a joy to be in our churches, share the Word of God and fellowship.

In October we enjoyed our Pastor's Family Cookout at our house. Even with all the wind, we had a great time of fellowship. We look forward to doing it again this year on October 21st.

2023 began with a sad note, yet a blessing. FBC, Pleasant Hope closed their doors in January because their attendance could not support keeping it open. However, their desire to see the gospel continue encouraged them to turn their property over to the newest church in our Association, Shepherd's Way Church. Since that time, Shepherd's Way has been working on the building and enjoying having a place of their own to worship and minister through. Shepherd's Way is running around 70 in worship. Also, New Hope Baptist Church, Stockton voluntarily withdrew from our Association. We wish them well.

Our Semi-Annual Meeting at Noble Hill was well attended. I believe everyone was challenged and blessed as three of our pastors challenged us with God's Word using the theme, "Called to Connect". *Connecting with our Creator, Connecting with our Churches, and Connecting with our Communities.* We appreciate Noble Hill Baptist Church for hosting us and feeding us a fantastic meal.

Due to the hailstorm that happened in 2022, we were finally able to get new siding and a metal roof on the Associational office. It looks so much better. Now we are in the process of remodeling the inside of the office. We had not planned all this, but God has placed several things in our lap that has made this possible. First, we had some insurance money left over, and then we had a kind donation given to go toward remodeling the conference room. Someone then donated, "like-new" appliances for the kitchen, and because of a water leak in the bathroom, we had already approved remodeling our bathroom. So far, we have completed most of the conference room, and will begin the bathroom very soon. Then we will begin work on the kitchen. Allow me to say, "**Thank You**" to the trustees for all their hard work over the past year. Another addition was a nice shed which was placed behind the office for use for DR and Camp. Thank you, Bro. Bob and Marcella Brown, for your generous gift of the building.

After many hours of hard work, we finally have our Block Party Trailer up and running. Churches across the Association have been enjoying this new ministry tool. It is available for \$35 to any of our Association churches. The \$35 is just a maintenance fee so we can try to keep it up.

On April 29th, we hosted a "Block Party" for our Association churches at Fellowship Park, next to FBC, Bolivar. It was wonderful to see the amount of help and cooperation between everyone, and we had a great crowd. Most of our churches were represented. We believe we had around 400 people in attendance. It was a great day!

Our Disaster Relief Ministry was able to minister at Baptist Hill Camp near Mt Vernon after a devastating windstorm did much damage to the camp. We also had our DR unit in Golden City helping elderly people, after the same storm.

Our Kayak Ministry did a wonderful job in ministering to the MO State Deaf Camp which meets at Baptist Ridge Camp in Warsaw. It is so heart-warming to see the smiles on these sweet faces as we minister to them.

Our churches were blessed with wonderful VBSs this year. I always get such a blessing visiting and watching our churches demonstrate and share the love of Jesus with the kids.

Mid Lakes Camps have been working hard this year. Between last year's fall retreat, the New Year's Eve Party, the Spring Retreat, Children's Camp and Youth Camp, and the planning of this year's Fall Retreat, they have been busy. They even participated in one of the parades with a Mid Lakes Camp float. They also raised over \$2,000 with a yard sale at the Association office. Our summer camps saw campers drawn closer to the Lord and some salvations. We are blessed to have such hardworking, sold-out camp committee leaders and workers.

On another note about the camp, the Personnel Committee was able to raise over \$8,000 through the churches to be placed in the camp account as a maintenance fund. This way, the Camp Committee has money to operate each year while waiting for all the churches to send their checks in for the campers. Now the camp committee already has money to prepare for next year. This will not only make sure people are paid in an expedient manner but will also give the camp committee the ability to take advantage of any deals they might get in advance of camp. All in all, this is just good stewardship. Thank you, Personnel Committee and churches, for your love and concern for camp.

We are excited about the possibility of a Hispanic Church Plant in the Bolivar area. We hosted a block party for the Hispanic Community honoring their Independence Day. In doing so, we reached out and invited them to a Bible Study which began the end of September. We are praying this Bible Study will grow and God will start a Hispanic Church from it. Please help us pray for this opportunity.

During the year, we had two churches without pastors. FBC, Humansville's pastor resigned and went south for the winter. FBC, Humansville searched for a long time without any success, and to everyone's surprise, their pastor decided going south for the winter wasn't for him, so he returned to the area. The church then invited him back, and he is now their pastor again. After searching and praying, Rondo Church recently called and ordained Bro. Jeff Robidou as their pastor. I was honored to preach the ordination sermon. Welcome Pastor Jeff. Due to health concerns Bro. Harry Moore had stepped down as pastor of Rondo Baptist Church. Please keep Bro. Harry in your prayers.

God truly has blessed over the past 2 ½ years that I have served as your AMS. One person I do not want to forget to thank is my wonderful wife, Gayle. She is a prayer warrior and supporter. She is often quiet, but trust me, she is a vital part of our ministry here. It is such a joy to serve the churches of Mid Lakes Baptist Association, and we look forward to what God is going to do in the future.

In His service together,

Bro. John

Mid Lakes Camp Report 2023

Midlakes Camps has a special place in several folk's hearts. This ministry is so much more than simply an overnight camp for students. It's in the craziness of children's and youth ministry that we can experience the JOY of worshiping our Savior. It's also in the stillness of being removed from the distractions of regular life that we feel the presence of our Lord. It's so good to simply be with Him as we strive to share His Word and love with students. I thank our Father so much for the opportunity to be a part of this amazing ministry.

This year our theme verse for both children's and youth camp was taken from Proverbs, chapter 3, verse 5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.* The front of our camp shirt this year says in Hebrew "trust". We encouraged the campers to TRUST God through Biblical examples, such as the story Joseph. When everything seemed to go wrong, Joseph was faithful to trust in the Lord and lean not on his own understanding. Joseph gave God the glory for all things, and through it all God directed Joseph's paths. Students were challenged and encouraged by an awesome group of leaders and staff.

For Kids camp we had a good friend fly in from Maryland to preach the Word of God, Zach Fowler. Zach is the children's pastor at his home church, and we were so glad to have him as a part of our team! Sarah Lewright (Berean Baptist) was gracious enough to lead us in worship during kid's camp with the help of Shekinah Lentz (Wellspring Baptist). Christa Janowiak (now Hernandez!) was a rockstar and led crafts while also being our camp nurse.

During Youth Camp, Sarah was still leading worship, this time with Justin Palmer (FBC, Bolivar). We were privileged to have Adam Hughes (Senior Pastor, FBC, Bolivar) and Jed Bond (Minister of Students, FBC, Bolivar) presenting the gospel to us at youth camp. We are so incredibly grateful for these individuals and the role they play in camp!

Importantly, we had one student come to know Christ as their personal Lord and Savior at kid's camp from Wellspring Baptist Church. And during Youth Camp we were able to watch a baptism in the camp pool, which is always a neat experience!

We also want to say a big THANK YOU to those who make Midlakes Camps possible on the home front! Whether it was volunteering your time, or giving financially, or being diligent in prayer, we couldn't do it without you!

Our camp committee has already begun work for next year. If you are interested in being an active part of the camp ministry throughout the year- there are several ways you can be a helping hand. Anything from writing cards to the campers, to technology/communication improvements, to donating financially- I would love to talk more with you. Ask me about how you can get involved with Midlakes Camps.

Visit our website at midlakescamps.weebly.com for pictures and more information.

Directors: Tim Cossins, Ezra Piper, & Breanna Piper

Add these dates to your calendar. October 27-29 - Youth Fall Retreat; December 2 - Mid Lakes Camp Parade Float; December 31 -New Year's Eve Party; Spring Retreat – TBD; August 3-6 - Kid's Camp; August 7-11 – Youth Camp, October 25-27, 2024 – Fall Retreat

Financial Report Camp Ministry 9/25/2023

Projected Camp Budget- Created Dec. 4th 2022:

| | |
|---|--|
| Estimated Income from Registration * | \$15,750 |
| MLBA Allotted Funds from budget | \$3,000 - this was voted on by the camp committee to specifically use these funds to help pay costs of camp leaders. |
| Total Income | \$18,750 |
| Food | \$4,000 |
| T-shirts | \$1,500 |
| Honorariums (\$100 per Worship leader, Pastor, Bible Study Leader, & Nurse) | \$700 |
| Campus Rental | \$11,500 |
| Recreation | \$500 |
| Crafts | \$100 |
| Total Expenses | \$18,300 |

Camp 2023 Income and Expenses Report:

| | |
|---|---|
| Income from Registration and Donations | \$12,311.45 |
| MLBA Allotted Funds from budget | \$3,000 |
| Scholarship Fund Money Used for Campers | \$2,812.50 |
| Total Income/ Amount Going in Camp Account | \$18,123.95 |
| Food | \$2,632.78 |
| T-shirts | \$1,422.66 |
| Honorariums (\$150 per Worship leader, Pastor, Bible Study Leader, & Nurse) | \$1,050 **The committee voted to raise this amount \$50 each** |
| Campus Rental | \$10,710.00 |
| Recreation | \$305.67 |
| Crafts | \$91.00 |
| Additional Expenses- battery replacement | \$107.26 |
| Total Expenses | \$16,319.37 |

** Additionally, there was \$450.00 worth of food donated, \$150 for appreciation gifts for leaders donated, and \$150 worth of miscellaneous expenses donated. **



During this past year our Mid Lakes WMU Director, Ms. Jill McCracken, resigned from her long-held position to move to Tulsa, OK to live closer to her children. We want to say THANK YOU to Ms. Jill for the many years of service she has put into the WMU Ministry.

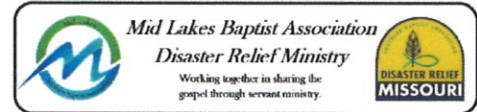
In searching for a replacement, we were having difficulty finding someone to fill the role, so through prayer and evaluation we will try a new strategy. To be honest, very few of our churches have WMU groups anymore. A few churches do. However, most of our churches have one or two ladies who love missions and the ministry of the WMU and would love to be a part. So, as a trial run, we will form a Mid Lakes WMU group. This group would meet at the Association office once a quarter or monthly (whatever they decide), and work together under the direction of Mrs. Leidra Stunkel.

We believe this group will be able to come alongside our churches and Associational ministries, and minister to them in many different ways.

Be sure to read the MLBA newsletter for information on times and dates when they will be meeting.

The Nominating Committee

Disaster Relief Report For 2023 Annual Meeting



The Disaster Relief Ministry of the Mid Lakes Association has had a relatively quiet year. We are still in search of more volunteers to be trained and involved in this ministry.

John Rhodes attended and helped lead the chainsaw portion of the Marshfield training last fall. Our trailer and equipment were used for this training event. We did have others from our Association go to this event. We also attended the fall training in Clinton. Currently we are working with the state convention and regional DR Teams to work on a plan that would make regional teams possible. Due to lack of volunteers, this concept may work the best for our region.

On July 31st and following, our unit responded to two different places that were affected by the same storm. We responded to Baptist Hill Camp, Mt Vernon, MO, which was hit hard by a powerful Sunday evening storm. We spent the day clearing fallen trees and helping get the camp where it could open for camp on Tuesday. Monday's camp had to be canceled. A few days later, we had people respond to Golden City, MO to help clear yards from downed trees. We spent several days in Golden City clearing yards for the elderly.

Beginning at our Annual Meeting, Bro. Bill Lower will be working with Bro. John as Directors in our DR Ministry.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry group, please let Bro. Bill or Bro. John know.

John Rhodes, MLBA DR Coordinator, Blue Hat



Personnel / Church Relations Committee Report 2023

The personal committee has been active within the organization in a variety of ways. Some of the exciting updates to share include the various ways of support provided by the Association. Support has been demonstrated by helping the churches and mission groups with the mission of the gospel. The committee set out to help the Camp mission raise reserve funds to assist with camp. The goal was \$12,000. As an organization, we were able to raise over \$8000. This was huge for camp! Thank you to all that supported this mission!

As in life, we have experienced events within the organizations that have saddened us as well. As an organization, we are sad to see New Hope step away from the organization. The committee and John attempted to work things out, unfortunately the attempts for resolution were unsuccessful. Thus, by the request of New Hope, New Hope is no longer a member of the MLBA.

Additionally, we had personnel changes as Leidra Stunkel stepped down from treasurer due to work opportunities. However, we are blessed that Dot Soldavini stepped up as the treasurer. Personnel changes can be difficult to navigate, but that has not been the case. Dot has done an amazing job stepping in.

John is serving the organization with excellence and performing above what is asked of him. He is a blessing to our organization. John has led the building of the block party trailer and organizes the scheduling. He is great to attend the AMS meetings and stays up to date on information. He has also led mission groups here locally and out of town. He is willing to visit churches and encourage pastors in every situation. John has used his expenses wisely. At this time, a request is an increase in expense due to the increased cost of fuel and goods. God is at work and will continue our great organization.

Chase Wagner, Personnel / Church Relations Committee Chair

MLBA Missions Committee Ministry

October 2023

The Missions Committee Ministry has met several times this year. We were responsible for continuing the distribution of \$22,000 that was given to the association by way of a camper sale. We moved \$5,000 into the designated Disaster Relief for operating funds for that ministry.

The bulk of the funds went to build the block party trailer for the Association and our churches to use for ministry. We believe this was a very good investment for the churches have access to. The remainder of the funds went into a designated missions fund. Part of that money was used to hold a block party for our churches so we could demonstrate what is in the trailer and how to operate it. We had around 400 people attend the block party, and 16 out of 18 churches were represented.

We also invested some funds into the Hispanic Block Party with hopes of starting a new Bible Study for Hispanics which could possibly turn into a church plant. We had a good number of Hispanics attend this event.

Some of our mission money was used during the recent mission trip to Chillicothe, MO to build cabinets for The Baptist Home. We were able to complete 16 out of 25 cabinets. Hopefully we will be able to return the first week of November and complete the other nine.

Whether it's a block party, Disaster Relief, Hispanic Ministry, or mission trips, there are opportunities out there for us to work together for Kingdom growth. Thank you for giving, going, and growing the Kingdom.

The Missions Committee

Trustees Report 7/11/2023

Executive Board Report

The Trustees are excited to report to our churches that God is providing for our Association!! God provided after the hail storm with a new roof and new siding. The insurance covered all the costs and a little extra. God has also provided updated appliances for our Association through a generous donation. Our conference room is looking sharp with new comfortable chairs. We had another donation to upsize our tv and presentation wall. Another blessing from God is that Mount Olive donated cabinets for the office work room.

Recently we had a water pipe break and this will require us to repair and remodel the bathroom. We are so blessed to have John in our Association because he likes handyman projects and God is using him to update our aging facility. The Trustees are making every effort to save money and to wisely repair and update broken and aging parts of the building.

We will be bringing up a motion during New Business to use any unused storm damage monies to finish some of the needed work on the facilities.

Thanks,

Josh Lobdell

Trustees:

Raymond Vanish, Rondo Baptist Church

Josh Lobdell, Bethel Church

Shane England, Fender Chapel Baptist Church

MLBA Committee Recommendations for 2023-24

**From MLBA Nominating Ministry
(Jamie Root, Ted Bachman, Gary Walton)**

Budget Ministry

Chadd Caldwell (P) (24) Mt Olive

Scott Burgess (25) Shepherd's Way

 (26)

Camp Ministry

Jesse Toombs (24) First Southern, Stockton

Jana Cossins (25) FBC, Bolivar

Braden Jones (26) Berean

Constitution Ministry

Ray Leiningner (P) (24) FBC, Bolivar

Charles Jackson (P) (25) FBC, Morrisville

Randy Hargis (P) (26) Caplinger Mills

Missions Ministry

Mike Shire (24) Rondo

Barbara Studt (25) FBC, Bolivar

Alex Falig (26) Fender Chapel

Historical Ministry

Lindel Shelton (P) (24) Southern Hills

Kent Johnson (25) Caplinger Mills

Donna Root (26) Noble Hill

Nominating Ministry

Ted Bachman (P)(24) Southern Hills

Gary Walton (P) (25) Heritage

_____ (26) to be Nominated from floor

Personnel/Church Relations Ministry (Minimum of 2 pastors)

Dennis May (P) (24) Noble Hill

Vicki Bock (24) FBC Fair Play

Leta Gass (25) Mt Olive

Brad Hall (P) (25) Heritage

David Chapman (P) (26) Grace Fellowship)

Ed Henry (26) Rondo

Technology Ministry

Kendall Katzer (24) Heritage

Derrick Lewright (P) (25) Berean

Jamie Root (26) Noble Hill

Trustees Ministry

Josh Lobdell (P)(24) Bethel

Shane England (P) (25) Fender Chapel

Ken Spurgeon (26) First, Stockton

(24), (25), (26) = Year term expires

(P) = Pastor//Reverend//Minister

Nominating Committee Cont.

MLBA Officers 2023-24

Associational Mission Strategist.....John Rhodes (P)
Moderator.....Chase Wagner (P)
Vice-Moderator.....David Chapman (P)
Clerk.....Jennifer Smith
Assistant Clerk.....Jamie Root
Treasurer.....Dot Soldivini
Assistant Treasurer.....Breanna Piper
Disaster Relief.....Billy Lower
Music Director.....Bret Stanford
WMU Group Director.....Leidra Stunkel
Evangelism Director.....Josh Lobdell (P)
Youth Director.....Tim Cossins
Children’s Director.....Breanna Piper

Bold print indicates a new person introduced.

**Mid Lakes Baptist Association Proposed Budget
for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024)**

| | BUDGET 2022/2023 | PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024 | Notes for Proposed Budget |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|--|
| ANNUAL PROJECTED RECEIPTS | \$56,850.00 | \$56,850.00 | |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| AMS Related | | | |
| Salary/Housing | \$26,000.00 | \$26,000.00 | |
| Retirement | \$3,600.00 | \$3,600.00 | |
| Ministry Expense (Mileage, etc.) | \$5,000.00 | \$5,000.00 | |
| Total AMS Related | \$34,600.00 | \$34,600.00 | |
| Facilities | | | |
| Office (Included website & background checks) | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | Now includes computer-related expenses, as well. Was reduced by \$1,000. See note below for Total Facilities. |
| Computer | \$1,000.00 | | Now included in Office expense |
| Insurance | \$4,500.00 | \$4,500.00 | |
| Miscellaneous | \$2,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | Was reduced by \$1,000. See note below for Total Facilities. |
| Repair and Maintenance | \$800.00 | \$800.00 | |
| Secretary/Clerk | \$1,200.00 | \$1,200.00 | Now called Professional Services and includes CPA |
| Utilities | \$2,400.00 | \$4,200.00 | Now includes telephone & other utilities |
| Telephone | \$1,800.00 | | Now included in utilities |
| Total Facilities | \$16,700.00 | \$14,700.00 | Facilities budget reduced by \$2,000. Previous fiscal year included additional budget (in the office and miscellaneous categories) for office furnishings, etc. These items have already been purchased, so the expense is no longer needed in the budget. |

Mid Lakes Baptist Association Proposed Budget
for Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024)

| | BUDGET 2022/2023 | PROPOSED BUDGET 2023/2024 | Notes for Proposed Budget |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Ministry | | | |
| Administrative Fund | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | |
| Block Party Ministry | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | |
| Camp Ministry | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 | |
| Children | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | |
| Youth | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | |
| Convention Conference | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | |
| Disaster Relief | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | |
| Evangelism/Outreach | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | |
| Kayak | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | |
| Legal Accounting Professional Fees | \$200.00 | \$200.00 | Accounting services are included above, in what was previously categorized as Secretary/Clerk and will now be called Professional Services. This budget line is for other professional services/fees. |
| Missions | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 | |
| Music | \$100.00 | \$100.00 | |
| WMU | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | |
| Total Ministry | \$7,550.00 | \$7,550.00 | |
| Total Expenses | \$58,850.00 | \$56,850.00 | \$2,000 reduction in overall expenses |

2023-2024 Churches Representatives to the Association Executive Board

Berean: Derrick Lewright

Bethel: Josh Lobdell, Richard Webb, Trudy Webb

Brighton: Chase Wagner, Sarah Grant, Ron Myers, Steven Wagner

Caplinger Mill: Randy Hargis, Kent Johnson

Fender Chapel: Shane England, Kirsten England, Dawson England

FBC, Bolivar: Adam Hughes, Jana Cossins

FBC, Fair Play: David Stunkel, Judy Hougham, David Soldavini

FBC, Humansville: David Cloud, Bob Payne

FBC, Morrisville: Charles Jackson, Mike Bollinger, Maryland Bollinger

First Southern, Stockton: Steve Ewing, Ken Spurgeon, Stacie Spurgeon

Grace Fellowship: David Chapman, Jennifer Smith

Heritage: Gary Walton

Mt Etna: Scott Pruitt, Jane Hudson, Clara Cunningham

Mt Olive: Chadd Caldwell, Audra Flett, Gail Allen

Noble Hill: Dennis Mays, Jamie Root

Rondo: Jeff Robidou, Jan Vanish, Raymond Vanish

Shepherd's Way: Jacob Miller, Kelly Rehm, Evan Allen

Southern Hills: Ted Bachman, Lindel Shelton

MLBA OFFICERS 2023-2024

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Associational Missions Strategist | John Rhodes |
| Moderator | Steven (Chase) Wagner (Brighton) |
| Vice-Moderator | David Chapman (Grace Fellowship) |
| Clerk | Jennifer Smith (Grace Fellowship) |
| Assistant Clerk | Jamie Root (Noble Hill) |
| Treasurer | Dot Soldavini (FBC, Fair Play) |
| Assistant Treasurer | Breanna Piper (Berean) |

Ministry Leaders

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Disaster Relief | Billy Lower (FBC, Fair Play) |
| Music Director | Bret Stanford (FBC, Bolivar) |
| W.M.U. Group Director | Leidra Stunkel (FBC, Fair Play) |
| Evangelism Director | Josh Lobdell (Bethel) |
| Youth Director | Tim Cossins (FBC, Bolivar) |
| Children Director | Breanna Piper (Berean) |

Association Church List

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

| Congregation | Pastor | Phone | Email / Website | Address |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Berean Baptist Church, Bolivar | Pastor Derrick Lewright | (417) 326-7758 | berean@windstream.net http://www.bbcbolivar.com/ info@fbcbolivar.org https://fbcbolivar.org/ | 4450 Scenic Ave, Bolivar, MO 65613-3138 |
| First Baptist Church Bolivar | Adam Hughes | 417-326-2431 | info@fbcbolivar.org https://fbcbolivar.org/ | 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO 65613-1559 |
| Grace Fellowship Baptist Church | David Chapman | | | 4395 S 82nd Rd, Bolivar, MO 65613-8193 |
| Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar | Rev Gary Walton | 417-777-2509 | theheritagebaptistchurch@yahoo.com https://www.theheritagebaptistchurch/ | 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO 65613-8160 |
| Mt Etna Baptist Church | Rev Scott Pruitt | (417) 718-8030 | | 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO 65613-8309 |
| Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar | Chadd Caldwell | 417-326-2805 | mobc.bolivar@gmail.com https://mobcbolivar.org/ | 4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO 65613-8305 |
| Southern Hills Baptist Church | Ted Bachman | 417-326-7474 | mhale@southernhillsbolivar.org | 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO 65613-2514 |
| Brighton Baptist Church | Mr Steven Wagner | | brightonbaptistoutreach@gmail.com | 5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO 65617-7258 |
| Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton | Rev Shane England | (417) 824-8355 | mshadwick14@gmail.com | 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO 65617-7173 |
| First Baptist Church Fair Play | Mr David Stunkel | (417) 507-1707 | davidstunkel@windstream.net | 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO 65649-5104 |
| First Baptist Church Humansville | Pastor David Cloud | 417-754-2317 | humansvillefbc@gmail.com | 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO 65674 |
| First Baptist Church Morrisville | Charles Jackson | | | 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO 65710-9120 |
| Bethel Southern Baptist Church | Pastor Joshua Lobdell | 417-852-4690 | josh777leslie@gmail.com | 23011 Highway J, Pittsburg, MO 65724 |
| Shepherd's Way Church | Jacob Miller | (417) 830-9760 | shepherdswaychurch.ph@gmail.com http://shepherdswaychurch.com/ | 705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO 65725 |
| Rondo Baptist Church | Rev Jeffery Robidou | | | E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO 65650 |
| Caplinger Mills Baptist Church LARRY JOHNSTON (417) 276-7009 jlejohnstn4053@gmail.com 15801 E Highway N, Stockton, MO 65785-8125 | | | | |
| Caplinger Mills Baptist Church | Rev Randy Hargis | (417) 276-7009 | jclarkson1953@gmail.com | 15901 E Highway N, Stockton, MO 65785-8135 |
| First Southern Baptist Church Stockton | Mr Steve Ewing | 417-276-3441 | fsbcstockton@windstream.net http://fsbcstockton.org/ | 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO 65785-9602 |
| Noble Hill Baptist Church | Pastor Dennis Mays | (417) 742-5227 | https://www.noblehill.org/ | 3285 W Farm Rd 36, Willard, MO 65781-8370 |

Mid-Lakes Summary Information For ACP Year 2023

| Congregation | Total | | Other Additions | Worship Attendance | | SS Avg. Attendance | Church VBS Enrollment | Mission Project Participation | Total Receipts |
|----------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | Members | Baptisms | | Attendance | Attendance | | | | |
| Bolivar, Berean | | | | | | | | | |
| Bolivar, First | 1,609 | 31 | 52 | 728 | 465 | 298 | 0 | \$2,465,935 | |
| Bolivar, Grace Fellowship | 29 | 1 | 0 | 23 | 12 | 0 | 0 | \$57,268 | |
| Bolivar, Heritage | | | | | | | | | |
| Bolivar, Mt Etna | 135 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 16 | 16 | 0 | \$31,215 | |
| Bolivar, Mt Olive | 136 | 1 | 2 | 40 | 23 | 25 | 0 | \$110,242 | |
| Bolivar, Southern Hills | 194 | 4 | 27 | 227 | 160 | 0 | 0 | \$371,602 | |
| Brighton, Brighton | | | | | | | | | |
| Brighton, Fender Chapel | 152 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 20 | 0 | 0 | \$23,671 | |
| Fair Play, First | 0 | 0 | 5 | 37 | 21 | 51 | 0 | \$127,333 | |
| Humansville, First | 497 | 1 | 0 | 33 | 15 | 53 | 0 | \$42,730 | |
| Morrisville, First | 64 | 3 | 2 | 39 | 28 | 27 | 0 | \$37,342 | |
| Pittsburg, Bethel Southern | | | | | | | | | |
| Pleasant Hope, Shepherd's | 70 | 7 | 0 | 70 | 60 | 0 | 0 | \$0 | |
| Rondo, Rondo | 175 | 0 | 3 | 40 | 25 | 15 | 0 | \$38,427 | |
| Stockton, Caplinger Mills | 6 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 | \$10,000 | |
| Stockton, First | 186 | 0 | 7 | 132 | 56 | 72 | 0 | \$22,030,603 | |
| Willard, Noble Hill | 90 | 1 | 0 | 80 | 60 | 60 | 0 | \$190,000 | |
| Mid-Lakes | 3,343 | 50 | 98 | 1,510 | 970 | 617 | 0 | \$25,536,368 | |

Missouri Baptist Convention: Reports to the Associations

July 2023

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I. Executive Board Staff Reports

Collegiate Ministries

Jason Yarnell, Interim Director

With the pandemic behind us, Collegiate Ministries are building momentum on campus. In partnership with local Baptist churches, Collegiate Ministries continue providing meals for students, filling stomachs with food and feeding souls with the gospel.

In addition to regular meal programs, the BSU at Southeast Missouri State (SEMO) fed 150 international students in August 2022. The Missouri State BSU fed more than 400 football players, marching band and color guard members each week last fall, and Truman State BSU fed 150 collegians during winter finals.

Nine ministries took 78 staff and students on spring break trips in March across North and Central America. They proclaimed the gospel as they served physical and spiritual needs. The group of 15 from Missouri Western prayed for 280 partying college students on Florida beaches and shared the gospel with 235.

As the Asbury Revival swept across college campuses in February, HLGU held its 17th annual Spiritual Emphasis Week. Twenty-five students professed faith. Collegiate Impact in Kansas City has grown exponentially, expanding ministry from four campuses to eight, growing its staff from four to nine, starting a new program pairing local church members with college students for mentoring, and launching a formal partnership with Spurgeon College.

Collegiate Ministries continues to build on the legacy left by long-time director Gene Austin, who passed away in May after a battle with cancer.

Developing Leaders

Jim Misloski, Director

The Developing Leaders Group is composed of the Resound Network for church revitalization, Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief, and the MBC Leader Care Network. You can read more about Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief and Resound Network in their respective reports.

The MBC Leader Care Network exists to help leaders get well, lead well, and finish well. Members cooperate with Missouri Baptist associational leaders to create a network of support for Missouri Baptist church leaders and their families. In the 2022-2023 season, notable assistance in the form of coaching and counseling was provided to multiple pastors and families who experienced significant loss. The network expanded to include support for ministry wives through the Ministry Wives Network led by Becca Moore and Dana Young.

The Leader Care Network took on the responsibilities of the Associational Liaison when Spencer Hutson finished his contract with MBC and directed all his attention to serving at Baptist Homes & Health Care Ministries. In total, the network provided support to

more than 320 MBC churches and leaders. Requests to the network continue to increase in each successive season. The greatest challenge is the limited capacity of the network.

Brandon Moore, Resound Network

Prayerfully seeking renewal from the Lord, the Resound Network has mobilized leaders across Missouri to catalyze revitalization and replanting through partnerships in a variety of contexts. The network focuses on three priorities: equipping leaders, engaging churches, and encouraging multiplication.

The annual Resound Network Summit hosted more than 125 pastors and directors of missions (DOMs) for equipping as revitalizers, replanters, and consultants. The Resound Network hosted its third annual event at the 2022 MBC Annual Meeting, during which 75 pastors and lay leaders were equipped to assess and develop next steps toward renewal. Twelve churches have embraced recommendations to revitalize, replant, or repurpose, and an additional 15 churches have started the Resound process. Lastly, to encourage multiplication, the network hosted the second Partnership Summit with about 35 pastors and DOMs who worked together to identify next steps toward partnering with struggling churches.

Seeking to address the leadership gap among MBC churches, the Resound Leaders initiative has hosted about 15 workshops across the state to develop tools to help churches discover, develop, discern, and deploy people for ministry leadership. Over 300 leaders engaged in building the network further and were equipped with resources to begin calling out the called in their churches.

Gaylon Moss, Disaster Relief

Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief (MODR) transforms lives and communities with the gospel by bringing help, hope, and healing. Churches participate in MODR by praying, giving, and going.

Missouri Baptist churches responded to 20 disasters either in-state, nationally, or internationally through MODR from July 2022-June 2023. Those church members shared the gospel and at least 20 people were saved!

We began a partnership with Central Asia through Send Relief International. Our plans shifted dramatically from planning development and disaster training to actual response in Turkey for a historic and deadly earthquake. Teams assisted survivors with water purification and helped construct semi-permanent housing.

St. Louis experienced a record flood requiring assistance from MODR and several supporting states. More than 300 homes were assisted, and we have repaired more than 20 homes that were damaged.

MODR responded to assist FBC Venice, Fla., with community cleanup after Hurricane Ian. Working with 18 state conventions, we saw seven people saved, 322 homes cleaned up, and 38,500 hot meals prepared during the month-long response.

Winning a grant from the American Red Cross and Lowe's Home Improvement, and securing gifts-in-kind from local vendors, MODR built two new homes for homeowners affected by a December 2021 tornado in Hayti, Mo.

Executive Office

Dr. John Yeats, Executive Director-Treasurer

The Pathway

Benjamin Hawkins, Editor

During the past two decades, under the leadership of the late founding editor Don Hinkle (1954-2022), *The Pathway* has become nationally respected for espousing a biblical approach to journalism. Today, the newspaper remains committed to providing Missouri Baptists with Christian worldview journalism that shares stories of truth and redemption.

This year, *Pathway* readership has remained strong, with nearly 30,000 subscribers across the state and around the world. *The Pathway* also had a record-setting year in its online readership. Estimated total readership of *The Pathway* has topped 100,000, with 60,000 due to the print edition.

The Pathway is also training up a new generation of Christian journalists. For nearly 15 years, *The Pathway* has held a journalism retreat for staff and freelance writers. But in recent years, dozens of students from communications programs at the Missouri Baptist Convention's three universities have taken part in the retreat, learning from highly experienced, Christian practitioners in the field. *The Pathway* also helps train journalism students from Spurgeon College, at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, by working with interns from the college.

The Pathway is made possible at no cost to subscribers due to the support of Missouri Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

Business Services & Properties Management

Samantha Spencer, Chief Financial Officer

The Business Services Group is the Cooperative Program's entry portal for the MBC. The group accounts for all church receipts and allocates the monies to the appropriate ministries and missions. The receipts processed by Business Services for the year ending December 31, 2022, are as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Cooperative Program | \$14,700,603 |
| Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering | \$ 990,740 |
| Lottie Moon Offering | \$ 4,220,835 |
| Annie Armstrong Offering | \$ 2,323,265 |

As directed in the MBC Bylaws, the financial statements have been audited by a certified public accountant for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Gene Foster, Church Benefits Specialist

Gene Foster, the church benefits specialist helped churches with retirement plans this year. He held compensation-planning seminars and church tax-filing seminars for different associations throughout the state.

He assisted Missouri Baptists with church finance, personnel, and pastor search committees with payroll tax questions, retirement plan set up, and church compensation and financial issues.

Paula Earls, Chief Operations Officer

Paula Earls, the Chief Operations Officer administered the MBC retirement plan, property and casualty insurance policy, personnel policies and benefits. She serves as the main point person for the activities and leases at the MBC building.

Over the past year, she completed insurance applications, assisted with claim requests, responded to insurance-coverage questions and much more. Other work includes planning the MBC Annual meeting and other statewide meetings throughout the year. She additionally assists with various special projects as assigned.

Brooks Crawford, Properties Management Specialist

The Properties Management staff maintains the Jefferson City convention building, High Point Road Conference Center, Disaster Relief warehouse, six BSU buildings, and the MBC fleet of vehicles and trailers.

The staff serves by cleaning, setting up for meetings, conducting light construction, and doing repairs and regular maintenance at these locations.

Staff members have completed renovation of most of the Baptist Building. Remodeling of the ground floor is now finished, with a makeover of the postal center conducted during the spring. In addition, new signage has been installed on the front of the building for easier identification.

Missouri Woman's Missionary Union

Cheryl Stahlman, Missouri WMU Executive Director

This has been a BIG year for Missouri Woman's Missionary Union (MWMU). The state staff team, along with leaders of the MWMU Board and local WMU volunteers, went back to the beginning by holding this year's Missions Celebration at First Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff, on April 15-16 to celebrate a monumental 100 years!

We heard from National WMU Executive Director/Treasurer Sandy Wisdom-Martin, International Mission Board (IMB) and North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries, special video congratulations/updates from Kevin Ezell, NAMB; Paul Chitwood, IMB; and David George, WMU Foundation.

MBC Executive Director John Yeats joined in to present MWMU with a certificate to mark the milestone and a check to honor the hard work of members across the state that helped raise funds for the Missouri Missions Offering.

Missouri PrayerWays impacts our IMB and NAMB missionaries from Missouri who know Missouri Baptists are praying for them. Many churches plan events and services on their birthdays with that in mind.

Three offerings met or exceeded their goals in 2022, with MMO raising more than \$250,000 above its goal; Lottie Moon at \$4,220,835; and Annie Armstrong at \$2,323,265. What an amazing testimony of how God uses us as we partner together to make disciples for Christ!

Abigail Moore, Children's Missions Consultant

In October of 2022, we held a Girls Experiencing Missions (GEM) retreat at Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, registering 57. A Disaster Relief mobile kitchen was set up, providing lunch and a tour of the kitchen for the girls to experience. A mission offering for the Cooperative program was taken, and \$66 was received.

Throughout the year, a total of 13 new Children in Action and Girls in Action groups have been started by churches across the state. We held a GEM retreat Oct. 20-21 at Laclede Baptist Camp near Richland, Mo.

Sarah Schmitt, Student Mission and MyMissions Consultant

MWMU has had the privilege of working with Missouri Baptists for 100 years. This year, members elected to have three young women represent the Missouri Acteen Council (Celia and Cerfornia Shortell, Hannah Stalman) to learn alongside MWMU leaders to work on conferences, meetings, and leadership skills.

The Student Conference at Missions Celebration was very well attended. The conference was led by students from Fusion at Midwestern Seminary. Fusion led a Night of the Nations event, and it was very convicting for the students. One student even felt God call her to missions. Praise God!

The student leadership team is looking forward to two conferences in 2024. One is for all high school and college students, and one is specifically for girls in junior high and high school.

Making Disciples

Brad Bennett, Director

The Making Disciples Group's mission is to assist Missouri Baptists in biblical strategies and processes for making disciples who make disciples. Our aim is to cultivate a gospel-centered culture and community of disciple-making in obedience to the Great Commission. In light of our mission, we have developed the LIFE initiative, a holistic approach to evangelism and discipleship.

Over the last year, the Making Disciples Group has held numerous age-graded disciple-making equipping events. Below is a partial list.

LIFE Outreach

A LIFE Outreach is a community-wide equipping and outreach event. Over the past year, there were seven LIFE Outreaches held, with more than 8,450 in attendance and 605 documented decisions for Christ.

Super Summer Camp

In June, the Making Disciples Group held two weeks of Super Summer on the campuses of Hannibal-LaGrange University and Southwest Baptist University. Super Summer hosted 629 students and leaders over the two weeks. Students were equipped in evangelism and discipleship. More than 50 students surrendered their lives to Christ.

Youth Evangelism Conference

The 2023 Youth Evangelism Conference was held at Freshwater Church in Jefferson City. More than 400 attended. YEC was held to inspire, instruct, and encourage students to share their faith.

Vacation Bible School

The Making Disciples Group held eight different VBS associational trainings across the state, with 26 associations involved and 192 participants.

Ministry Support & Apologetics

Rob Phillips, Director

The Ministry Support & Apologetics Group provides the state missionary staff with creative services, media and technology support, and assistance with the staging and production of MBC events.

Creative Services (CS) promotes the Cooperative Program through ads, videos, articles, and social media, partnering with MBC entities to show the value of our cooperative ministries. The group also promotes the Missouri Missions Offering, producing print and electronic resources that show the impact of more than two dozen mission projects across the state.

Under the leadership of Tony Boes, CS works closely with all MBC ministry groups to enhance their communications needs; expand the role of video in MBC ministries; and keep the convention's presence on social media one of the most active among SBC state conventions.

CS also works closely with High Street Press, the MBC's publishing imprint, releasing three books in 2023, including *What Every Christian Should Know About the Return of Jesus*.

Under Chris Brizendine, Media, Technology & Events (MT&E) continues to improve the speed and reliability of information networks, enhance the convention's database, increase participation in the Annual Church Profile, and lower the cost of IT services.

MT&E also provides superior audio-visual and set design support for all major MBC events.

Multiplying Churches

Rick Hedger, Director

The phone rings in your church office. The caller is from the International Mission Board (IMB), asking about your congregation's global mission activities – and rejoicing to hear about them. Then comes the question: "What is your church doing to reach the nations in your community?" Silence fills the heart.

The Multiplying Churches Group works tirelessly to discover the nations living within the borders of Missouri and then helping Missouri Baptist churches reach them. Among the top 50 people groups in our state, 17 are listed by the IMB as unreached people, and 11 of those groups remain unengaged.

Through resources like *The Nations in Missouri*, a prayer guide focused on ethnic groups in Missouri, a church can wisely establish a prayer strategy for reaching them for Christ's kingdom.

Through demographic studies unique to each church's location, the nations are identified and the church is informed.

And through worldview training, members of that local church are equipped to engage the nations living around them.

As the Lord stirs the hearts of MBC-affiliated church members, the unengaged and unreached peoples at last may be reached for Christ. What will your church do?

II. Strategic Partners Reports

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Russell Martin, President and Treasurer

Missouri Baptist Children's Home (MBCH) helps turn the idea of hope into concrete life changes. When Jesus takes charge of broken lives, despair crumbles into dust as children find homes, youth find direction, parents find resources, and families find a future.

In the past year, MBCH served 2,853 children, youth, and families. A new partnership with CarePortal connected MBCH with Missouri churches for greater community impact. Preparations for the Martin Youth Center, opening later in 2023, were put in place so homeless teens will have access to meals, showers, and laundry facilities while working with a case manager.

Other highlights include bringing 190 children into forever homes, providing safe haven to 22 survivors of human trafficking, connecting 276 mothers and babies with resources and support, and leading five children and youth to accept Christ. MBCH also served families through therapeutic group homes, residential care for adults with developmental disabilities, foster care support, transitional living for youth aging out of foster care, and counseling.

While it's easy to count the number of people served, there's no measuring the impact Jesus made. Above all, MBCH focused on one heart at a time, as they brought HOPE, HEALING, and RESTORATION to children, youth and families.

Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries

Rodney A. Harrison, President and CEO

The Baptist Homes mission as a *distinctively Christian ministry providing Christlike care, education, and advocacy for the aging* was advanced through the following initiatives this year:

Affordable independent living opened in the remodeled second floor of the 100-year-old Riggs-Scott building. Seniors can now enjoy a million-dollar view for under \$1000/month at the Arcadia Valley campus.

The addition of the Tri-County campus in Vandalia. This facility offers CMS-certified skilled and memory care services.

Baptist Homes of Adrian received the first residents. Once completed, the campus will provide comfortable assisted-living apartments and all private-room and lavatory-skilled care accommodations.

Construction on the Veteran's home in Smithville is nearing completion. This campus is currently hiring staff for a fall opening.

Three campuses hosted senior deer hunts in partnership with the National Deer Association. These hunts will be featured this fall in the *Missouri Conservationist* magazine and a Bass Pro video. The senior hunts will expand this season to include the Tri-County campus.

Baptist Homes is blessed to be a voice for the aging among Southern Baptists. These efforts are undergirded by volunteer groups, prayer, and the generosity of Missouri Baptists, whose partnership greatly enhances the lives of each resident and neighbor.

Christian Life Commission

William Isaacson, Chairman

It's been a busy year for the CLC serving the churches of the MBC, advocating public policy, bearing witness to a faithful God who has commanded us all to be salt and light in the world.

The CLC hosted an event (sponsored by the American Renewal Project) to encourage Christian participation in the political arena. In addition, the CLC awarded Governor Mike Parson a Distinguished Service Award for his actions eliminating abortions in Missouri.

Last November, a letter of admonishment was sent to Senator Roy Blunt, urging him to reverse his preliminary vote on the "Respect for Marriage Act."

The CLC co-sponsors, with Concord Baptist Church, the Legislative Prayer Breakfast, held on the first day of the legislative session. An Amicus Brief was filed, along with our three Universities, in support of College of the Ozarks dealing with sexuality and housing on college campuses.

The CLC researched regulated psychedelic therapy for one an MBC-affiliated church dealing with this issue in its community. A formal letter was drafted on behalf of MBC churches supporting the sister churches in Jackson County opposing the banning of conversion therapy.

Missouri Baptist Foundation

Neil Franks, President and Treasurer

The Missouri Baptist Foundation (MBF) embarked on its 77th year of ministry by taking a big step and launching a new way to serve Missouri Baptists. For many years, MBF has offered pooled Cash Fund investments to help institutional clients preserve principal. The solid interest rate has allowed churches, associations, and Christian institutions to better steward the resources entrusted to them.

For the first time in its history, MBF offers the MBF Cash Fund to qualified individuals. (The rates can change monthly, and minimum requirements and qualifications apply.) This offering has already helped individuals increase their ability to establish a lasting legacy.

MBF remains committed to providing exemplary service and investment options to Missouri Baptist churches, associations, and ministries through its Kingdom, Harvest, and Storehouse funds. These funds adhere to our redemptive investing strategy, which involves filtering out harmful elements while actively selecting investments that promote positive God-honoring outcomes, including human capital development, affordable medicines, and farmland cultivation.

Additionally, MBF continues to assist generous individuals in making legacy and planned estate gifts to kingdom causes. To learn more about MBF funds or how you can leave a legacy, call (573) 761-0717 or go online at www.mbf.org.

Historical Commission

Gaylord L. Mustin, Chairman

The Historical Commission awarded the Missouri Baptist Heritage Scholarship to four students, who were asked to submit research papers on some aspect of Missouri Baptist history. Each student receives a \$2,000 scholarship for the next academic year. Half of the funding comes from the Cooperative Program, and the other half from the students' institutions.

The winners are: Caleb Brittain, Southwest Baptist University (from Knob Noster); Morgan Smith, Missouri Baptist University (from Wright City); Gabriel Gard, Hannibal-LaGrange University (from Eureka); and Ezra Richardson, Spurgeon College (from Thorp, Wash.).

Brittain wrote about “The Early Development of Baptist Educational Institutions In Missouri, 1849-1906.” Smith’s paper covered “The History of Baptist Missions to the Native Americans in Missouri.” Gard wrote about “The History of Hannibal-LaGrange University.” Richardson wrote about “Early Missouri Baptist History.”

April 30, 2024, marks the 200th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mo. Planning has begun for a celebration to be held from April 21-28, 2024. Plans include a “Walk of Faith” to begin at Old Bethel Church and end at FBC with an old-fashioned “dinner of the grounds.” First Baptist Jackson was the 9th church organized by members of Bethel Baptist Church and the only one that is still functioning today.

III. Higher Education Institution Reports

Hannibal-LaGrange University

Dr. Robert J. Matz, President

Last year God began a new work. In the spring, revival came to Hannibal-LaGrange University. Dozens of students came to faith in Christ for the first time, and dozens more recommitted their lives or surrendered to vocational ministry. It is our genuine prayer that the Lord’s new work would continue.

The Lord’s work was also seen through his gracious financial and numerical provision. Financially, HLGU is now practicing biblical stewardship through a balanced budget, and numerically significant increases in applications and admitted students have been realized in residential, online, and graduate programs.

With secular universities embracing antibiblical presuppositions, it is no wonder Christian parents and students increasingly question the value of a college education. Anchored in a biblical worldview, HLGU stands as the best investment students can make in their future.

At HLGU, students are equipped through a relevant education to become transformational leaders who make a generational impact. Faculty are trained in a Christian worldview in partnership with the Colson Institute and annually affirm *The Baptist Faith & Message*, a literal creation, and a biblical understanding of sexual relations and God’s gift of gender.

Missouri Baptists can rest assured that the education students receive at HLGU is deeply rooted in our collective biblical and baptistic identity. We invite Missouri Baptists to send a new generation of students to become HLGU Trojans.

Missouri Baptist University

Dr. Keith Ross, President

Like the city on the hill Jesus so vividly described in Matthew’s gospel, Missouri Baptist University has been a shining light for more than 60 years. MBU’s vibrant community continues to pursue the twin values of lifelong learning and service.

Anticipating an increasingly brighter future, the university launched *Together We Shine*, a campaign that will fund a new academic building and welcome center, while also growing the endowment and enhancing academic programs. In short, this campaign allows MBU to attract and equip more students to serve communities across St. Louis and around the world.

A new partnership with the MBC's Resound Network enables the university to offer an academic program in church revitalization. This fall, students will gain practical skills aimed at strengthening church unity and evangelistic effectiveness.

Furthermore, students from MBU's School of Nursing traveled to Greece in March, conducting healthcare clinics for refugee populations, sharing the gospel, and encouraging local evangelical churches.

These are just a few of the many initiatives and interactions that, through God's kindness and guidance, allow the university to be a beacon of hope in a world yearning for the healing power of the gospel.

Southwest Baptist University

Rick Melson, Ph.D., President

SBU continued its momentum over the past year. The university accomplished a five-percent enrollment growth in its fall 2022 class, and maintained year-over-year increases of more than 30 percent in applicants and admissions for the fall 2023 class.

More than 200 student-athletes received All-Conference Academic honors in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

The university successfully hosted an accreditation site visit team from the Higher Learning Commission in May. SBU looks forward to the HLC's board meeting in November, where it is confident its accreditation will be reaffirmed for another 10 years and its probation designation removed.

New degree programs launched this fall include a bachelor's degree in data science and MBA concentrations in data analytics and marketing. The new online campus, SBU Worldwide, launched this fall with degree programs in business administration and health sciences.

All seats on the executive cabinet were filled by the spring. Experienced leaders from across the country will shape the new five-year strategic plan that takes the university through its 150th anniversary in 2028. This includes establishing SBU as a resource for Baptist churches, as evidenced by the recent "We Believe" series launched online at baptistfaithandmessage.com.