

2025 Annual Meeting Book of Reports



159th Annual Meeting Mid-Lakes Southern Baptist Association

Monday, October 13th / Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar

Tuesday, October 14th / Shepherd's Way Church, Pleasant Hope

(Tuesday will be camp night)



Psalms 133:1

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

Mid lakes Baptist Association

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MLBA 159th Annual Meeting

“Dwelling Together in Unity”

Monday, October 13, 2025
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar, MO

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

Welcome – Charles Jackson, Moderator & Pastor FBC, Morrisville

Opening Prayer: Gary Urich, Interim Pastor Heritage Baptist

Call to Order: Charles Jackson, Moderator

Time of welcoming each other.

Attendance Count and moves the Seating of the Messengers

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion to accept written reports

Time of Worship: Brad Hall, Heritage Baptist Church, 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:

- Personnel Committee recommendation to accept Wellspring Baptist Fellowship as a member of the Mid Lakes Baptist Association (to be voted on Tuesday evening.)

New Business: Discussion on moving the annual meeting to one night.

Music: Brad Hall

Guest: Dr. Alan Brock – Regional Catalyst for The MBC Resound Network.

AMS Report: John Rhodes

Introduction of any new pastor or staff.

Announce Tuesday evening’s agenda and place. Shepherd’s Way, Pleasant Hope – Meal 6:00 PM
Meeting 6:45 PM (Camp Night)

Closing Prayer

MLBA 159th Annual Meeting

“Dwelling Together in Unity”

**Tuesday, October 14, 2025
Shepherd’s Way Church, Pleasant Hope, MO**

Call to Order: Charles Jackson, Moderator

Welcome & Prayer – Jacob Miller, Pastor Shepherd’s Way Church

Great each other

Both Camp Videos

Proposed Budget Vote

Nominating Committee Presentation Vote

Special vote on next year’s annual meeting.

Camp Testimony – Tim Cossins

Worship: FBC, Bolivar Youth Band

Camp Testimony: Lucas & Cuper

Worship: FBC, Bolivar Youth Band

Camp Testimony: Jozie

Message: Salvador Gonzalez, First Southern Baptist Church, Stockton

Worship Invitation: FBC, Bolivar Youth Band

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

Closing Prayer

MLBA 2025 / 2026 Calendar

October 27-28, 2025 MBC Annual Meeting, Branson, MO

11/1/25 Time Change

11/4/25 Election Day

11/4/25 Men's Fellowship

11/11/25 Veteran's Day

11/18/25 Men's Fellowship

11/24/25 WMU Mtg

11/27/25 Thanksgiving Day

11/27 – 28/25 Office Closed

11/30/12/7/25 Week of Prayer for Internation Mission Board (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering)

12/2/25 Men's Fellowship

12/16/25 Men's Fellowship

12/25/25 Christmas Day

12/24 & 26/25 Office Closed

12/31/26 Youth New Year's Eve Party

1/1/26 New Year's Day

1/6/26 Men's Fellowship

1/20/26 Men's Fellowship

1/20/26 Executive Board Meeting

1/26/26 WMU Mtg

2/2/26 Groundhog Day

2/3/26 Men's Fellowship

2/14/26 Valentines Day

2/15/26 Focus on WMU Sunday

2/16/26 President's Day

2/17/26 Men's Fellowship

2/23/26 WMU Mtg

March Pastor's Wives Appreciation Month

3/3/26 Men's Fellowship

3/8/26 Time Change

3/8/26 Bro. John's 5th Year Anniversary as AMS

3/17/26 Men's Fellowship

3/29/26 Palm Sunday

3/30/26 WMU Mtg

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Time (NAMB)

4/5/26 Easter Sunday

4/7/26 Men's Fellowship

4/21/26 Men's Fellowship

4/22/26 Executive Board Meeting

4/26/26 Semi-Annual Fellowship Meeting

4/27/26 WMU Mtg

5/5/26 Men's Fellowship

5/7/26 National Day of Prayer

5/10/26 Mother's Day

5/19/26 Men's Fellowship

5/25/26 Memorial Day

5/26/26 WMU Mtg

6/2/26 Men's Fellowship

6/7-10/26 SBC Annual Mtg Orlando, FL

6/16/26 Men's Fellowship

6/21/26 Father's Day

6/29/26 WMU Mtg

7/4/26 Independence Day

7/7/26 Men's Fellowship

7/21/26 Men's Fellowship

7/21/26 Executive Board Mtg

7/25-28/26 Kid's Camp

7/28-8/2/26 Youth Camp

7/27/26 WMU Meeting

8/4/26 Men's Fellowship

8/12/26 Nominating Committee Meeting

8/18/26 Men's Fellowship

8/18/26 Budget Committee Meeting

8/31/26 WMU Mtg

9/1/26 Men's Fellowship

9/5/26 Country Days, Bolivar

9/7/26 Labor Day

9/13/26 Grandparent's Day

9/15/26 Men's Fellowship

9/23/26 See You at the Pole

9/28/26 WMU Mtg

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

10/6/26 Men's Fellowship

10/12-13/26 MLBA Annual Meeting

10/20/26 Men's Fellowship

10/26/26 WMU Mtg

10/26-27/26 MLB Annual Meeting

10/28/26 DOM Fall Retreat

11/1/26 Time Change

11/3/26 Election Day

11/3/26 Men's Fellowship

11/11/26 Veteran's Day

11/17/26 Men's Fellowship

11/26/26 Thanksgiving Day

11/26-27/26 Office Closed

11/30/26 WMU Mtg

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Time

12/1/26 Men's Fellowship

12/15/26 Men's Fellowship

12/24/26 Christmas Eve

12/25/26 Christmas Day

12/24-1/2/27 Office Closed

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, January 21, 2025, Berean Baptist Church, Bolivar.

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. and opening prayer was led by Moderator Charles Jackson, First Baptist Morrisville. Michael Martinez, ministry intern at Berean, presented a short presentation about the recent mission trip to Colombia, South America.

The roll was presented of churches (attached). Nineteen persons from nine churches were present. A quorum was present.

The consent agenda of 1) approval of agenda for January 21, 2025; 2) approval of minutes for October 14-15, 2024 Annual Meeting; 3) approval of quarterly financial statement and 4) presentation of written reports for filing was presented. Chase Wagner, Brighton, made the motion the consent agenda be approved. Ray Vanish, Rondo, seconded. The motion carried. The annual report of the budget was presented by the treasurer, Dot Soldavini, First Baptist Fair Play, as it was not ready prior to the annual meeting. Coming from the Finance Committee, the report does not need a second. The budget was approved.

There was no old business or new business.

In partnering opportunities, Derrick Lewright, Berean Baptist, presented more information including pictures from Berean's mission trip to Colombia, South America. He used Psalm 34:1-8 as a text and drew the contrast of a short term mission trip as a "vacation" mission trip versus as "working" mission trip. He indicated a short term mission trip allows a participant to dip their toes in the pool of what God doing in other places to decide if this is something God is wanting for them. If handled correctly, participants see and participate in global missions, career missionaries are encouraged in their work, participants are encouraged to pray, give, and go on missions, and participants have dipped their toes in how can God use me?

John Rhodes, AMS, presented his quarterly report to the association (attached).

Announcements included Camp dates (Kid's camp – July 26-29, cost \$150 and Youth camp – July 30-Aug 3, cost \$160. Reservations for the Block Party trailer are on a first-come basis. It is automatically reserved for associational and camp events. The next executive board meeting is Tuesday April 15 at 7 pm. The place is to be announced. The Camp Committee is planning a spring youth event on March 8, 2025. Watch for future details. Remember camp scholarship fund for kids who otherwise might not be able to go to camp.

In prayer requests, pray for Bethel Baptist and Heritage Baptist as they search for a pastor. Thank you to Berean Baptist for hosting the meeting. Charles Jackson led in closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, April 15, 2025, Rose Building (FBC), Bolivar.

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. and opening prayer was led by Moderator Charles Jackson, First Baptist Morrisville. John Rhodes, AMS, shared Romans 8:28 and called upon those in attendance to share praises.

The roll was presented of churches (attached). Eleven people representing eight churches were present. A quorum was not present. No business could be conducted.

Reports were attached to the agenda but no action was taken. Reports included the planned agenda, minutes from the January Executive Board meeting, quarterly financial reports, information from camp, and a letter from Grace Fellowship Baptist church to exit the association. This information will be presented at the next Executive Board meeting in July.

In partnering opportunities, Duke Jones, Mt. Etna, presented a slide show and reported from his recent mission trip to Thailand with SBU students. They spent a week ministering at Connie's House, an orphanage and more in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The orphanage was begun many years ago by an IMB missionary couple. They stayed in Thailand with the ministry after retiring from the IMB. Babies and children are loved, fed, educated, and told about Jesus. Then they are available for adoption, many to American families. Helping in the orphanage are girls who have been rescued from sex trafficking and other situations. This is the tenth trip Dr. Jones has made to this orphanage. While they are there, Connie and her husband are able to have a weekend respite and many hands-on projects are accomplished in the way of repairs and painting.

John Rhodes, AMS, presented his quarterly report to the association (attached).

Announcements included Camp dates (Kid's camp – July 26-29, cost \$150 and Youth camp – July 30-Aug 3, cost \$160. Reservations for the Block Party trailer are on a first-come basis. It is automatically reserved for associational and camp events. The next executive board meeting is Tuesday July 15 at 7 pm at Mt. Etna. The annual meeting is scheduled for October 13-14th. Tentatively, Monday will be at Shepherd's Way and Tuesday at Heritage.

In prayer requests, pray for Bethel Baptist, Heritage Baptist, and Mt Olive as they search for a pastor. Thank you to First Baptist for hosting the meeting. Charles Jackson led in closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

Quarterly Executive Board Meeting, July 15, 2025, Mt. Etna Baptist Church

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Moderator Charles Jackson, Morrisville. Chase Wagner, Brighton, in the opening prayer.

Dr. Duke Jones, Mt. Etna, welcomed attendees and presented a devotion from Matthew 11.

The roll was presented of churches (attached). A total of thirty three persons from 13 churches, including 5 guests) were in attendance. A quorum was present.

The consent agenda was presented. Approval of agenda for July 15, 2025 – motion to approve made by Derrick Lewright, Berean, seconded by Chase Wagner, Brighton. Approval of minutes for January 21, 2025, and unofficial minutes (no quorum) from April 15, 2025 – motion to approve made by Chase Wagner, Brighton, seconded by Duke Jones. Approval of financial statements 10/1/2024-6/30/2025 – presented by Dot Soldavini, Treasurer, Fair Play, who made the motion to approve and seconded by Duke Jones, Mt. Etna. The written reports were presented and filed.

There was no old business.

In new business, a letter was presented from Grace Fellowship Baptist Church withdrawing from Mid-Lakes Baptist Association, the MBC, and the SBC as they have merged with Liberty Baptist Church, an independent Baptist Church. Motion to accept the withdrawal by Brad Hall, Heritage, and seconded by Chase Wagner, Brighton. Motion carried.

John Rhodes, AMS, presented information from the Missions Committee regarding a request from Pastor Hazael Rodriguez of the Iglesia Cristiana Casa de Oracion Church in Springfield for financial assistance to help sponsor a NAMB Send Network Pastor Residency Program training over the next year (information in the packet for attendees). The Missions Committee recommends the association give \$600 in a lump sum from monies already collected and designated for the Hispanic mission. Coming from a committee, the motion does not need a second. After discussion, the motion carried.

A recommendation from the Personnel Committee was deferred to the annual meeting in October.

There was no other new business.

In partnering opportunities, Tyler Miles and Alex West, representatives from GLC Insurance Group presented information about a GAP (Group Affiliate Program) whereby the churches can form a group to receive volume based pricing, preferred underwriting which provides “insulation” against rate hikes and drops, dedicated advisor support and still have individual autonomy over their policy. To form a group, there must be ten ministry entities to participate (the associational office counts as one) and for maximum loss control, participation needs to be at least 75%. Many of our churches have experienced insurance issues, rate hikes, drops for various reasons and these issues are not just in our association. Interested churches should contact Bro. John and the GLS advisors with the church’s name and contact information. Then the church will need to provide a copy of their current policy and their loss history over the last 5 years so they can be evaluated for policy information. The GLS advisors will work individually with each church.

John Rhodes presented his report of events since the last meeting (attached). One item in particular, since the AMS position is part-time and Bro. John is expected to be bi-vocational, he has accepted the pastorate (again bi-vocational) at Mount Olive Baptist Church within the association. Beginning August 10, 2025, Mount Olive's Sunday worship services will be moved to 8:45 a.m. This will allow him to visit other churches and preach in other churches, too. In addition, their midweek services will be moved to Thursday evenings so that Bro. John is available to visit other churches on Wednesday evening. This will allow Bro. John to be in the office more hours and will work out of the office for both the association and Mount Olive. Both Mount Olive and Mid-Lakes will need to exercise some flexibility as the new arrangement is worked out.

In announcements:

1. Camp dates – Kid's Camp is July 26-29 and Youth Camp is July 30-Aug 3. This year's cost for camp: Kids - \$150 and Youth \$160. Scott Pruitt will be kids camp pastor and Derrick Lewright is the youth camp pastor. Kids camp only has 27 registered while Youth camp has 77 register with volunteer staff of 45 for the entire week.
2. Reservations for the Block Party Trailer are on a first-come basis. It is automatically reserved for associational and camp events.
3. Also the Kayak Trailer, Shuttle, and Mission Trailer are available for our churches to use.
4. The Associational Annual meeting will be October 13 & 14, 2025. Monday, the 13th, at Shepherd's Way in Pleasant Hope and Tuesday, the 14th, at Heritage Baptist Church.
5. The regional WMU, EQUIP conference, will be held Saturday, August 16, at First Baptist Church, Bolivar.

Chase Wagner, Brighton, made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Walt Greenleaf, Southern Hills. Chase Wagner led the closing prayer and the meetings was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

MLBA Deceased members for 2024-2025

Bethel - Trudy Webb

FBC, Fair Play - Sharon Truitt

FBC, Bolivar:

Ed Clark

Ethel Wood

Glatha Hooper

Harlene Esther

Joe Curtis (Deacon)

Paul Brown

Rex Hubbard

Rex (R.B.) Brown

Grace Fellowship:

Norma Roberts

James (Jim) Staley

Cindy Fleming



MLBA Associational Missions Strategist Report

This past year has been a year with some ups and downs. I have been blessed to preach in many of our churches and to visit all our churches. Because some churches have been without a pastor, I have spent extra time with these churches, doing my best to help them by filling the pulpit, and guiding them as they establishing search committees and interims. We did have one church which left the association. Grace Fellowship was struggling with an older congregation and was looking at closing, but before that happened, they chose to merge with Liberty Independent Baptist Church. In doing so, they (now Liberty) requested to be removed from the ranks of the SBC, MBC, and the MLBA. We wish them well.

We want to pray for and wish the following ministers God's blessings as they continue serving God in other areas of ministry or other churches outside our association. David Chapman who was a Grace Fellowship, Gary Walton who was at Heritage, Josh Lobdell who was at Bethel, Harry Moore who served at Caplinger Mills and at Rondo before that, Adam Hughes who pastored FBC, Bolivar, Chadd Caldwell who was at Mt Olive, and Duke Jones who was at Mt Etna. We also pray for those who will follow in these leadership roles.

We are excited about Wellspring Baptist Fellowship requesting membership into the association. Our personnel committee (as required by our constitution), has reviewed their founding documents and met with leadership, and are recommending welcoming them into our fellowship. We have worked together for years, but now it will be more formal. Beginning in January they began in good faith giving financially to the association. We appreciate their support and commitment. Welcome Wellspring Baptist Fellowship.

Since our last Annual Meeting our churches have been active in sharing the gospel, and it is exciting to see churches baptizing many into their fellowships. It seems that more churches are returning to baptizing in the area rivers. What a great testimony. Keep up the good work.

Our camp this year went very well. Our churches continue to give and support camp, and I am excited to see all those who volunteer their time to camp. Our youth and children's directors, along with the camp committee and others, work hard year-round making camp a very valuable ministry in the association. Several youth were saved at this year's camp.

The Hispanic Bible Study continues to meet each week with a solid core group of around 25 people growing and learning. Pastor Hazael Rodriguez is currently leading this group, but he is also overseeing a Residency Bible Institute program (Which is a NAMB program to train pastors) and has 7 young men who are taking these classes to help teach them what it means to be "Called to the Ministry" and to prepare them to pastor. This is a year-long program which began in August of this year. Hopefully one of these young men will be able to come in and shepherd the group that meets each week in Bolivar at FBC's Rose Building. This is still a very wonderful church planting opportunity for all of us to pray for and eventually support financially. Our association did invest \$600 into the Residency Bible Institute Program, so Thank You!

Our association WMU group is growing and ministering to many different needs. Thanks to Mrs. Leidra Stunkel who is doing an outstanding job leading it. Also, the men's fellowship, which meets two times a month, is going well. We have a great time studying and challenging each other in the Word.

There is a lot more I could say but allow me to say THANK YOU to all of you for allowing me to serve you and for all your support. I look forward to what God is going to do in the future. If you need me, please feel free to call.

It is hard to believe that on March 8, 2026, I will have been here five full years. Time sure does fly.

Blessings,
Bro. John Rhodes, AMS

Mid Lakes Camp Report for Annual Meeting 2025



Our theme verse for Midlakes Camps 2025 was Psalm 23:1 which says, “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” During Kids Camp we were glad to have the fantastic Scott Pruitt to lead our younger students through chapel lessons. He kept us engaged, laughing, and learning! This is always a win with our younger students! Our worship leader for Kids Camp was Emilia Hogan from Berean Baptist Church. She did a lovely job, and we are very grateful for her willingness to lead.

At Youth Camp we were blessed by Derrick Lewright and Braden Jones from Berean Baptist Church tag teaming the Chapel preaching and Bible Study lesson times. We so appreciate them taking the time to be at camp pouring into the Scripture with us! For youth camp worship, the First Baptist Church of Bolivar Youth Ministry Worship Team came and did a great job leading our students. How nice it is to worship together! The responsibility of nurse for the whole week was taken up by Christa Hernandez, she is a rockstar and we are so grateful for her!

Kids Camp had 31 students in attendance. At Youth Camp we had 82 students. These kiddos were so much fun to be with, and we love their enthusiasm for spending time in their groups & learning about Christ. We had a total of 46 amazing leaders/staff working as a team to make camp possible. These leaders filled the roles of kitchen staff, recreation leader, cabin leaders, missions time, crafts, outdoor activities, leading devotions and so, so much more. We appreciate each one of them and all they do!

Overall, we are so thankful for the work the Lord does through Mid Lakes Camps. It’s an honor and privilege to be a part of this ministry. The Camp Committee & leadership do a wonderful job planning for camp ahead of time; there is just so much work and preparation that goes into one week of time. We truly could not make it happen without the support of our MLBA churches and committees. For those of you who donated financially, gave material donations, or lifted us up in prayer THANK YOU!

-Breanna Piper and the Mid Lakes Camp Committee



Mid-Lakes Baptist Association WMU meets monthly, on the last Monday of the month at the associational office. We continue to grow! Each time we meet, we focus on a specific area of missions, and members bring donations to support that mission. We have collected for the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, Home Court Advantage, Hopes Safe Haven, Baptist Homes and Healthcare Ministries, Alpha House, and the Mid-Lakes Children's and Youth Camps.

In November, we had a Christmas Party and assembled Christmas bags for local CMH Hospice patients.

We had a tea at First Baptist of Fair Play in May. The tea involved ladies from six churches from two associations, and we were inspired by Susie Kinslow-Adams' encouraging words.

In August, we were blessed to help with Equip. Equip is a conference of Missouri's Southwest Region WMU. We are currently making plans to help with the state meeting in April at South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, MO.

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Serving together,

Leidra Stunkel, Associational WMU Director.



MLBA Disaster Relief Ministry

September 2025

This past year the MLBA Disaster Relief Ministry responded to two separate disasters. We had a crew that worked north of Iconium and assisted several homes who had downed trees due to a tornado which swept through that area. We had four people from our association go, and another joined us there from another association. We were the first people to enter that community to help and this was four days after the tornado happened. A tornado had hit St Louis the same day, and most of the state resources went to St Louis. The people in this community were very appreciative of our assistance.

Our second response was on the north/west side of Springfield. We were requested to reach the home of a couple who had a giant oak tree fall on their home. In order to reach the house, we had to cut two large trees out of the road to gain access. We only had two people respond, but thankfully two local individuals did lend a hand dragging limbs. We were able to remove the tree from the house just before dark, and in a light rain that had developed. Thankfully we were able to make sure their home didn't receive more water damage.

Our greatest need in this ministry is trained volunteers. Most have aged out, and we are in desperate need of people to step up to the plate and go. There have been many opportunities to go, but we have not had available volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact the association office.

Billy Lower, Disaster Relief Director

John Rhodes, Disaster Relief Coordinator

MLBA Committee Recommendations for 2025-26

From MLBA Nominating Ministry
(Jeff Robidou, Dan Stanley, Tim Cossins)

Budget Ministry

Chase Wagner (26) Brighton (filling vacant position)

Derrick Lewright (27) Berean

Leta Gass (28) Mt Olive

Camp Ministry

Braden Jones (26) Berean

Duke Jones (27) Mt Etna

Keri Barnes (28) FSBC, Stockton

Constitution Ministry

Milton Dickensheet (26) Rondo

Dale Cox (26) FBC, Bolivar

James Garrison (28) Mt Olive

Missions Ministry

Alex Falig (26) Fender Chapel

Phil Beasley (27) FBC, Bolivar

Taresa Ball (28) FBC, Bolivar

Historical Ministry

Donna Root (26) Noble Hill

Reed Steiner (27) Heritage

Stella Cunningham (28) Mt Olive

Nominating Ministry

Dan Stanley (26) Heritage

Tim Cossins (27)

Jeff Robidou 28) Rondo Appointed by the Moderator (Jeff had finished Gary Walton's term but qualifies to serve another term)

Personnel/Church Relations Ministry (Minimum of 2 pastors/ministers) (all from different churches)

Jacob Miller (P)(26) Shepherd's Way (Completing David Chapman's term - Elected 10/25); Ed Henry (26) Rondo

Cynthia Walker (27) Brighton; Leidra Stunkel (27) FBC, Fair Play

Walter Greenleaf (M) (28) Southern Hills; Larissa Katzer (28) Heritage

Technology Ministry

Jamie Root (26) Noble Hill

Robert Cortner (27) FBC, Bolivar

Kyndle Katzer (28) Heritage

Trustees Ministry

Ken Spurgeon (26) First, Stockton

Mike Lenz (27) FBC, Bolivar

Bob Brown (28) FBC, Bolivar

(26), (27), (28) = Year term expires

(P) = Pastor//Reverend//Minister

MLBA Officers 2025-26

Associational Mission Strategist.....John Rhodes (P) Mt Olive

Moderator.....Charles Jackson (P) FBC, Morrisville

Vice-Moderator.....David Stunkel (P) FBC, Fair Play

Clerk.....Jennifer Smith, FBC, Bolivar

Assistant Clerk.....Cynthia Walker, Brighton

Treasurer.....Dot Soldavini, FBC, Fair Play

Assistant Treasurer.....Chelsea White, FBC, Bolivar

Disaster Relief.....Billy Lower, FBC, Fair Play

Music Director.....Brad Hall (M), Heritage

WMU Director.....Leidra Stunkel, FBC, Fair Play

Evangelism Director.....Josh Lobdell (M), FBC, Bolivar

Youth Director.....Tim Cossins, FBC, Bolivar

Children’s Director.....Breanna Piper, Berean

MLBA Personnel Committee Recommendation

Concerning Wellspring Baptist Fellowship

The Personnel Committee of the Mid-Lakes Baptist Association met on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5 p.m. in the association office.

The members of the Personnel Committee in attendance were: Brad Hall (Chairman), Cynthia Walker, Leta Gass, and Leidra Stunkel. Ed Henry was unable to attend due to illness. Also present were John Rhodes, the Mid-Lakes Associational Missions Strategist, Bryan Milburn and Chuck Lentz from Wellspring Baptist Fellowship.

Our committee had previously met and reviewed the constitution and bylaws and other church documents from Wellspring Baptist Fellowship and found their documents to be sound doctrinally and in agreement with those of the Mid Lakes Association.

The 9/15/25 meeting began with prayer, followed by introductions. Mr. Milburn and Dr. Lentz shared information about the structure of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship, after which the floor was opened for questions. Once the question-and-answer session concluded, Mr. Milburn and Dr. Lentz left the meeting.

Brad Hall then made the following motion:

"On the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, I move that Wellspring Baptist Fellowship be accepted as a participating church in the Mid-Lakes Baptist Association."

The motion was passed unanimously.

Sincerely,

Brad Hall, Personnel Committee Chairman



Mid Lakes Baptist Association tion

Churches and Pastors

Berean - Derrick Lewright

Bethel _____

Brighton - Chade Wagner

Caplinger Mills _____

Fender Chapel - Shane England

FBC, Bolivar - Interim John Marshall

FBC, Fair Play - David Stunkel

FBC, Humansville - David Cloud

FBC, Morrisville - Charles Jackson

First Southern Baptist Church, Stockton - Steve Ewing

Heritage - Interim Gary Urich

Mt Etna _____

Mt Olive - John Rhodes

Noble Hill - Dennis Mays

Rondo - Jeff Robidou



Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries
400 E. High Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101
2025 Report to the Associations

Since 1913, Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries has provided Christlike care for the aging. When restored to the Missouri Baptist Convention in 2019, the ministry faced significant declines in people served and cash reserves at unsustainable levels.

In response, a season of prayer, fasting and wise counsel brought decisive action. Through faithful stewardship and deep austerity measures, Baptist Homes began a strong path toward recovery. At the heart of this renewal is our unwavering commitment to biblical stewardship and care for the aging along with an unwavering commitment to the sanctity of human life and Missouri Baptists.

Significant progress has been made in expanding our reach and services. New this year are the **Baptist Homes of Shelbina** – A skilled nursing and memory care facility located 40 minutes west of Hannibal, Missouri and the completion of the **Baptist Homes of Ashland**, our newest campus, offering a full continuum of care of Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Skilled Nursing Care.

Affordable, Faith-Based Senior Living

While the costs of senior care continue to rise, Baptist Homes remains committed to offering affordable options—especially in Independent Living—while providing the security and fellowship of a Christian community.

Campus Services & Locations:

- **Adrian:** ILF, SNF, RS. Phone 816-297-8901
- **Arcadia Valley:** ILF, ALF, NF, ADC. Phone 573-546-7429
- **Ashland:** ILF, ALF, SNF, RS. Phone 573-657-0506
- **Ozark:** ILF, ALF, NF, RS. Phone 417-581-2101
- **Shelbina:** MC, SNF, RS. Phone 573-588-4175
- **Vandalia (Tri-County):** ALF, SNF, RS. Phone 573-594-6467
- **Coming Soon:** Smithville Veteran focused ALF, MC

ILF--Independent Living; **ALF**—Assisted Living; **MC**—Memory Care/Alzheimer’s; **NF/SNF**—Nursing Facility; **RS**—Restoration and Rehab Services; **ADC**--Adult Day Care

Equipping the Local Church

Baptist Homes partners with local churches by offering free one-hour workshops, including:

- Navigating Medicare and Medicaid
- When Staying at Home Is Not Possible
- Planning for a God-Honoring Retirement

Additionally, Baptist Homes leadership is available for pulpit supply at no cost to Missouri Baptist Convention churches. **For more information, contact us at info@bhbm.org or (866) 454-2709.**

Pastor Directory

Berean Baptist Church, Bolivar 4450 Scenic Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-3138, (417) 326-7758	Pastor Derrick Lewright
Brighton Baptist Church 5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,	Mr Steven Wagner
Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Rev Shane England
First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Adam Hughes
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mr David Stunkel
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Pastor David Cloud
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Charles Jackson
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Steve Ewing
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509	Gary Urich
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Dr William Jones
Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar 4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8305, 417-326-2805	Rev John Rhodes
Noble Hill Baptist Church 3285 W Farm Rd 36, Willard, MO, 65781-8370, (417) 742-5227	Pastor Dennis Mays
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Rev Jeffery Robidou
Shepherd's Way Church 705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO, 65725, (417) 830-9760	Mr Jacob Miller
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Ted Bachman

Pastor's Spouse Directory

Brighton Baptist Church 5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,	Mrs April Wagner
Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mrs Kirsten England
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mrs Leidra Stunkel
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Mrs Jane Jackson
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Donis Ewing
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Mrs Melinda Jones

Pastor's Spouse Directory

Noble Hill Baptist Church 3285 W Farm Rd 36, Willard, MO, 65781-8370, (417) 742-5227	Mrs Emily Mays
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Mrs Kristin Robidou
Shepherd's Way Church 705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO, 65725, (417) 830-9760	Laura Miller
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Mrs Shanna Bachman

Associate Pastor Directory

Shepherd's Way Church 705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO, 65725, (417) 830-9760	Kelly Rehm
Shepherd's Way Church 705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO, 65725, (417) 830-9760	Evan Allen

Church Administrator Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Tom Stanford
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Minister of Music Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mr Mark Shadwick
Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mr Alejandro Falig
First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Mr Bret Stanford
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mrs Leidra Stunkel
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mr Greg Whaley
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Juli Holland
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Stephanie Wheeler
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509	Mr Brad Hall
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Miss Taylor Jones
Noble Hill Baptist Church 3285 W Farm Rd 36, Willard, MO, 65781-8370, (417) 742-5227	Mr Ron George Jr
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	John Wilkenson

Minister of Children Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Julie Duvall
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509	Mrs Larissa Katzer

Minister of Children Directory

Southern Hills Baptist Church Rachel Flynn
1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474

Minister of Youth Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar Jedediah Bond
316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

First Baptist Church Fair Play Mr Greg Whaley
500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton Mr Darin Henderson
405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton Mr JC Fidler
405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton Mrs Josie Fidler
405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

Noble Hill Baptist Church Pastor Jordan Zeik
3285 W Farm Rd 36, Willard, MO, 65781-8370, (417) 742-5227

Southern Hills Baptist Church Mr Andrew Miller
1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474

Minister to College Students Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar Michael Green
316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

Church Secretary Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton Mrs Rita Shadwick
1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

First Baptist Church Bolivar Chelsea White
316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

First Baptist Church Bolivar Kay Cook
316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

First Baptist Church Bolivar Pamela Webb
316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

First Baptist Church Humansville Caitlyn Payne
307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton Mrs Melissa Wallen
405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

Southern Hills Baptist Church Ms Martha Hale
1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474

Church Treasurer Directory

Bethel Southern Baptist Church Mrs Judith Shiverdecker
23011 Highway J, Pittsburg, MO, 65724, 417-852-4690

Brighton Baptist Church Jimmy Cossins
5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,

Caplinger Mills Baptist Church Maria Huebner
14560 E 676 Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-8125, (417) 276-7009

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton Mrs Anita Gott
1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

Church Treasurer Directory

First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mrs Dorothy Soldavini
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Ms Anita Curry
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Robert Payne
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Beth Webster
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Sandra Camp
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509	Ms Mary O'Neal
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Charlotte Booth
Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar 4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8305, 417-326-2805	Vicki McMillen
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	C Kay Pitts
Shepherd's Way Church 705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO, 65725, (417) 830-9760	Kevin Mau
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Walt Greenleaf

Financial Secretary Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Pamela Webb
--	--------------------

Church Clerk Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mrs Rita Shadwick
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Patricia Morgan
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Kristen Payne
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Mrs Becky Campbell
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Stacie Spurgeon
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509	Dana Box
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Ms Rebecca McGarrah
Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar 4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8305, 417-326-2805	Leta Gass
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Mrs Nancy Bewley

Church Clerk Directory

Shepherd's Way Church

Paula Byrd

705 N Main St, Pleasant Hope, MO, 65725, (417) 830-9760

Southern Hills Baptist Church

Mrs Krystal Quinn

1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474

ACP Contact Person Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mrs Rita Shadwick

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

First Baptist Church Bolivar

Chelsea White

316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

First Baptist Church Fair Play

Mr David Stunkel

500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707

First Baptist Church Humansville

Caitlyn Payne

307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317

First Baptist Church Morrisville

Mrs Becky Campbell

5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton

Mrs Melissa Wallen

405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

Mt Etna Baptist Church

Ms Rebecca McGarrah

1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929

Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar

Vicki McMillen

4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8305, 417-326-2805

Rondo Baptist Church

Mrs Nancy Bewley

E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,

Chairman of Deacons Directory

Brighton Baptist Church

Jimmy Cossins

5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mr Mark Shadwick

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

First Baptist Church Fair Play

Mr Greg Whaley

500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton

Mr Darin Henderson

405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar

Terry Phillips

4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509

Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar

James Garrison

4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8305, 417-326-2805

Church VBS Director Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mrs Cheryl Stokes

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

First Baptist Church Bolivar

Julie Duvall

316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431

First Baptist Church Fair Play

Mrs Leidra Stunkel

500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707

Church VBS Director Directory

First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mrs Dorothy Soldavini
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Margarette Payne
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Keri Barnes
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Shelbi Dumar
Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar 4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509	Mrs Larissa Katzer
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Ms Becky McGarrah
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Debbie Dickensheet

Women's Ministry Coordinator Directory

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Judy Ford
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Sunday School Director Directory

Brighton Baptist Church 5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,	Mr Wes Campbell
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Paula Crook
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Margarette Payne
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Linda Holdeman
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Joey Graves
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Ms Clara Cunningham
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Ed Henry
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Mr Adam Shelden

Discipleship Director Directory

Bethel Southern Baptist Church 23011 Highway J, Pittsburg, MO, 65724, 417-852-4690	Miss Christy Dablemont
Bethel Southern Baptist Church 23011 Highway J, Pittsburg, MO, 65724, 417-852-4690	Miss Becky Dampier
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Mr David Stunkel
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Dr William Jones

Church Instrumentalist(s) Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mrs Rita Shadwick
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Ms Tammy Wright
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Margarette Payne
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Patty Burr
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Andy Pirtle
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Ms Kelly Bolte
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Edward Camp
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Chad Burton
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Stephanie Wheeler

Church Library Team Leader Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mrs Jean Rosenow
First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Joyce Hamann
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Rachel Pate
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Melissa Wallen

Church Deacon(s) Directory

Brighton Baptist Church 5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,	Jimmy Cossins
Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mr Alejandro Falig
Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mr Mark Shadwick
First Baptist Church Humansville 307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317	Robert Payne
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Chad Burton
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Joey Graves
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Patrick Holdeman
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Ken Spurgeon

Church Deacon(s) Directory

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Brad Belcher
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Darin Henderson
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Jeff Wheeler
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Larry Wheeler
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Doug Johnson
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mr Edward Camp
Mt Olive Baptist Church, Bolivar 4079 Highway D, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8305, 417-326-2805	James Garrison
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Mr John Albert
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Mr Bruce Martin
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Mr Adam Shelden

Church Elders Directory

First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Mr Carl Hampton
First Baptist Church Morrisville 5334 S Main Ave, Morrisville, MO, 65710-9120,	Ray Burr
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Kyle Lee
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Matt Rice

WMU Church Director Directory

Brighton Baptist Church 5449 Highway K, Brighton, MO, 65617-7258,	Mrs Cynthia Walker
First Baptist Church Fair Play 500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707	Ms Anita Curry
First Southern Baptist Church Stockton 405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441	Mrs Melissa Wallen
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Mrs Jane Hudson
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Mrs Nancy Bewley

Women on Mission Coordinator Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Elizabeth Pace
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Children in Action Leader(s) Directory

Bethel Southern Baptist Church

Miss Becky Dampier

23011 Highway J, Pittsburg, MO, 65724, 417-852-4690

Mission Friends Leader(s) Directory

First Baptist Church Humansville

Jennifer Payne

307 S Ohio St, Humansville, MO, 65674, 417-754-2317

Messengers to Association Directory

Caplinger Mills Baptist Church

Kent Johnson

14560 E 676 Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-8125, (417) 276-7009

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Rev Shane England

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mrs Kirsten England

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mr Mark Shadwick

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mrs Rita Shadwick

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

First Baptist Church Fair Play

Paula Crook

500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707

Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar

Mr Brad Hall

4853 S 135th Rd, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8160, 417-777-2509

Mt Etna Baptist Church

Ms Clara Cunningham

1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929

Mt Etna Baptist Church

Ms Betty Payne

1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929

Mt Etna Baptist Church

Dr William Jones

1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929

Rondo Baptist Church

Mrs Jan Vanish

E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,

Rondo Baptist Church

Ray Varnish

E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,

Representatives on Assn Board Directory

Caplinger Mills Baptist Church

Kent Johnson

14560 E 676 Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-8125, (417) 276-7009

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Rev Shane England

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton

Mrs Kirsten England

1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355

First Baptist Church Fair Play

Paula Crook

500 N Walnut St, Fair Play, MO, 65649-5104, (417) 507-1707

First Southern Baptist Church Stockton

Mr Steve Ewing

405 Englewood Rd, Stockton, MO, 65785-9602, 417-276-3441

Mt Etna Baptist Church

Dr William Jones

1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929

Representatives on Assn Board Directory

Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Ms Betty Payne
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Ms Clara Cunningham
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Mr Bob Pitts
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	C Kay Pitts
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Pastor Lindell Shelden

Representatives on Assn Board Alternate Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mr Mark Shadwick
Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mrs Rita Shadwick

Associational Newsletter Correspondent Directory

Fender Chapel Baptist Church, Brighton 1563 E 565th Rd, Brighton, MO, 65617-7173, (417) 824-8355	Mr Mark Shadwick
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Camp Advisor Board Member Directory

Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Dr William Jones
Rondo Baptist Church E 340th Rd off Highway 83, Rondo, MO, 65650,	Sarah Wilkenson

Other Minister Directory

First Baptist Church Bolivar 316 N Main Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-1559, 417-326-2431	Rev Ray Leininger
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Other Church Leader Directory

Bethel Southern Baptist Church 23011 Highway J, Pittsburg, MO, 65724, 417-852-4690	Miss Christy Dablemont
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Helen Payne
Mt Etna Baptist Church 1390 Highway NN, Bolivar, MO, 65613-8309, (417) 399-2929	Helen Payne
Southern Hills Baptist Church 1220 S Springfield Ave, Bolivar, MO, 65613-2514, 417-326-7474	Mr Andrew Miller

CONSTITUTION

AND

BY-LAWS

OF THE

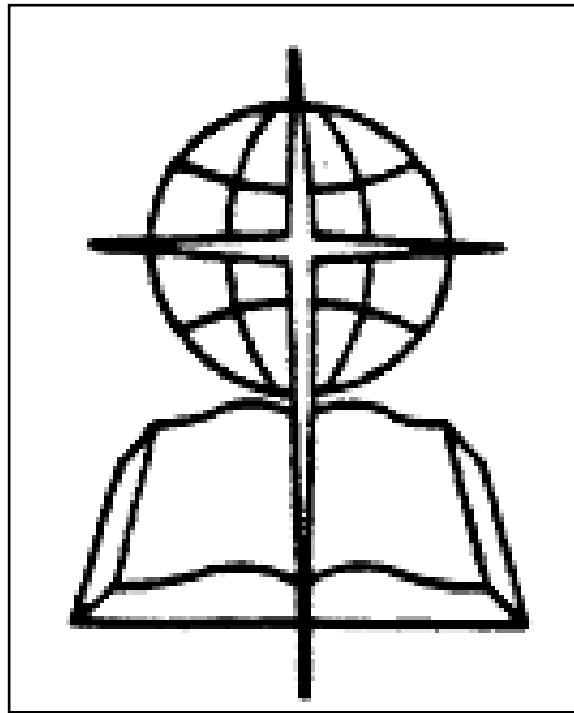
MID-LAKES SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

IN

BOLIVAR, MISSOURI

AS ADOPTED OCTOBER 7, 2014
LATEST REVISION OCTOBER 4, 2016

“Churches working together...
Serving Jesus...
Throughout the World.”



Mid-Lakes Southern Baptist Association
722 East South Street
Bolivar, Missouri 65613



Contact us:

Phone (417) 326-4667

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midlakes@windstream.net

www.midlakesba.com

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
MID-LAKES SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

**AS ADOPTED OCTOBER 7, 2014
LATEST REVISION OCTOBER 4, 2016**

ARTICLE I -- NAME

The name of this body shall be “The Mid-Lakes Southern Baptist Association.”

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Association shall be to furnish the constituent churches a medium of fellowship and cooperation for the propagation of the gospel and the strengthening of the churches by all methods in accord with the Word of God.

Section 2. This Association shall cooperate with the Missouri Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention in achieving its purpose.

ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. This Association shall be composed of messengers from the Southern Baptist churches which are in friendly cooperation with this Association, together with a pastor of these churches, the officers and trustees of the Association, the Executive Board members for the year, the Director of Missions, and those additional leaders listed in the By-Laws, Article II, “Duties of Officers, Trustees and Other Leaders”.

Section 2. This Association is an autonomous body.

Section 3. Any church desiring to affiliate with this Association shall make application by letter to the chairperson of the Personnel/Church Relations Committee requesting such affiliation. This letter shall indicate the church’s friendly and loyal cooperation with this body and the date of the church’s action approving such application. The letter should include a copy of the church’s articles of faith. All such applications shall be thoroughly studied and considered by the Personnel/Church Relations Committee. This committee shall then present the applications with recommendations for consideration by the Association at a regular Annual Meeting. The application must be received by the Personnel/Church Relations Committee at least ninety days prior to the first day of the annual Meeting at which it is to be considered.

Section 4. The Association shall fully recognize the autonomy of the local churches. Any church may withdraw from affiliation at its pleasure and the Association may, for any reason deemed sufficient, withdraw from affiliation with any church.

Section 5. Each church of fifty resident members or less shall be entitled to three messengers; and for each additional fifty resident members or fraction thereof, one additional messenger, with no church being entitled to more than ten messengers including those qualifying in Section 1 of this article.

ARTICLE IV -- ARTICLES OF FAITH

The doctrinal guidelines for the Association and its work shall be the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention, understanding that any Southern Baptist church affiliated with the Association has the right to affirm any Southern Baptist confession of faith.

ARTICLE V -- OFFICERS

The officers of this Association shall be Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE VI -- TRUSTEES

The Association shall elect three Trustees who shall have duties as set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII -- EXECUTIVE BOARD

This Association shall have an Executive Board whose membership, duties, meetings, and quorum shall be set forth in the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII -- COMMITTEES

Provision shall be made in the By-Laws for elected and appointed committees. Special committees may be appointed by the Moderator.

ARTICLE IX -- AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Association by a two-third majority of the members present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed change(s) shall have been given at the regular meeting of the Executive Board immediately prior to the annual meeting. The proposed amendment(s), further, shall be presented on the first day of the Annual Meeting and action taken on the second day.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I -- MEETINGS

Section 1. The Association shall meet annually within the month of October at such times and places as may be set by the Association.

Section 2. Messengers shall register with the Clerk immediately upon their arrival at the meetings, indicating the church or associational office represented. Messengers representing fifty per cent of the churches shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 3. All meetings of the Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

Section 4. The first order of business shall be the report of the Program Committee, which, upon adoption by the body, shall become the order of business and program for the meetings.

Section 5. All reports shall be for the year ending immediately proceeding.

Section 6. In all questions not provided for in the Constitution and these By-Laws, *the Association shall be guided by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.*

ARTICLE II -- DUTIES OF OFFICERS, TRUSTEES AND OTHER LEADERS

Section 1. The Moderator shall be the presiding officer at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Board. He shall appoint special committees as needed unless provision has been made for their election. He shall serve as an ex-officio member (with vote) of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. The Vice-Moderator shall assist the Moderator in the discharge of his duties and act in his stead during the Moderator's absence or incapacity. In case the office of Moderator becomes vacant, the Vice-Moderator shall become Moderator and serve until the regular election of officers at the next Annual Meeting of the Association.

Section 3. The Clerk shall keep an accurate record of all proceedings of the Association and of the Executive Board, register messengers at the Annual Meeting and call the roll of churches at the Annual Meeting and Executive Board Meetings. The Clerk shall carefully preserve a file of the minutes from year to year and deliver the same with all books and papers pertaining to the Clerk's office to the new Clerk.

Section 4. The Assistant Clerk shall assist the Clerk in the discharge of the clerk's duties and act during the Clerk's absence, incapacity, resignation or death.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall receive, hold, deposit in a bank approved by the Association, and disburse on approval of the Association all funds of the Association; the Treasurer shall render statements of the Association's funds at the meetings of the Executive Board and the Association. The Treasurer's accounts shall be audited annually by the Budget Committee and at such other times as the Executive Board may direct. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Budget Committee.

Section 6. The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer in the discharge of the Treasurer's duties and act during the Treasurer's absence, incapacity, resignation or death.

Section 7. The Trustees shall fulfill all legal requirements of the Association at the direction of the Association or the Executive Board. The Trustees shall have responsibility for maintaining, repairing, remodeling and redecorating all Association properties. They will prepare and recommend to the Association a policy for the occupancy and use of all Associational property.

Section 8. The directors of: Women's Missionary Union, Youth, Children, and Music shall affect adequate organizations through which they shall promote the best interests of their respective programs. They shall provide practical assistance to the churches in their respective programs.

Section 9. The standing and appointed Committees shall develop plans to encourage the churches and assist them in their individual and cooperative work in their respective areas of ministry.

Section 10. Each leader listed in Sections 5, 7, 8 and 9 of Article II of these By-Laws shall submit a written report at the Annual Meeting and may report as needed at Executive Board Meetings.

Section 11. All persons authorized to handle funds of the Association shall be covered by a bond, the premium for which shall be paid by the Association.

ARTICLE III -- ELECTIONS AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1. Officers, Trustees and other committee members shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The Moderator shall not be eligible to serve more than two terms in succession. He shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee or from the floor of the Association and elected by a simple majority of the messengers present and voting. No one shall be nominated who has not consented to serve if elected.

Section 3. The Vice-Moderator shall be nominated by the Nominating committee or from the floor of the Association and elected by a simple majority of the messengers present and voting. No one shall be nominated who has not consented to serve if elected.

Section 4. No officer, trustee or leader shall continue in office if they cease to be a member of an affiliated church.

Section 5. Terms of office for all elected leaders named in Article II except for Trustees and committee members shall be for one year, commencing with the close of the Annual Meeting, or until their successors are elected. One Trustee, two members of the Church/Personnel Committee, and one member of each committee (Except for Moderator) shall be elected at each Annual Meeting to serve for three years. Any vacancy in any office may be filled for the duration of the unexpired term at the Association Annual Meeting or by the Executive Board.

ARTICLE IV -- EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall consist of those elected leaders listed in Article II, Sections 1 through 9, of these By-Laws, the Director of Missions, a pastor of each affiliated church, and two board members elected by each of the affiliated churches.

Section 2. The Executive Board shall conduct needed business between Annual Meetings of the Association. It shall oversee the budget, implement the purpose of the Association, and promote its program. The Executive Board shall make an annual summary report to the Association.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall meet during January, April, July and October of each year, on a day determined by the Board. The annual meeting of the Association shall be considered to be the October meeting. The Moderator may call special meetings of this Board at such times and places as he may see fit. Notice of all meetings shall be sent to all affiliated churches at least one week prior to each meeting. The purpose of any call special meeting must be specified in the notice and the business conducted at that meeting must be limited to the stated purpose.

Section 4. Members of the Executive Board representing forty per cent, rounded up to the nearest whole number, of the affiliated churches shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V -- ASSOCIATIONAL COUNCIL

The Associational Council shall consist of those officers and leaders named in Article II, Sections 1, 8 and 9, together with the Director of Missions, who shall serve as chairman. This Council shall coordinate the program and plan the calendar of the Association.

ARTICLE VI -- PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Program Committee shall plan the program of the Annual Meeting and recommend its order of business. The committee shall consist of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Director of Missions, Director of Music, pastor of the host church and the preacher of the annual sermon. The Moderator will serve as chairman.

ARTICLE VII -- COMMITTEES

Section 1. Membership and terms of office: The Members of the Nominating Committee including the chairperson shall be appointed by the Moderator at the Annual Meeting. The members of all committees shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee. Each committee shall consist of three elected members (in addition to ex-officio members) unless otherwise specified below. Each member of a committee shall serve for three years with one-third of the members being elected each year. Each committee will elect its own chair. No member shall be eligible for re-election, after having served more than eighteen months, until the lapse of one year. No member of a committee shall continue in office if they have ceased to be a member of an affiliated church.

Section 2. A quorum for the transaction of business by any committee shall be two-thirds of the elected members. Each committee shall present a written report at the annual Meeting of the Association.

Section 3. The Budget Committee shall prepare and recommend a budget for the work of the Association during the succeeding calendar year. The proposed annual budget shall be mailed to the churches at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting. This Committee will monitor the finances of the Association and recommend changes, as they may be needed through the year. This Committee shall make an annual audit of the Treasurer's accounts and such other audits as the Executive Board may direct.

Section 4. The Constitution Committee shall recommend to the Association any changes in the Constitution or the By-Laws which it feels may be necessary or useful. The Committee shall prepare from suggestions made by the members of the Association, or upon its own initiative, a resolution for consideration by the Association as it may deem appropriate.

Section 5. The Missions Committee shall lead the Association in planning and implementing mission work, both within associational boundaries and beyond. Such mission work may include new churches, preaching stations, home Bible study fellowships, Sunday Schools, ministries in jails, hospitals, nursing homes, other institutions, and other activities deemed worthwhile. Where feasible, the local churches shall be encouraged to adopt and carry on the work of missions.

Section 6. The Historical Committee shall gather and preserve historical information both past and present about the churches and the Association. It shall establish and maintain relationship with the Missouri Baptist Historical Society. This Committee shall also encourage the churches to compile and preserve their histories and records. The

Committee shall assemble and present to the Association during the Annual Meeting a list of the brothers and sisters whose deaths have been reported for the Associational year just closed.

Section 7. The Nominating Committee shall nominate for election by the Association or the Executive Board all officers, trustees, other leaders, and members of committees except the members of the Nominating Committee and staff personnel. A proposed slate of nominees shall be presented to the churches at the Annual Meeting. Nominations to fill vacancies occurring between Annual Meetings will be made to the Executive Board. This Committee shall recommend to the Association a proposed time and place of the next Annual Meeting, together with the preacher of the annual sermon and an alternate.

Section 8. The Personnel/Church Relations Committee shall consist of six members, four of whom shall be laypersons and two pastors or church staff members. No more than one member from any church shall serve on this committee. Any member who is absent more than one-third of the meetings in a year may be replaced by the Association or the Executive Board, upon the initiative of the other members of this committee. The Personnel/Church Relations Committee shall meet as needed or as requested by the Executive Board and shall submit a written report as deemed necessary to the Executive Board and at the Annual Meetings of the Association. The Personnel/Church Relations committee shall supervise the work of the Director of Missions. In the event the position of Director of Missions is vacant, this committee shall recommend a replacement for election by the Association in regular session or by the Executive Board. This committee is to assist the Association in administering policies for staff personnel (paid or volunteer) by carrying out the following:

1. Periodically survey the need for staff positions.
2. Prepare, periodically review and update position descriptions for all staff personnel.
3. Develop and recommend to the Executive Board a policy manual or staff personnel.
4. Recruit, interview and recommend to the Association or Executive Board, the Director of Missions.
5. Consider the recommendation of the Director of Missions in the selection and termination of other staff personnel.
6. Serve as a committee to counsel and to hear grievances and appeals from staff personnel.

The Personnel/Church Relations Committee shall receive and review all applications by churches desiring to affiliate with this Association, and make recommendations to the Association at its Annual Meeting. It will serve in cases regarding dismissal of churches from the Association. This committee, through its chairman, may offer its services to any church or pastor where church-pastor relationships need assistance.

1. Serve as a committee to counsel and to hear grievances and appeals from duly authorized representatives of churches in the Association.

Section 9. The camp committee shall consist of 3 members as described in section 1. They shall oversee the planning and operation of the association children and youth camps.

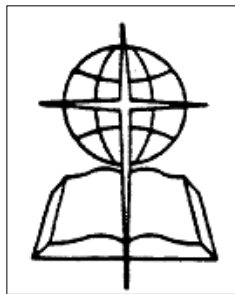
Section 10. Electronic communication is acceptable to conduct committee meetings and for making recommendations requiring a committee vote. Electronic modes of communication offer effective and efficient ways to share information, saving time and financial resource. Any committee meetings held using electronic communication will have minutes taken, including the names of members participating, and minutes will be distributed to members of the committee prior to presenting proposals to other association bodies. *This applies only to transactions between parties each of which has agreed to conduct transactions by electronic means. Whether the parties agree to conduct a transaction by electronic means is determined from the context and surrounding circumstances, including the parties' conduct.*

ARTICLE VIII -- STAFF

A Director of Missions and other staff personnel may be employed by the Association or the Executive Board in accordance with adopted position descriptions and staff personnel policies.

ARTICLE IX -- AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any Annual Meeting of the Association by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, provided written notice of the proposed change(s) have been given at the regular meeting of the Executive Board immediately prior to the Annual Meeting. The proposed amendments, further, shall be presented on the first day of the Annual Meeting and action taken on the second day.



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Missouri Baptist Convention: Reports to the Associations

July 2025

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I. Executive Board Staff Reports

Church Planting / Send Missouri

Jason Zellmer, Director

The Send Missouri team has a vision to see a healthy, multiplying church in every community in Missouri. Because we believe churches plant churches, we come alongside church leaders to help them achieve their goals in multiplication.

Over the last year, we hosted nine Sending Labs, which helped churches develop a vision for planting and equipped them with practical tools. Additionally, we hosted two Residency Builder events, during which our team equipped pastors to identify, develop, and deploy future leaders from within their churches. The church planters of tomorrow are sitting in our churches today. Overall, we helped equip 80 Missouri Baptist churches through these strategic events.

Over the next decade, our prayer is to see 1 percent of the lost reached in our state. That's 42,168 people coming to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. To experience this type of kingdom impact, we believe 337 new churches need to be planted, or about 34 new churches each year. By God's grace, we celebrated 33 new church plants and affiliations in 2024. This growth almost doubles the previous year and is the largest number of new MBC churches in more than two decades. In 2025, we anticipate another large year of growth in new plants and affiliations.

Is your church interested in supporting or sending out a church plant? Or do you want to learn how to develop future pastors and leaders within your church? Contact one of our team members and let us know how we can partner with you today.

Church Renewal

Jim Misloski, Team Leader

Resound Network, Church Renewal Strategies

Buddy Funk, Director

The vision of Resound Network is to be a movement of churches that are renewed and always renewing for the glory of God. This year, there's evidence that Missouri Baptists are making positive progress towards this vision. In 2021, more than 60 percent of churches that reported on the Annual Church Profile (ACP) were plateaued or in decline. The 2024 ACP results reveal that the number of plateauing or declining churches has been reduced to 43 percent. Another encouraging stat is that almost 30 percent of churches experienced growth.

Resound's primary strategy remains to walk alongside churches, discovering God's plan for His church in a specific location. Other renewal strategies last year included the Resound Summit with SBC Executive Committee President and CEO Jeff Iorg, which drew approximately 200 attendees; the Resound newsletter, which has more than 400 followers and is produced bi-monthly; and several training sessions on how to use the Facilitating Renewal Guide. This summer, Resound hosted an internship/cohort with 13 in attendance.

Looking forward, Resound anticipates focusing on the personal renewal of leaders. Over the last couple of years, it has become clear that when the Lord begins to work, He usually starts with an individual. Therefore, Resound is intentional about assisting leaders in renewal.

Resound Network, Leader Renewal Strategies

Jim Misloski, Director

Leader Renewal efforts are marked by intentional engagement, structural clarity, and strategic development. The August emphasis on Calling out the Called, and events like the New Ministers Retreat, NAMB Replant Lab, the Non-Ignorable Conference, and the Leading Major Change Webinar set the tone for leader development as a renewal strategy this year.

Under the leadership of Adrianna Anderson, the Ministry Wives Network is experiencing strong momentum following realignment under the Resound Network. Structural clarity is advancing, with leadership roles in the Ministry Wives Network being defined to increase sustainability and empower volunteers. Monthly webinars and the April retreat continue to bear fruit.

Engagement with associational leaders increased through Pastor Readiness Assessments and Network Leader Readiness Assessments. The bi-monthly DOM Zoom call is connecting associational leaders throughout the state.

Across all fronts, leader renewal is fostering relational trust, scalable systems, and kingdom-minded strategy. Coaching, sabbaticals, retreats, assessments, and leadership realignment are bearing early signs of fruitfulness — all grounded in prayer and supported by a deepening sense of spiritual joy and clarity.

Executive Office

Dr. Wes Fowler, Executive Director-Treasurer

Disaster Relief

Gaylon Moss, Director

Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief (MODR) helps churches transform lives and communities with the gospel by bringing help, hope, and healing. Disasters tear a hole in the fabric of darkness, letting in the light.

Over the last 12 months, MODR shined the light of Jesus, responding to hurricanes in several states. We began the season in Louisiana, where Hurricane Francine wreaked havoc. Next, Hurricane Helene affected five states; MODR served in Augusta, Ga. In addition, hundreds of Missouri Baptist volunteers travelled to Burnsville, N.C., to repair several homes affected by the hurricane.

In Missouri, we started 2025 with an ice storm and then a record-breaking number of tornados from March to May. In total, we set up 15 sites from southwest to southeast Missouri. We provided hot meals, shower units, chaplaincy, and chainsaw cleanup in St. Louis after an EF-3 tornado ripped through a densely populated area.

California Baptists requested help with fire recovery after hundreds of homes were burned near Los Angeles. MODR supported Iowa DR with trainers.

Here are a few statistics from July 2024 – June 2025:

Salvations – 9
Volunteer Days – 8,423
Volunteer Hours – 63,798
Meals – 150,032

Showers – 4,576
Laundry loads – 2,861
Clean-up jobs – 1,253

The Pathway

Benjamin Hawkins, Editor

As the official newspaper of the Missouri Baptist Convention, *The Pathway* remains committed to providing Christian worldview journalism that shares stories of truth and redemption.

The Pathway has received national recognition from peers in Christian journalism, and this year *The Pathway*'s print edition earned the Evangelical Press Association's Award of Excellence. The print edition remains strong, with nearly 30,000 print subscribers across the state and around the globe.

The online edition of *The Pathway* (mbcpathway.com) also remains strong and is expanding. As of this year, *The Pathway* website includes a section for featured videos, as well as an e-edition format of the print edition, available at mbcpathway.com/e-edition/.

The Pathway also continues to train a new generation of Christian journalists through an annual journalism retreat. Dozens of students from communications programs at the Missouri Baptist Convention's three universities take part in the retreat, learning from experienced Christian practitioners in the field. This year, *The Pathway* also helped train two journalism students from Spurgeon College (at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary), who served as interns during the summer.

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

Business Services and 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 Dec. 31, 2024, are as follows:

Cooperative Program	\$15,272,771
Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering	\$ 1,072,207
Lottie Moon Offering	\$ 4,293,014
Annie Armstrong Offering	\$ 2,356,314

The MBC is honored to bless associations with a 10 percent gift from the Missouri Missions Offering made up of the funds given by their churches. In 2024, \$86,723 was distributed to 57 associations for ministry by the Business Services Group.

As directed in MBC’s bylaws, the financial statements have been audited by a certified public accountant for the year ending Dec. 31, 2024.

Paula Earls, Chief Operations Officer

Chief Operations Officer Paula Earls administers the new 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 Baptist Building. She also assists Missouri Baptist churches with finance and personnel issues and helps pastor search committees with retirement-plan set up, church compensation, and financial matters.

Over the past year, Earls 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. Earls 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, seven 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.

Media & Communications

Rob Phillips, Associate Executive Director

Media & Communications consists of two support groups: Communications; and Media, Technology & Events (MTE). Together, they provide the MBC staff with communications services, media and technology support, and assistance with the staging and production of MBC events.

Under the leadership of Tony Boes, Communications 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.

Communications staff members work closely with all MBC ministry groups to enhance their communications needs.

Under Chris Brizendine, 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.

Associate Executive Director Rob Phillips assists the Executive Office with communications and administrative support; directs the promotion of the Cooperative Program and Missouri Missions Offering; and leads the convention's statewide apologetics ministry.

Missions Mobilization

Martin Winslow, Team Leader

The Missions Mobilization Group helps churches transform lives and communities with the gospel through engagement in missions.

With more than 41 percent of the world's population still considered unreached with the gospel, Missions Mobilization seeks to help Missouri Baptist churches be faithful to the commission Jesus gave in Acts 1:8: "... and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Staff members are committed to helping MBC-affiliated churches develop and carry out strategies to reach the world with the gospel by providing partnerships that help local churches connect locally, state-to-state, and to the ends of the earth.

Missions Mobilization also connects new church plants with the North American Mission Board for assessment and funding. In addition, the group works with the MBC Credentials Committee to assess churches that wish to affiliate with the convention.

Is your church looking to mobilize people in meaningful mission work in Montana or Minnesota/Wisconsin? Pastors, do you have a desire to help train international pastors in the Word of God in strategic locations across the world? Missions Mobilization would love to visit with you and your church about partnering to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Missouri Woman's Missionary Union

Sarah Schmitt, Missouri WMU Executive Director

In August, Missouri WMU partnered with the International Mission Board to host 55 missionary students. Missouri Baptist churches and WMU raised funds to make that happen.

In April, MWMU celebrated 102 years in Kirksville. Attendees enjoyed a wonderful time with inspiring speakers, missionaries, and church planters. A student conference held

during the event encouraged young people to live life on mission, even while working in secular jobs.

MWMU is especially excited about a growing partnership with the MBC's Missions Mobilization Group.

We've equipped churches across Missouri to strengthen their missions discipleship programs. These efforts continue to help churches make disciples who live on mission for Jesus.

In addition, a MWMU team traveled to Montana to teach at a Southern Baptist women's gathering. Team members led mission-focused training for preschoolers, children, and teens.

MWMU has joyfully sent off dear friends who are returning to the mission field and planting churches in Montana. Amy Dolittle and her family are dearly missed, as are Cheryl Stahlman and her family, but they have responded faithfully to God's call to missions and church planting.

Thanks for your support of the Annie Armstrong, Lottie Moon, and Missouri Missions Offerings, the latter of which set a record for giving in 2024.

Travis Webb, RA's and Challengers Consultant

RA Congress went well in 2024, with 132 boys, 71 leaders, 50 volunteers, and 18 churches represented. Berean Baptist of Waynesville brought home the traveling trophy for the second year in a row.

Overall boy trophy winners:

- 1st place: Wyatt Gormley, Berean Baptist, Waynesville
- 2nd place (tie): Oliver Humphrey, FBC Willard; Bryce Chastain, Berean Baptist, Waynesville
- 3rd place: Gabriel Haney, Berean Baptist, Waynesville

RA racers:

- Lad division (1st–3rd grade) winner: Paxton Vaughn, 3rd grade, FBC Paris
- Crusader division (4th–6th grade) winner: Knox Carney, 6th grade, FBC Paris

These RA racers winners earned the right to go to Dallas to compete nationally at the WMU National Missions Celebration.

The RA Congress missionary speaker was David Stahlman, who is now in Glendive, Mont., to plant a church. The Missions Run raised \$233.01, and the offering at the closing rally totaled \$352.20, bringing the grand total to \$585.21 – all of which were donated to church planting efforts in Montana.

Abigail Moore, Children's Consultant

Girls in Action / Children in Action Report

GEM (Girls Experiencing Missions) 2024 was held at Pulaski Baptist Camp in October, with 114 in attendance. GEM 2025 is scheduled for Laclede Baptist Camp in Richland, Mo., Oct. 17–18.

There is now a new achievement badge available specifically for GEM.

Ordering for the 2025–26 curriculum has been updated to streamline deliveries, making the process much easier for churches and groups. A new curriculum slate has just been launched; visit wmu.com to learn more.

Starting a missions discipleship program for children has never been easier or more important. Visit wmu.com/getstarted today to learn more and receive a free month of curriculum.

Questions? Contact Moore at abbiemomof4@hotmail.com or 573-501-1239.

Prayer & Evangelism

Rob Pocek, Team Leader

The Prayer & Evangelism Group is establishing a strong statewide prayer ministry that seeks to involve every Missouri Baptist and every MBC-affiliated church. In addition, the group is engaged in a movement to help churches refocus and reprioritize their call to take the gospel to the lost.

Over the past year, the group (formerly known as Making Disciples) has conducted numerous age-graded disciple-making events. Below is a sampling.

LIFE Outreach Events

Four LIFE Outreach events were held statewide, drawing more than 3,200 attendees. These resulted in 240 documented decisions for Christ and 400 church members trained in one-on-one evangelism.

Camps & Conferences

Super Summer 2025 welcomed more than 1,600 students and leaders for three weeks of camp, focused on the theme “Called,” helping students explore God’s call to faith, ministry, and missions.

Student Evangelism Conference 2024 brought hundreds to Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City under the theme “Send Me.” Students heard from Scooter Kellum, worshiped with Kyle Kicker, and participated in gospel training and local outreach.

Supporting Student Leaders

Conclave 2025 gathered Missouri leaders in Chattanooga, Tenn., for training alongside 10 state conventions. Leader development was supported through national events like NAMB’s Youth Leader Coaching Network and Lifeway’s Experience Preaching Lab. Online Cohorts covered topics like volunteer ministry, student communication, and longevity in ministry. The Thursday Morning Debrief remains an ongoing weekly space for leaders to connect, encourage, and grow together.

Vacation Bible School

The Prayer & Evangelism Group led 11 *VBS training* events involving 33 associations, 58 churches, and 345 participants across Missouri.

Collegiate Ministries

Jerome Stockert, Director

MBCollegiate is dedicated to strengthening campus ministries, starting new ones, and partnering with local churches to reach college students and young adults with the gospel. Each semester focuses on deepening spiritual foundations, building leaders, and expanding evangelistic efforts.

This fall, a strategic focus was launched in the St. Louis metro area, home to nearly 40 percent of Missouri's college students and representing 110 countries. The region's diversity makes it a prime mission field for gospel outreach, with coordinated efforts enhancing existing local church involvement on campuses.

To expand ministry reach, new apprenticeships were introduced. These two-year opportunities equip recent graduates for vocational campus ministry, helping them connect with students and discern their calling.

Additionally, multiple new collaboration with local churches has allowed us to continue to play a vital role in creating spaces for students to encounter and grow in Christ, whether on campus or through church ministries. By equipping churches for relational engagement on our campuses, MBCollegiate ensures that students are introduced to the gospel and disciplined into lifelong faith.

Together, MBCollegiate and partnering churches are transforming lives, raising leaders, and mobilizing a generation to make Christ known in their communities and beyond.

II. Strategic Partners Reports

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Dr. Juston Gates, President

Since 1886, the Missouri Baptist Children's Home has been a strategic partner with the Missouri Baptist Convention and MBC-affiliated churches, serving God together by responding to the needs of children, youth, and families to make a lasting difference in their lives. In 2024, the following were some of the most exciting ministry accomplishments for MBCH Children & Family Ministries and The LIGHT House:

- With significant growth in all ministry platforms, MBCH collectively provided services to 1,938 children, youth, and families, resulting in 19 professions of faith and baptisms for those in our care.
- MBCH helped 223 children find their "forever homes" (permanency), while maintaining 451 foster care-related homes.

- MBCH served 834 clients in its Family Foster Care program, while serving an additional 168 in Treatment Family Care.
- Twelve youth resided in Therapeutic Group Homes, with 37 clients residing in Transitional Living locations.
- MBCH served 347 mothers and babies through Pregnancy Services, while 17 clients were served in Maternity Homes.
- Through Intellectually & Developmentally Disabled Services, 31 clients were served residentially, with an additional 12 clients being served in Anti-Trafficking Services.

Together, the MBCH, the Missouri Baptist Convention, 60 associations, and more than 1,700 MBC-affiliated churches are impacting the lives of children, youth, and families across the state.

Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries

Dr. Rodney A. Harrison, President and CEO

As we celebrate 112 years of ministry, Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries continues to grow in reach and impact. This year marks two significant milestones: the opening of a campus in Shelbina, and the completion of the assisted-living and skilled-care facility in Ashland.

By God's grace, BHHM served more seniors this past year than ever before. Baptist Homes is a statewide network of Christ-centered senior care that accepts private pay, Medicaid, Medicare A & B, private insurance, and many Medicare Advantage plans – a testament to a strong commitment to accessibility and compassion.

In the past year, BHHM experienced record-breaking volunteer engagement, with the highest number of volunteers coming from churches of the Missouri Baptist Convention. Their faithful service was instrumental in Baptist Homes receiving the 2024 Heritage Award from the National Deer Association – a meaningful recognition of BHHM's commitment to innovation and quality of life.

BHHM is dedicated to supporting and educating men and women in partnership with MBC churches. We offer church-based conferences and workshops on Medicare, Medicaid, retirement planning, and faithful aging, as well as providing pulpit supply at no cost to MBC churches.

BHHM's purpose is to please God and help others do the same. Our mission is to provide Christlike care, education, and advocacy for the aging. Our values include being a distinctively Christian ministry driven by an unwavering commitment to the sanctity of life.

Christian Life Commission

William Isaacson, Chairman

The Christian Life Commission (CLC) advocates public policy, bears witness to a faithful God who commanded us to be salt and light, and works to educate and inform Missouri Baptists about issues affecting families, communities, and nations.

The CLC hosted a dinner encouraging pastors to lead their people to be more involved in the public square with the gospel message and biblical ethics. Chris Williams and Bev Ehlen were guest speakers.

The CLC and Concord Baptist Church co-sponsored the Legislative Prayer Breakfast. Legislators were challenged to stand for what is right, just, and good. Prayers for wisdom, discernment, and boldness were offered for all Missouri's elected officials and public servants. Wes Fowler served as keynote speaker.

The CLC's Prayer Initiative connected 44 churches with legislative members, supporting them in prayer.

Resources and commissioners are available to all churches to assist in voter registration, voter participation, and understanding a biblical worldview.

All Missouri Baptists are encouraged to continue to stand for life. There is a constitutional amendment on the ballot in the fall of 2026 to repeal the abortion amendment to the constitution. The battle is not over! Be informed and act!

Missouri Baptist Foundation

Dr. Neil Franks, President and CEO

As the Missouri Baptist Foundation (MBF) enters its 79th year of ministry, it celebrates how Missouri Baptists are using financial resources to make a lasting kingdom impact.

In 2024, MBF awarded \$75,000 in grants to support mission and ministry across the state. These funds empowered churches to expand food ministries, host outreach events, improve facilities, and create welcoming spaces for children. This is just a portion of the millions distributed through the faithful planning and generosity of Missouri Baptists committed to advancing the gospel.

Participation also increased in the MBF Cash Fund and Cash Reserve Fund, which offer competitive interest rates and daily liquidity. MBF now manages more than 1,100 accounts, with total assets exceeding \$220 million.

The Kingdom, Harvest, and Storehouse funds continue to invest in redemptive initiatives that promote human flourishing and share the hope of Christ. From worship leader resources to farmland, MBF helps clients make a meaningful difference. MBF also assisted individuals in leaving a legacy of generosity through estate gifts, several of which began benefiting ministries this past year.

MBF is grateful for the partnership of Missouri Baptists and is excited to launch new products and services to serve churches and individuals in the year ahead.

Historical Commission

Gaylord L. Mustin, Chairman

The Missouri Baptist Historical Commission exists to help churches remember their past by assisting in the preservation of church records and by recognizing special anniversaries.

In 2025, the Historical Commission awarded four scholarships to students from four Missouri Southern Baptist colleges and universities. The four winners and their essay titles are:

- Amelia Bordean (HLGU) – *Margin to Mission: The Missouri Baptist Conference of the Deaf and Its Vital Role in Missouri Baptist History*
- Kadence Simino (MBU) – *Coming Together for the Gospel: The Birth of the Missouri Baptist Convention*
- Henry Walker (SBU) – *Sunday School and Missouri Baptists: The Story of Sunday Schools in Missouri Baptist Churches and the Men and Women Who Started Them*
- Bethany Campbell (Spurgeon) – *The Missionary Legacy of Old Bethel*
- Caleb Burchett (SBU) received an honorable mention award – *Southwest Baptist University: The Journey from College to University.*

The Historical Commission continues to give oversight to Old Bethel Baptist Church. April 30, 2024, marked the 200th anniversary of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Mo. Old Bethel is available for tours and special events.

Over the last year, there's been an increase in requests for church anniversary plaques, along with requests for MBC Executive Director Wes Fowler to speak at these anniversaries.

III. Higher Education Institution Reports

Hannibal-LaGrange University

Dr. Robert J. Matz, President

The Lord's kind hand rests on Hannibal-LaGrange University. Over the last year, we've seen students saved, called to ministry, and equipped with knowledge for service. Our financial health has increased significantly; this is the first year in the last 20 in which we don't anticipate using short-term debt.

There's never been a better time to become an HLGU Trojan. Students are challenged to grow in their faith through chapel, spiritual emphasis week, Bible studies, and mission opportunities. Vocational evangelist and SBC First Vice President Daniel Ritchie was on campus in September for spiritual emphasis week.

With nearly 40 degree programs, HLGU graduates go on to success in fields ranging from ministry to medicine. Enrollment is up significantly for on-campus and online programs.

The Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies program at Jefferson City Correctional center (JCCC) continues to produce great fruit. The men in this program are being equipped to minister and plant churches in the state's prisons. The first cohort of men graduated in May 2025. They have planted three churches and baptized more than 100 men.

HLGU has become a hub for promoting Christian values in northeast Missouri. In recent months, several special guests were on campus: Ben Carson, who challenged our community to depend on God; Andrew Peterson, who led our campus in a night of praise and worship; and Melissa Ohden, who shared her story of surviving abortion and encouraged everyone to advocate for life.

Please make plans now to attend the annual Booster Night on Nov. 8. Tickets are available at hlg.edu/news/boostergala.

Missouri Baptist University

Dr. Keith Ross, President

Greetings from Missouri Baptist University. This year has been one of continued growth and kingdom impact as we remain steadfast in our mission to equip students to serve boldly in the world, guided by God's Word and Spirit.

MBU students and faculty have actively participated in global missions, with recent teams serving in Bulgaria, Greece, and Mexico. Engaging in hands-on ministry to families and entire communities, students and faculty have served others while also deepening their own faith and global perspectives.

This spring, we celebrated a major milestone by breaking ground on the Pillsbury Wainwright Academic & Welcome Center — a new 22,000-square-foot facility that will serve as a beautiful front door to our campus. The building will house the Mary Pillsbury School of Nursing and the Robert W. Plaster College of Business & Entrepreneurship. With state-of-the-art classrooms, a welcome hub for prospective students, and collaborative learning spaces, this facility embodies MBU's commitment to academic excellence and Christian hospitality.

We are deeply grateful for the prayers and support of Missouri Baptists. Your partnership strengthens our commitment to disciple and educate the next generation of servant leaders for Christ. To God be the glory!

Southwest Baptist University

Dr. Rick Melson, President

SBU continued its momentum with enrollment growth and new initiatives in 2024-2025.

Fall enrollment was up 4 percent from the previous year to 2,230 students, with a 4.4 percent growth in undergraduate and 2.7 percent growth in graduate students. Including the spring and summer semesters, SBU welcomed more than 1,000 new students and 2,500 total students across all five campuses. The university has also had three straight years of freshmen enrollment growth.

New athletics programs (men's and women's swimming, and men's volleyball) began recruiting students for their inaugural seasons in 2025. The university introduced a podcast titled "Unapologetic" hosted by Dr. Jonathon Woodyard and Brandt Merritt, highlighting campus news, faculty and staff insights, and current event commentary.

SBU launched new master's programs in STEM fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Computer Science, and Data Science.

Spiritual formation continued to flourish through expanded discipleship groups, student-led worship events, and bi-weekly chapels that featured guest speakers such as David Mathis of Desiring God, Troy Nesbitt of the Salt Network, and Missouri Baptist leaders Dr. Wes Fowler, Dr. Wesley Vance, and Dr. Adam Hughes.

The Center for Worldview and Culture is expanding offerings in 2025-2026 with new conferences and resources for students and the church at large.