

**Mid Lakes Baptist Association**  
**Annual Meeting, October 12, 2026 (6:00 p.m. for meal, meeting to begin at 7:00)**  
**Wellspring Baptist Fellowship, Bolivar**

David Stunkel, Moderator and Pastor, First Baptist, Fair Play, welcomed attendees to the annual meeting. Opening prayer was led by Andy Yohn, Elder, Wellspring Baptist Fellowship, Bolivar. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by David Stunkel, moderator.

A time of welcoming and greeting enabled the clerk to count the attendance and then the clerk reported 48 adults and 3 children in attendance from 14 churches. A quorum was present and the messengers were seated.

Gary Urich, Heritage, moved the adoption of the agenda as found on pages 4-5 of the Book of Reports. Seconded by Bob Kitchin, First Baptist Bolivar. In discussion, Dot Soldavini made a motion the agenda be amended so the item in new business that requires money be moved prior to the discussion of the proposed budget. Gary Urich, Heritage, seconded the motion for the amendment and the amendment carried with one dissent. The adoption of the amended agenda was then addressed and the motion carried.

Chase Wagner, Brighton, moved to accept the written reports, found on pages 8-24 of the Book of Reports. Seconded by Derrick Lewright, Berean. Motion carried.

A time of worship was led by Andy Yohn with his daughter Abby Yohn as pianist, singing Redeemed How I Love to Proclaim It and Majesty.

Moderator David Stunkel called for a motion and second to suspend the rules for one item of business so amendments to the Constitution could be voted upon. Under the current constitution, the vote to amend the constitution is to happen on the second night of the annual meeting. Since the meeting will only be one night, the vote needs to be on the first night. Walt Greenleaf, Southern Hills made the motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Chase Wagner, Brighton. Motion carried.

The changes to the Constitution were then presented in the Book of Reports, pages 48-58. Discussion was already held in the July board meeting and written copies were distributed in advance in accordance with our Constitution and By-laws. The changes to the constitution come from the Constitution Committee so no second is needed. The vote carried.

The financial reports were presented by Dot Soldavini, treasurer, First Baptist Fair Play (separate handouts). The report was adopted on a voice vote.

Mrs. Soldavini presented the proposed budget for 2026-27 from the Budget Committee. Chase Wagner, Brighton, made the motion the line "office repair and upgrades" be amended to \$5500.00 to allow for the work on the kitchen floor as recommended by the trustees. David Soldavini seconded the motion to amend the proposed budget. The amendment carried on a voice vote. Walt Greenleaf, Southern Hills, made a motion that the \$1000 added to the AMS salary be moved to AMS expenses. This will better serve the needs of the AMS as the price of gasoline and food while traveling continue to go up. Jacob Conner, FBC Bolivar, seconded the motion. Jacob Conner, FBC Bolivar, made the motion the proposed budget as amended be approved. Chase Wagner, Brighton, seconded and the motion carried.

The slate of nominees from the Nominating Committee was presented (pages 18-19 in the Book of Reports). The moderator appointed Mrs. Julie Holland, FBC, Morrisville, to serve on the Nominating Committee for a three-year term. The slate of nominees was approved on a voice vote.

Mrs. Pearlene Breshears, FBC Bolivar, reported as Regional MBC WMU consultant. She showed her umbrella represented WMU with all its components – Mission Friends, GAs, RAs, Women on Mission, etc – falling in its shade. All the aspects of WMU work to train all ages in learning about missions, supporting missions, and praying for missions as well as doing missions through local projects and missions trips. She is available and willing to help churches wanting to start missions organizations. She also invited all ladies to participate in the associational-wide WMU group that meets at 2:30 the last Monday of each month at the Associational office.

There was no old business.

In new business, Gary Urich, Heritage, presented a motion that MLBA authorize a newspaper ad in the Bolivar paper, asking voters to vote for amendment #3 on Election Day Missouri, Tuesday, November 3. It will be a 1/3 to ½ page color ad. There will be no cost to the association. A local Baptist donor is paying for the ad, but would like it to be a positive statement from the association on this critically important issue. John Rhodes, AMS, would need to approve the wording of this ad or whomever he should designate for that purpose. Walt Greenleaf, Southern Hills, seconded. The motion carried with a voice vote.

No other new business was brought forward.

Andy Yohn and Abby Yohn, Wellspring Baptist Fellowship, led in congregational singing of It is Well with My Soul.

The guest speaker for the meeting was Dr. Ron Mackey, Interim President of the Missouri Baptist Homes. He spoke from 2 Corinthians 4:7-16 with the theme that aging can be a way to show forth God in us so people want to know Him. We must have a better focus, a better purpose/understanding, and a better way to approach aging. Life and aging can take your heart, but with the right focus and understanding we are renewed rather than wasting away.

Bro. John Rhodes, AMS, gave his report (pages 14-15 in Book of Reports) and introduced the new pastors in the association. Lindell Sheldon is the new pastor at Mt. Etna and Dr. Jacob Conner is the new pastor at First Baptist, Bolivar. Walt Greenleaf, Southern Hills, reported that with the retirement of Martha Hale after 50 years at Southern Hills, their new secretary is Elizabeth Shelden, who is also Lindell Sheldon's daughter-in-law.

Next year's officers were introduced as David Stunkel, Moderator; Dennis Mays, Vice-moderator; Walt Greenleaf, Treasurer; and Jennifer Smith, Clerk.

In announcements, there is a work day at Caplinger Mills on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Mabel Osburn is not doing well and being cared for by her children Barbara Studt and her brother. Any help that can be given this family is appreciated.

Wellspring was thanked for their hospitality and the meal.

Dennis Mays, Noble Hill, led in closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:52.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Smith, MLBA Clerk

John Rhodes, Associational Missions Strategist