

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
Baptist General Convention of Texas
Tuesday, May 21, 2024 (8:30am)
Bobby Contreras Presiding
And, via Zoom Webinar

Bobby Contreras opened the meeting. Psalms 42:1 ..as the baby dear pants.. that we would thirst for God. As we begin this meeting, we would be a people guided by Jesus.

Dr. Howie Batson opened the meeting in prayer.

Contreras gave some guidelines for those on ZOOM.

Contreras welcomed board members, Dr. Ronny Marriott, Debbie Potter, Fellowship Presidents, and others.

Contreras called on Tamiko Jones from WMU.

Jones introduced Jackie Faughn. For such a time as this God is allowing us to dream and move forward. We must move forward. We are excited because God has given us glimpses of what He has in store. At the beginning of the year we started strategic planning. Where God is the main attraction.

As a part of our planning, we knew we needed to visit our mission statement. Our new mission. Is to empower God People to advance the Gospel. Vision to see every believer across every culture and community compelled to live missionally. We pray that we will all be on this journey together.

Mark your calendars for the Week of Prayer. The MHD offering for State Missions is in September. We are excited that this year we will have another kickoff party. To thank our TX Baptist staff for helping us support the offering. Pursue – how many of you attended this year? We had almost 600 in attendance! Praise the Lord. A new movement is occurring. People are excited about discipleship.

The Week of Prayer for Texas Missions – Sept. 8-15, 2024.

The Women's Build project is Oct. 20-29. Please join us in serving with this project

Save the date for Pursue 2025. April 4 -5, 2025. Maybe someone from your church can attend.

Contreras – Showed video from Mickey Lenamon.

Texans on Mission are responding to many disasters. We have volunteers from churches like yours are meeting needs. Please pray for our teams as they serve. Texans on Mission – we choose this name to represent who we are and what we do. We are not just men serving in Texas! We serve all over and over half our members are women! We are proud to serve with Texas Baptists!

When our volunteers work in disaster areas. We have led over 120 people to Christ. We deliver help, hurt and healing to those who need it the most!

Contreras called on Ronny Marriott to bring remarks.

Marriott - Thank you for the opportunity to share. I'm proud and humbled to share some thoughts. Texas Baptists needs to be a strong convention focused on vision. There are so many things that divide us. The need to be unified is vital. Southern Baptists are known for being divided. The theme for the annual meeting is His Kingdom Agenda. We need to focus on that and stand true to this agenda.

What has God called us to do now. Prov. 29:18 – Where there is no vision...

Vision says we can't stay where we are. It motivates us and keeps us going. The Kingdom of God resides in us. His Kingdom will never fail. It is wise to be a part of this Kingdom. We should be one!

Baptists have had many splits. Did this strengthen or weaken Baptists. We've become less evangelistic. Division seems to weaken. Jesus asked for unity not uniformity. Unity is defined as harmony. We do have enemies. We must love others and bless those who persecute me. We believe in the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. We must love like Jesus does.

Contreras called on Ward Hayes to bring report on Registration of Attendance.

Hayes - We have 16 that are unable to join but we have a quorum.

Hayes also gave the resume of minutes.

Contreras asked for everyone to approve the minutes. They stand approved

Contreras called on Hayes to bring his CFO/Treasurer's report.

Hayes – We lean on God's grace and generosity. Compared 2024 to 2023.

Cash remains strong. Endowments remain strong. Reserve fund has seen some growth.

Statement of Operations – CP receipts are steady. It remains strong but at a slower pace.

Total expenditures are good.

Many have asked how the events of the past year have impacted giving. Not much yet. Overall things have remained steady.

CP giving shared. Mission offerings have all increased.

We have begun 2025 Budget preparation. Executive Leadership will review. We will bring it to the Finance Committee in August and then to you for approval in September.

We are striving to raise CP IQ! Their understanding of what we do – better together!

Hayes answered questions. There are none.

Bobby called on Jase Waller to bring recommendations for Executive Board members.

We recommend the following people:

Sectors 19-22

Lanette Jones, Schwaab City BC, Livingston

Jose Carrena, Northside BC, Baytown

Contreras asked for questions. There were none.

Poll launched on ZOOM.

Approved by all.

Contreras called on Keith Warren chair of Administration Support Committee.

Warren read recommendation:

- Recommendation to Revise Policy 871 Retirement Gift and Reception

Contreras – This recommendation was approved by committee.

Contreras asked for questions.

Chad Edgington asked the purpose of the amended policy.

Hayes said Executive Board blessed our employees with this policy. If a person leaves BGCT and goes to another job then the intended blessing for retirement is missed.

Dustin Slaton asked if there is a time frame?

Keith said they were not the retirement police.

Contreras read the recommendation again.

Edgington – What counts as going to another position?

Warren – If a person is leaving to take immediate employment with another organization, they would not receive this benefit.

Contreras – If there are no other questions, we're ready for the vote. Motion passed

- Recommendation to Revise Policy 871 Retirement Gift and Reception

Contreras brought two recommendations from the Executive Committee. They were approved in committee.

- Recommendations in response to 2023 Convention motion on women in ministry
- Recommendation to create an Executive Director's GC2 Study Group

Are there any questions?

Pete Pawelek – Sector 25 – are there any impacts on the budget?

Hayes – There are none

Pawelek – Wouldn't it be wise to figure this? Should we do this before we approve?

Hayes – What are the cost associated with the GC2. We have this in the 2024 budget. I do think we have the funds available to meet this need.

Edgington – What will the implications of the Women in Ministry position be?

Guarneri – We are not hiring a new staff person, but assigning these duties to a current staff member.

Question from Phil Schroeder, Sector 27 – Does EL believe there is a BGCT staff member who has the time?

Contreras – Katie Fruge has done much work. I do not believe at this time there is a person identified.

Fruge – Exploratory in nature. WIM – we have many resources

Question Jonathan Sullivan – How would this differ from what Katie McCoy is doing?

Christina – McCoy helps with women's ministry, not women in ministry.

Miguel Lopez – Will this interfere with local church autonomy?

Hayes – We don't believe so. Will only assist churches requesting it.

Contreras – Are there any more questions? There are none. Ready to vote

Do you approve of the convention motion on WIM?

Bobby: Motion carried

Second recommendation – GC2 – to create an Ex Director GC2 study group

Contreras – any questions

David Foster – Sector 9-11 – Is there representation from TXB Institutions in the study group?

Bobby – No

Guarneri – The only person is Sergio Ramos.

Contreras– Ronny Marriot and Darin Wood are trustees in institutions.

Guarneri – Read members of the Craig Christina, Ward Hayes, Joshua Minatrea, Katie Fruge, David Miranda, Julio Guarneri, Ronny Marriott, Debbie Potter, Bobby Contreras, Henry Batson, III, Jeff Warren, Darin Wood, Joe Barber, Sergio Ramos, Steve Bezner, Michael Evans, Sr.

Contreras – Are there any other questions?

Mark Lindsey, Sector 2 – Will this be a temporary or permanent position?

Guarneri – This is exploratory

Edington – Is it the intention of Director that the GC2 be a National Convention?

Pawelek – I'm not against GC2 or task force, but I have some concerns and confusion. It seems like we're trying to create something different. My other concern with the task force is the theological stance of the members seems very limited. GC2 is going to shape TXB. The direction we take from the beginning.

Guarneri – The first question has to do with GC2 was created, when more churches join from outside of Texas there is no clarity for whether they qualify for scholarships, executive board, etc. As far as the task force is concerned, I haven't done a study of how many complementarian or egalitarian are on the list.

Eric House – It seems like we're positioning ourselves in conflict with the SBC. Have we talked to SBC?

Contreras – The team was organized to explore how to communicate who TXB is and is going to be, not in response to SBC.

Guarneri – We've had some limited conversations with NAMB and SBC. One of my statements to Paul Chitwood was in regards in MAP. Through MAP we are doing something that they were not doing.

These GC2 is meant to compliment SBC. We're not trying to duplicate, create a new sending agency, etc. We just want to try. Less than half our churches giving to Texas CP are not giving to SBC CP. We are not taking away anything we are just serving our local churches.

Josh Guardajo – I just want to confirm Dr. Guarneri and our staff. This is exactly why this task force is coming together. This is a great way to be proactive. Also, called for the question.

Christina, question on ZOOM – Nancy Lawrence – going forward with GC2 will they be represented on EB? This is part of the task.

Phil Schroder – I call for the questions

Heath Kirkwood seconded the motion

Contreras – Called the motion to a vote.

All in favor to move to the question.

Those opposed raise your hand.

Contreras – Ready for the vote

Voting to approve recommendation from Executive Committee.

Approved

Janice Bloom gave a report from the Sexual Abuse Task Force

I have no recommendations. This is simply a report.

There was a recommendation from the Administration Support Committee.

As part of this recommendation, we appointed the following:

Janice Bloom, Suzie Liner, Chad Edgington, Dr. Elmo Johnson, Dwight McKissic, Ariel Martinez, Olga Harris, Cynthia Jones, Todd Linder.

Everyone on this task force is passionate about this issue.

Organized into three prongs:

How can churches be much more proactive

Working to protect victims or potential

Bringing much needed awareness to our churches

There is a wealth of valuable information on the Texas Baptist website.

I am encouraging the leadership of each church to please go to our website and read all the information.

Our goal is to make this information much more streamlined and user friendly.

We will have much more information at the September board meeting.

Contreras – called on Stephen Stookey and Lance Wood from Theological Education Council.

Lance Wood shared that their committee approved three recommendations related to Theological education:

DBU

BH Carroll

Stark College

Stookey shared about what happens with Theological education:

- 50+ teaching site
- 37 graduate ministry degree
- 6 Doctoral programs
- 6 institutions offer accelerated bachelor-masters programs
- 4 seminaries/universities offer Master of Divinity programs
- 2 institutions offer accelerated bachelor-MDIV programs

Shared about merger of BH Carroll and ETBU.

Shared 937 students received \$1.5 of financial aid.

Theological education:

- Celebrating increased ministry student numbers
- Celebrating lives eternally changed on college campuses
- New faculty and administration at TXB institutions
- Continued emphasis for Hispanic Education Initiative

Contreras called on John Litzler to bring a report from the Christian Life Commission.

Litzler shared priorities. We are pro-life!

- IVF will come up in the 89th Legislature – pray with us about this.
- MOMS Act
- Foster care regulation
- Lack of AC in Texas prisons
- Public Education

Katie Fruge reminded everyone of the runoff elections and encouraged everyone to vote.

Litzler showed the slide about the podcast What is Good.

Christina – Question from Chad Edington – Do have a position on IVF?
Litzler – No. Not currently. We are asking for input from our TXB family.
Früge – We are at the research stage. A new issue.

Contreras called on Jerry Carlisle to bring a report from Texas Baptist Missions Foundation.

Carlisle – Gave update for the 1st quarter:

Jan – March – 3,010 donors, making 10,624 gifts totaling \$2,105,044

Included in this number \$785,305 for BSM building at Baylor

An additional \$1,000,000 for BSM building at Baylor

Contreras asked for Questions or Comments.

Hayes – We know that churches are struggling with insurance. We don't recommend any companies. We will share this with directors.

Contreras asked for questions again.

Meeting was adjourned.

Contreras closed in prayer.