

SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

Baptist General Convention of Texas

Bobby Contreras, Presiding, Chair

8:30 am

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Bobby Contreras, Chair of the BGCT Executive Board, called the meeting to order. Contreras invited Tamiko Jones, Executive Director of WMU, to open the meeting in prayer.

Contreras welcomed all 21 new board members by name. Contreras welcomed the board members, BGCT Officers, Fellowship Presidents, BSM Co-Presidents, BGCT Staff, TBM Executive Director, and the WMU officers to the September Executive Board Meeting.

WMU OF TEXAS REPORT

Contreras welcomed Dr. Tamiko Jones, Executive Director/Treasurer of WMU of Texas to give a report.

Jones shared about what WMU is doing around the state. Approximately 30 million in our state and about half of those are lost. WMU engages in local missions to win people in the state for Christ.

- Week of Prayer was September 8-15, 2025.
- Mary Hill Davis Offering goal is 3.7 million over a 3rd of the way for 2024.
- The Women's Build Project will be October 20-29, 2024.
- Border Ministry Vanessa Lerma meets needs on the border
- Pursue 2025 will be at the Waco convention center on April 4-5, 2025.

Ways to get involved: Order the Mission Curriculum - it is available for ministers and churches, subscribe to the digital publication, serve or start a mission project, pray, invite friends to join, join the online community on Facebook.

TEXANS ON MISSIONS REPORT

Contreras welcomes John-Travis Smith, Executive Director/CEO of Texas Baptist Men, to give his report. Giving hope and healing to a hurting world.

REPORT ON REGISTRATION OF ATTENDANCE AND MINUTES

Contreras welcomed Dr. Ward Hayes, CFO/Treasurer, to join him on stage to bring a report on attendance. Hayes declared we have a quorum with 16 regrets and 1 Fellowship present for today's. Minutes are on website. Minutes were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Contreras welcomes Ronny Marriot, President of Texas Baptists to share his remarks. His Kingdom agenda we are called to live faithful lives in a fallen world. How do we continue to do that? We are called to be Unified in a divided world.

ELECTION OF 2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICER'S

- Bobby Contreras called on Mark Lindsey, Sector 2, to bring a nomination. He nominated Heath Kirkwood, Pastor of FBC Lorena, Sector 30, to be chair of the Executive Board for 2025. Steve Bezner, Houston Northwest Baptist Church, Sectors 19-22, seconded the nomination. The motion passed.
- Bobby Contreras called on Janice Bloom, member of FBC, Garland, Sector 9-11, to bring a nomination for Executive Board Vice Chair. She nominated Suzie Liner, member of FBC, Lubbock, Sector 2. Isaac Thompson, Hillcrest Baptist Church, Sectors 9-11, seconded the nomination of Suzi Liner as vice chair of the board. The motion passed.

RECOGNITION OF OUT-GOING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Bobby Contreras welcomes Julio Guarneri to recognize out-going Executive Board members

- DREW DABBS – Center for Church Health
- JONATHAN SULLIVAN – Center for Church Health
- JAMES HOOPER – Center for Collegiate Ministries
- CADE GARRISON – Institutional Relations Committee
- ELAINE MASON - Institutional Relations Committee
- JEFF WILLIAMS - Institutional Relations Committee
- LANCE WOOD - Institutional Relations Committee
- JANICE BLOOM – Executive Board Vice Chair

CFO/TRESURER'S REPORT

Contreras called on Hayes to bring a financial update. Hayes shared that a summary of the treasurer's report would be as follows:

- Fiscally sound – strong asset and income growth
- Fiscally focused - good stewardship
- Fiscally strategic – leadership matching ministry and resources

Statement of financial position as of 7/31/2024:

- Cash is \$17.1M spread across multiple accounts. \$14.7M in interest bearing accounts yielding 4-5%.
- Endowments and investments were up \$14M increase over 4Q23 for a total of \$244M.
- Reserve Fund is \$7.8M (greater than EB Policy 701 requires)

The statement of operations showed BGCT Cooperative Program giving 99.7% of the prior year's giving. Investment income supports a CP budget increase. Investment income totaling \$18.7M and strong stewardship resulting in net expenditures down \$4M under budget. This helped to offset declines in CP giving in 2024.

Mr. Hayes presented the 2025 proposed budget and reviewed the budget process. See details below in the Finance Committee Presentation.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Clay Jacobson is working on new ways of how to tell the story to our churches as God would have it. Next year marks 100 years of the cooperative program. Looking forward to fulfilling the Great Commission while being guided by the Great Commandment.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO FILL VACANCIES ON COUNCILS

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Recommendation to Fill Vacancies on the Institutions Audit Council

2027 Term

- Jill Axton - Indiana Avenue Baptist Church
- Gene Potts – First McKinney Baptist Church, McKinney

2025 Term

- Larry Post - Sugar Land Baptist Church, Sugar Land
- Stacy Leonard – First Baptist Church Garland

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the Theological Education Council

2027 Term

- Dan Upchurch – Sunset Canyon BC, Dripping Springs
- Van Christian - First Baptist Church, Comanche

TEXAS BAPTIST MISSIONS FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the TBMF Council

2027 Term

- Jim Newman - First Baptist Church, Frisco
- Jason Davidson - The Heights Baptist Church, Richardson
- Janice Bloom - First Baptist Church, Garland
- Merritt Johnston - First Baptist Church, Brenham
- Ben Raimer - First Baptist Church, Galveston
- Pat Hyde - First Baptist Church, Kenedy
- Sharon (Sheri) Price - First Baptist Church, Amarillo

2025 TERM

- David Paul - Sugar Land Baptist Church, Sugar Land

THE CENTER FOR CHURCH HEALTH

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the GC2 Press Advisory Council

2027 Term

- Amy Wilkins - Valley Ranch Baptist Church, Coppell
- Justin Hamby - First Baptist Church, Lubbock

2026 Term

- Sarah Sensenig - Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio
- Todd Atkins - Salem Institutional Baptist Church, Dallas

THE CENTER FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Recommendation to Fill Vacancy on the Affinity Ministries Council

2027 Term

- Felicia Omoni - African Evangelical Baptist Church, Grand Prairie

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the Chaplaincy Endorsement Council

2027 Term

- George Will Bearden - First Baptist Church, San Antonio
- James Robert Pipkin - Calvary Baptist Church, Emporia, VA
- Rochelle Binion - Invitation Church, Sioux Falls, SD

- Sara Hester - First Baptist Church, Oneonta, AL

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the Christian Life Commission

2027 Term

- Alice Ward - Westside Baptist Church, Lewisville
- Emmanuel Roldan - Primera Iglesia Bautista, Waco
- Kalie Lowrie - First Baptist Church, Brownwood
- Chad Chaddick - First Baptist Church, San Marcos
- Darrin Moore - TrueVine Missionary Baptist Church, Spring

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the Hispanic Education Initiative Council

2027 Term

- Jose Gamez - Iglesia Bautista Alfa, Dallas
- Enrique Soto - El Buen Pastor, Dallas
- Pablo Juarez - First Baptist Church, Kaufman
- David Reyes - Fielder Church, Arlington

2026 Term

- Joe Rangel - Alamo Heights Baptist Church, San Antonio
- Olivia Gomez - Calvary Baptist Church, McAllen

THE CENTER FOR MISSIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Recommendation to Fill Vacancy on the Missions Funding Council

2027 Term

- Fernando Rojas - Azle Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth

Recommendations to Fill Vacancies on the Missional Engagement Coordinating Council

2027 Term

- Billy Reed Dallas - County Cowboy Church, Balch Springs
- Veronica Griffith - Cornerstone Baptist Church, Arlington

THE CENTER FOR COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

Recommendation to Fill Vacancy on the Baptist Student Ministry Council

2027 Term

- Keith Durham - First Baptist Church, San Angelo

Contreras stated that all these recommendations were approved in committees, so they do not need a motion or a second. He then opens for questions, but none are asked. Contreras calls for a vote on all the recommendations. Recommendations were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bobby Contreras calls on Gene Pittman of the Audit Committee

Recommendation to Secure 2024 Independent Auditor

Gene Pittman: We recommend the firm Batts, Morrison, Wales, & Lee conduct the financial audit for the year 2024. Such an audit is estimated to cost \$64,500 based on a one-year agreement. The motion passed.

Bobby Contreras called on Keith Warren, Chair, of the Administrative Support Committee to bring 6 recommendations. Refer to the Executive Board website for more information.

The following three recommendations to revise policies were brought together:

Recommendation to Revise Policy 804 Equal Employment Opportunity

Recommendation to Revise Policy 842 Time Away From Work
Recommendation to Revise Policy 846 Family Medical Leave Act
The motion passed.

Recommendation to Appoint Bill Arnold as Interim Secretary of the Corporation. The motion passed.

We recommend that the following are joint recommendations parts from the Administrative Support and Finance Committee:

Recommendation for Texas Baptist Insurance Program.
The motion passed.

Recommendation for Executive Review and Adjustments to Staff Benefits
The motion passed.

Bobby Contreras calls on Jim Burgin to bring a recommendation from the missions funding committee and administration support committee.

Recommendation to Raise the Not-to-Exceed Funds for Church Starting:
The amount of funding for a church start is not to exceed \$125,000.
The motion passed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Bobby Contreras calls on Charles Hill and Aaron Summers, from the Finance Committee, to bring a recommendation

Recommendation for 2025 Proposed Budget

1. We recommend a budget for 2025 of \$36,716,950 from the following sources of revenue:

Texas Cooperative Program	\$27,795,750
Investment Income	7,364,588
Net Texas Budget	<u>35,160,338</u>
Conference and booth fees	1,111,793
Product sales	444,819
Total Texas Budget	<u>\$ 36,716,950</u>

2. We recommend that the percentage allotment of the adopted budget continue at 79% BGCT – 21% Worldwide, with each church selecting the recipient(s) of the Worldwide portion.
The motion passed.

Bobby Contreras called on Aaron Summers to present a recommendation from the Finance Committee.
Recommendation for 2025 Texas World Mission Initiatives and Partnership Allocations
We recommend a proposed 2025 allocation of \$1,100,000 of Cooperative Program Texas Worldwide Missions Initiatives and Partnerships as follows:

2025 Proposed

Missions and Partnerships

Missions Mobilization	\$ 340,000
River Ministry & Mexico Endeavors	200,000
Texas Partnerships	100,000
Baptist World Alliance	55,000
North American Baptist Fellowship	5,000
Intercultural International Initiatives	50,000
Go Now Missions	200,000
GC2 Initiatives	100,000

Texas Baptist Initiatives

Hispanic Education Task Force	20,000
Chaplaincy	30,000

Total \$ 1,100,000

The motion passed.

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Bobby Contreras calls on Jeff Williams, chair of the Institutional Relations Committee, to present a recommendation

We recommend adopting the Restated Certificate of Formation of the Valley Baptist Missions and Education Center.

The motion passed.

Dr. Craig Christina informed the Board that Baptist University of the Americas would be changing their certificate of formation, and the board would vote electronically in the months to come.

SEXUAL ABUSE TASK FORCE REPORT

Bobby Contreras called on Janice Bloom to come give a report from the Sexual Abuse Task Force.

Janice shares report members of the task force Suzie Liner, Chad Edgington, Dr. Emo Johnson, Rev. White, Pastor Ariel Martinez, Olga Harris- Counsel, Johnson- Counsel, Dr. Todd Liner, Dr. Christina. Ms. Bloom presented recommendations to develop a model policy for dealing with sex offenders who desire to attend church; to include a speaker at the 2025 Annual Meeting to address this issue; to amend the bylaws to provide a disciplinary measure for Executive Board members; to develop a code of conduct for staff, EB, members, volunteers, affiliates and vendors. The task force also recommends a review of the Texas Baptist Policy manual to recommend additional abuse prevention response policies, evaluate whether additional policies are necessary for the Emergency Response Council, and assess the need for additional job responsibilities to formalize the year-round proactive approach.

Steve Bezner, Houston Northwest Baptist Church, Sectors 19-22, made a motion that the next chair appoint an implementation task force to implement the work of the Sexual Abuse Task Force. Drew Dabbs, Sector 29, FBC Hamilton, seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION

Bobby Contreras called on Katie Frugé & John Litzler to bring the Public Policy Update

Katie and John share report on 89th Texas Legislature

- CLC staff are already meeting with legislators and their staff to discuss legislation in the areas of insurance, pro-life legislation and rights of sexual abuse survivors.
- Provided testimony to Sunset Advisory Commission in August. The Senate has added “lottery couriers” to its list of interim charges.
- Regular Session begins January 14, 2025, and ends June 2, 2025
Our Priorities:
- Religious Liberty – supporting the rights of religious freedom and freedom of conscience for all Texans. Preventing legislative efforts that would command the church for political ends or show governmental favoritism for one religion over another.
- Sanctity of Human Life - Supporting legislation that promotes a culture of life in our State and protects all human life as being fearfully and wonderfully made by God, our Creator.
- Human Flourishing - Supporting legislation that promotes human dignity and reflects the inherent worth and value of all people as being made in God’s image. Encouraging policy that treats all people with dignity, even in situations that would not be considered life or death.
- Fair and Just Financial Practices - Supporting efforts to protect the most vulnerable Texans from exploitative and predatory financial practices such as payday/auto title lending and gambling expansion

TEXAS BAPTIST MISSIONS FOUNDATION UPDATE

Bobby Contreras calls on Jerry Carlisle to bring a report from Texas Baptist Missions Foundation. The total number of gifts to date in 2024 is \$4.7M including pledges. Baylor BSM raised a \$3.3 million-dollar to begin construction. Continuing to provide Free Wills to our churches if they designate a percentage to a TXB entity or church. To date, TBMF has received notice of 285 bequests designating \$42M to Texas Baptist churches, ministries, ministry partners, or TBMF.

CLOSING

The meeting was closed in prayer.