

Executive Board
02/24/26
Executive Committee
02/23/26

Item of Consideration: Recommendation for the location of the 2028 Family Gathering

Highest Authority For this item: Messengers at the 2026 Annual Meeting

Originating Source: Committee On Annual Meeting

Background:

In 2009-2010, the Baptist General Convention of Texas formed a committee to study participation at the annual meeting. The committee became known as the “Green Hat Committee. One of their recommendations was to have a family gathering every 5 years of all the BGCT-affiliated fellowships described as follows:

The Gathering would give us a glimpse of the heavenly community. All of the different ethnic groups and the different interest groups would lay aside their normal pattern and join together for three days of praise, inspiration and celebration. This event would happen in the summer and appeal to families and vacationers.

The “gatherings” took place in 2013 (San Antonio), 2018 (Arlington), and 2023 (McAllen), and each gathering the attendance has declined. The Committee On Annual Meeting (COAM) decided to try to recommend a venue that a) was centrally located in the state of Texas; b) would be a draw to all generations and ethnicities; and c) would provide enough space to host the various fellowship meetings of each affiliated BGCT group along with the usual space requirements. All of these goals limit the potential meeting spaces available. In many ways, we are too big for most venues, but too small for the larger convention centers.

At the 2025 annual meeting, COAM did not propose a location for the 2028 Family Gathering because we were trying to secure a reservation at the Henry B. González Convention Center in San Antonio. However, the convention center has notified us that they will not offer us a contract until the spring of 2027.

Article IV, Section 1 of the BGCT Constitution states, “The Convention shall meet annually at such a time and place, based on Convention site guidelines, as determined by the messengers at least two years prior to the annual meeting.” The BGCT needs to move forward with signing contracts on a venue to secure the location and hotels for the 2028 Family Gathering. At the same time, a new facility, centrally located and family-oriented, has become available which the COAM is excited to recommend.

Therefore, COAM is asking the Executive Board to approve the following recommendation (which will still need to be approved by messengers at the 2026 annual meeting).

Background Attachments: None

Recommendation:

The Committee On Annual Meeting recommends the 2028 annual meeting be a “Family Gathering,” July 9-11, at the Kalahari Resorts and Conventions in Round Rock, Texas.