

MINUTES

from September 22, 2025

Institutional Relations Committee

Executive Board at the DoubleTree by Hilton Dallas – Love Field

IRC Members Present

Bobby Contreras, Chair
Dustin Slaton
Glen Hambrick
Flor Soto
Daniel Tanguma
Kenneth Martin
Luis Amario

IRC Members Not Present

Gary Singleton

TXB Staff Present

Julio Guarneri, TXB ED
Craig Christina, TXB AED
Stephen Stookey
John Litzler
Joshua Minatrea
Gabriel Cortez
Heather Penna
Maribel Paz

Guests

Heath Kirkwood, ExB Chair
Suzie Liner, ExB Vice Chair
Albert Reyes, Buckner
Abe Jaquez, BUA
Blair Blackburn, ETBU
Othal Brand, VBMEC
Tony Celleli, Stark
Mike Mullender, BSW
Kendall Lyons, TBS
Ken Camp, TBS
Eric Black, TBS
Gene Wilkes, ETBU-
BH Carroll
Todd Roberson, CAHM
Adam Wright, DBU
Cory Hines, HPU
Linda Livingstone, BU
Donna Hedgepath, WBU
Brian Guenther, SMBA
Gerald James, BCLC

Ronny Marriott, BGCT

President

Debbie Potter, BGCT 1st Vice

President

Joseph Adams, BGCT 2nd Vice

President

Monica Guarneri, guest

Preston Slaton, guest

Call to Order:

Bobby Contreras, chair of the Institutional Relations Committee, called the meeting to order. The meeting began with brief introductions around the room.

Devotional and Prayer:

Contreras brought a devotional based out of 2 Peter 1:1-8; He encouraged everyone to pause and take time to see one another as brothers and sisters in the faith, being ready to pray and serve one another showing brotherly kindness and love.

Minutes:

Contreras presented the Minutes posted on the executive board website from May 19, 2025; minutes were approved.

Institutional Reports:

Stephen Stookey allowed a few minutes for institutional leaders to give a highlight about their respective institution. Brief reports were shared by: Albert Reyes, Buckner Int.; Abe Jaquez, BUA; Blair Blackburn, ETBU; Othal Brand, VBMEC; Tony Celleli, Stark College; Mike Mullender, BSW; Donna Hedgepath, WBU; Linda Livingstone, BU; Cory Hines, HPU; Adam Wright, DBU; Brian Guenther, SMBA; Gerald James, BCLC; Gene Wilkes, ETBU-BH Carroll; Eric Black, TBS; Todd Roberson, CAHM;

Following the reports the Chair asked Ronny Mariott, Debbie Potter and Joseph Adams to pray for the institutions and leaders in the room.

Hispanic Education Council:

Gabriel Cortez gave a short report highlighting a couple of scholarships and fall events including the first Hispanic Education Fair. Lastly, he presented a recommendation for at-large membership of Sylvia Villareal, Fernando Rojas and Jeremy Johnston on the Hispanic Education Council. Motion approved; passed.

Executive Director Report:

Julio Guarneri expressed gratitude to all the institutions for the partnership and cooperation in advancing God's kingdom through GC2. He shared his desire to strengthen churches, strengthen ministers and strengthen missions with BGCT churches and institutions. Bobby Contreras highlighted the intentional prayer time by BGCT staff for each institution. He also highlighted the vibrant ways BGCT, like minded ministries, churches and institutions are coming together to do ministry.

Theological Education Council:

Stookey gave a short report on TEC. In 2025 MFA had 616 undergraduate ministry scholarships; post graduate students were 430 in the 2024-2025 academic year. In 2025 total MFA was 1.6 million. Stookey and Cortez are working to expand the education fair promoting Baptist universities to churches and families in Texas.

Baptist History and Distinctives Council:

Stookey presented a recommendation for at-large membership of Sharon Darwin, David Mafouz and Betty Booth on the Baptist History and Distinctives Council. Motion approved; passed.

Closing

Contreras adjourned the meeting to go into executive session.

IRC Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,
Maribel Paz
Committee Specialist