

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
Relational Development Committee
10:15am - 12:15pm
Monday, February 23, 2026

Chad Edgington, Chair of the Relational Development Committee, called the meeting in order. Edgington opened with a reading from John 1:21 followed by prayer. Edgington stated that the prayer and goal is to see Texas Baptists churches make progress in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Edgington welcomed the following attendees to go around the room to state their name, where they serve, and something their church is doing that excites them:

2026 BGCT Executive Board Directors:

- Chad Edgington, Chair, FBC Olney. Most excited about the newly formed Micro Devo Groups
- Vickie Dennis, Bethlehem BC, Mansfield. Most excited about the growth in her church - went from 2 services to 3
- Fanny Young, Missouri City BC. Most excited about their strong choir group and strong senior group. The church celebrated its 34th Anniversary and seen a lot of growth
- Elmo Johnson, Rose of Sharon BC. Most excited about the young man he mentored to take over the church
- Chris Donaho, Heaven Bound Cowboy Church, Snyder. Most excited about the music ministry in his church
- Rami Ibrahim, Arabic Christian Fellowship, Ft Worth. Most excited about the Discipleship ministry
- Phil Schroeder, Grace Fellowship, Bulverde. Most excited about being a multi-cultural church and the goal to start a Pastoral Leadership ministry
- Tim Stephens, Milam Country Cowboy Church, Rockdale. Most excited about the newly formed small groups and the younger generation getting involved

Texas Baptists Staff:

- Mark Heavener, Director of Intercultural Ministries
- Leonida Quarles, Ministry Assistant to African American Ministries
- Carlos Francis, Director of African American Ministries
- Sergio Ramos, Senior Director of Relational Development/GC2 Strong
- Roy Cotton, Director of Ambassador Program
- Fernando Rojas, Azle Avenue BC, Ft Worth. Represented Rolando Rodriguez who was unable to attend due to conflict
- Armando Solis, Ministry Assistant to Texas Baptists en Español
- Mac McLeod, Western Heritage and Country Church Consultant
- Gabe Cortés, Director of Hispanic Education, Theological Education & Institutional Engagement

- Ashlynn Brown, Resource Development Coordinator filling in for Laurie Spivey

Board Members Not Present Due to Conflict:

- Fred Hobbs, Mt Nebo BC, Victoria

Guest In The Room:

- Heather Penna, Texas Baptists Content Manager

RELATIONAL DEVELOPMENT/ GC2 REPORT

Chad Edgington welcomed Sergio Ramos, Senior Director of Relational Development/GC2 Strong to give a report.

- Ramos shared he hopes this committee will be an active committee and an integral part in the GC2 Strong movement
- Relational Development is a newly formed department by the vision of Dr. Guarneri
- History of GC2 from an emphasis to GC2 Strong
- GC2 Design Team
- Church Strong, Leader Strong, and Mission Strong
- GC2 Discovery Process - launching pilot program at the end of March 2026 with 25 churches
- GC2 Design Process
- 60 Question Survey that is designed to take 12-15 minutes
- Ramos asks the committee to prayerfully consider taking the survey for their church
- Customized pathways and GC2 Navigators

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES REPORT

Edgington welcomed Mark Heavener, Director of Intercultural Ministries to give a report.

- World Wide Support • Cultural Fellowships
- 30-40 events are supported by Intercultural Ministries
- Camp Fusion - leadership development camp for students • Intercultural training

WESTERN HERITAGE & COUNTRY CHURCH REPORT

Edgington welcomed Mac McLeod, Consultant for Western Heritage & Country Church to give a report.

- McLeod shared that his ministry relied on Cooperative Program and Mary Hill Davis funding
- Leadership Conference in the fall
- Western Heritage movement started by Texas Baptists
- Celebrated 25 Years of Cowboy Churches and Country Churches at the Annual Meeting in 2025
- McLeod stated he is working with 3 cowboy churches that are currently pastorless
- McLeod received a call from an SBTC church to be their interim

TEXAS BAPTISTS EN ESPAÑOL REPORT

Edgington welcomed Fernando Rojas, Pastor of Azle Avenue Baptist Church to give a report on behalf of Rolando Rodriguez who was unable to make the meeting.

- Rojas shared the importance of relationships
- 52 Pastor connections in January
- Connected with 65 churches in January
- Compañerismos: regional hispanic fellowships
- Translating Aaron Summers Interim Training book
- Rojas asked for prayer regarding the violence in Mexico
- Met with 15 pastors to start EntrenaT Centers
- Created "Book of Sermons" for 52 sermons in 2026
- Collaborated with Compassion International to assist 25 churches with \$2,000
- Christmas Leadership Banquet
- Hispanic Preaching Conference at Truett
- D-Now/El Buen Pastor Ft Worth partnership
- Partnership with David Gonzalez and Congreso

AFRICAN AMERICAN MINISTRIES REPORT

Edgington welcomed Carlos Francis, Director of African American Ministries to give a report.

- Leadership Conference in April 2026
- Seasoned Saints focus at the Leadership Conference
- Francis shared that this year will be the first time they have post-conference consultations to better their events and build strong relationships
- Wave: Christian Student Camp for 7th Grade through College
- Wave is held at DBU to expose students to opportunities

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Edgington welcomed Gabe Cortés, Director of Hispanic Education, Theological Education & Institutional Engagement to give a report.

- Collaboration with 24 institutions - educational institutions, human care institutions, publications, and financial institutions
- For the 2024-2025 year, 1,041 students received financial aide at baptist universities
- Cortés shared the team's goals are to facilitate relationships between students and institutions, support institutional events, and raise \$10K for scholarships
- Collaboration with Called Conferences
- Planned Student Retreat at Annual Meeting in Waco this year

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM REPORT

Chad Edgington welcomed Roy Cotton, Director of Ambassador Program to give a report.

- 150 volunteers across the state are involved with the Ambassador Program
- Cotton asked the committee to consider becoming an ambassador
- Two of the committee members are serving as ambassadors: Fernando Rojas and Elmo Johnson

- Ambassador Luncheon at Annual Meeting every year

CONSIDERATION OF QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Edgington opened the floor for any questions or comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned as Mark Heavener closes in prayer.