



TUESDAY MORNING - BUSINESS UPDATE

MBC ANNUAL MEETING - OCTOBER 24, 2023

YEATS PASSES BATON TO FOWLER

John Yeats completed 12 years of service as the MBC's executive director Monday night by passing the baton to incoming executive director Wes Fowler.

Using the analogy of a relay race, Yeats stressed that ministry leadership is continuing the work of those who have gone before and preparing the way for those who follow. Embracing obedience to Christ and his Word, Christian leaders finish the race to which they are called and receive the prize of faithful stewardship.

Yeats alluded to 1 Corinthians 9:24, where Paul writes, "Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize."

With that, Yeats handed a Missouri Baptist-blue baton to Fowler and urged him to pursue God's call to serve Missouri Baptists with full confidence in his support and the support of nearly 1,750 MBC-affiliated churches.

Yeats steps aside as executive director after more than a decade of significant accomplishments, most significantly:

- He led the way in restoring breakaway entities to the MBC family, and he prepared Missouri Baptists to receive back the Foundation, Baptist Home, and Missouri Baptist University in a spirit of unity.
- He led the convention staff through a "reorientation" of its ministries to regain its founders' focus on making disciples, multiplying churches, and developing leaders.
- And he brokered a comprehensive "synergy" effort, which provided new opportunities for all convention entities to unite in common purpose, share encouragement, and benefit from stronger relationships.

Fowler steps into his new role after serving 12 years as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Mayfield, KY. During his tenure in Mayfield, he has led his church to implement multiple local, domestic, and international mission opportunities. First Mayfield also has increased its giving to the Cooperative Program from 4 percent in 2011 to 8.75 percent in 2023.

In addition, Fowler has served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, as well as on boards and committees at the state and national levels for Southern Baptists.

Yeats and his wife Sharon, and Fowler were honored last night at a joint reception after the close of business.

Fowler delivers the convention's closing message this afternoon.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The MBC Credentials Committee reported to the Convention on Monday afternoon and made the recommendation on page 37 of the *Book of Reports* with the following additions to the list of newly affiliating churches:

NEWLY AFFILIATED CHURCH	CITY	PASTOR	ASSOCIATION
Agape Fellowship	Columbia	Aaron Gisonga	At Large MBC
Redeemer Baptist Church	Canton	Joshua Thrower	Mt. Salem-Wyaconda
Redeemer Church	Troy	Rob Rash	Twin Rivers
Revival Christian Church Int'l	Columbia	Robert Ruboneka	At Large MBC
The Fount	Kansas City	Jim Hays	Blue River – Kansas City

REAFFILIATED CHURCH	CITY	PASTOR	ASSOCIATION
First Baptist Church Peculiar	Peculiar	Nicolas Wilson	Blue River – Kansas City
First Southern Baptist Church Hurley	Crane	Larry Winfree	Tri-County
Riverdale Baptist Church	Nixa	Thomas Bilyeu	Jr. Tri-County

RETIRING MBC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

During Monday’s Executive Board meeting the following MBC Executive Board members were recognized for their service to the Missouri Baptist Convention:

Rachel Burch.....	2020 to 2023	Rodney Everage.....	2018 to 2023
Jo Ann Hahs.....	2018 to 2023	John Hessel.....	2017 to 2023
Gina Jordan.....	2017 to 2023	Bonnie Lee.....	2017 to 2023
Mike Sargent.....	2020 to 2023	David Slusher.....	2018 to 2023
Wanda Stull.....	2017 to 2023	Paul Wellinghoff.....	2018 to 2023



Additions to Executive Board Report

During the Monday morning meeting of the Executive Board, the following items were reported for inclusion in the Executive Board Report. (To be added to the Executive Board Report on pages 44-45 of the Book of Reports.)

22. The Executive Board adopted a resolution of support for Israel. (See following)

WHEREAS, on October 7, 2023, Hamas carried out an unprovoked attack from the Gaza Strip on the nation of Israel; and

WHEREAS, this attack not only gave no regard for civilians but in fact actually targeted civilians, taking many as hostages and killing many more; and

WHEREAS, such brutality defies human dignity and is abhorrent regardless of who the perpetrators or victims may be; and

WHEREAS, the nation of Israel, though constantly maligned and its very existence threatened, has the right to defend itself just as any other nation; and

WHEREAS, the Lord promised Abraham in Genesis 12:3: "I will bless those who bless you, and the ones who curse you I will curse. And in you all the nations of the earth will be blessed." (NASB); and

WHEREAS, Psalm 122:6 teaches us to pray for the peace of Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, our Lord Jesus teaches us to pray for our enemies; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Executive Board of the Missouri Baptist Convention, meeting in Springfield, Missouri on October 23, condemn in the strongest terms possible, the atrocities conducted against Israel in this current conflict by Hamas, and any other nation or organization that may come against Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we adhere to the teachings of Scripture to bless Israel and commit to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, all its inhabitants, and the nation of Israel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that though we recognize this conflict is on a national level, we must also pray for the well-being of many individuals on both sides who know Jesus and are our brothers and sisters, and that their testimony of faith in Christ would be clear and strong in these trying times; and be it further

RESOLVED, we also pray for the many individuals involved in this conflict that do not yet know Christ, knowing that our God can bring good out of evil and glorify Himself even in the midst of such tragedy, that they too would come to a saving faith in Jesus; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call upon our state and national leaders to remain steadfast in their support for Israel, which for 75 years has been one of our nation's closest allies.



Nominating Committee Members Nominated

Missouri Baptist Convention President Chris Williams, in consultation with the other officers, has nominated eight new members for three-year terms on the Nominating Committee, terms to expire in 2026; and two members with terms to expire in 2024 and 2025.

Jeff Cox has been nominated to serve as chairman for 2024.

Term Expiring 2024

1. Becky Moyer (L), Fellowship, Greenwood (WC)

Term expiring 2025

1. Elmer Byrd (L), Faith Community Bible Church, Jennings (EC)

Terms Expiring 2026

1. David Brown (M), Hillcrest, Lebanon (SC)
2. Matt Collum (M), First Brookline, Springfield (SW)
3. Trena Cruz, (L), Susquehanna Baptist, Independence (WC)
4. Bob Curtis (M), FBC, Delassus (SE)
5. Shawn Duryea (L), FBC, Weston (NW)
6. Aaron Ferguson (M), Karis Church, Columbia (C)
7. Michael Hunt (M), FBC, Moberly (NE)
8. James Plymale (M), The Ridge, Villa Ridge (EC)

The new members will serve with the following members already on the committee.

Term Expiring 2024

1. Jeff Cox (L), Frederick Boulevard, St. Joseph (NW)
2. Benjamin Leonard (M), FBC, Cabool (SC)
3. Anthony Norwood (L), Faith Community Bible, Jennings (EC)
4. Zachary Rohman (M), FBC, Green City (NE)
5. Seth Shelton (M), The Way, Springfield (SW)
6. Guy Thomas (M), Southside, Fulton (C)
7. Ryan Welch (M), FBC, Ellington (SE)

Term Expiring 2025

1. Adrian Chapman (L), FBC, Clever (SW)
2. Casey Conrad (M), Frederick Boulevard, St. Joseph (NW)
3. Andrew Green (M), FBC, Marble Hill (SE)
4. Joel Hayworth (M), FBC, Salem (SC)
5. Ron Hazelrigg (L), Big Creek, Pleasant Hill (WC)
6. David Newton (M), Memorial, Jefferson City (C)
7. Eric Turner (L), Calvary, Hannibal (NE)

Committee on Order of Business Report

The Committee recommends that the motion by Timothy Faber, messenger from Cornerstone Baptist Church in Camdenton, about supporting Israel be considered at the conclusion of the report of the Executive Board.

The Committee recommends that the President declare out-of-order the motion by Matt Dunn, messenger from First Baptist Church in Bates City, as in violation of Article 6.H. of the Bylaws requiring Resolutions to be submitted 60 days in advance of the annual meeting.

The Committee recommends that the motion by Robert Algieri, messenger from Richland Baptist Church in Kingdom City, about increasing out-of-state Cooperative Program giving be referred to the Executive Board.

The Committee recommends that the motion by Adam Cockrum, messenger from Redeemer Church in Springfield, be considered at the conclusion of the report of the Resolutions Committee.

RESOLUTIONS REPORT TO THE CONVENTION

The Committee on Resolutions of the 189th annual session (2023) of the Missouri Baptist Convention submits this report to the Convention.

Resolutions Recommended for Adoption:

The Committee on Resolutions recommends that the Convention adopt the following resolutions:

Resolution No. 1: Courtesy Resolution to Express Appreciation

WHEREAS, the officers, committees, and staff of the Executive Board of the Missouri Baptist Convention have, through their preparation, labor, and spirit, contributed to a successful convention;

WHEREAS, the members of the Local Arrangements Committee along with Director of Missions and staff of the Greene County Baptist Association, have made every effort to make our stay in this area comfortable;

WHEREAS, Crossway Baptist Church and DoubleTree by Hilton have assisted with preparations and have made their excellent facilities and competent staff available in hosting this meeting; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers to the 189th Annual Session of the Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in Springfield, Missouri, October 24, 2023, express our grateful appreciation to the staff of the Executive Board and to the officers and committees of the Missouri Baptist Convention for an excellent and orderly program and for their leadership in these convention sessions; be it further

RESOLVED, that we express our sincere appreciation to the members of the Local Arrangements Committee; and to the Director of Missions and staff of the Greene County Baptist Association, whose thorough preparation and hospitality have contributed greatly to the comfort and convenience of the messengers and visitors of the convention; be it finally

RESOLVED, that we thank Crossway Baptist Church and DoubleTree by Hilton for their hospitality and help during this session of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

Resolution No. 2: On Thanks to The Pathway and Rob Phillips

WHEREAS, there was an attempt by a legal motion three years ago and a resolution two years ago to encourage the pastors and churches to teach The Baptist Faith and Message; be it

RESOLVED, that we as a group of messengers say thank you to The Pathway and Rob Phillips for bringing The Baptist Faith and Message to our churches through the articles and Rob's book.

Resolution No. 3: On Calling Out the Called

WHEREAS, churches across Missouri are being confronted with a significant leadership challenge through an insufficient number of qualified full-time, bi-vocational, and lay ministry leaders; and

WHEREAS, every believer has been gifted by God for acts of service (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11) and some are called to ministry leadership to equip the church for ministry (Ephesians 4:7-12); and

WHEREAS, the ascended Christ has promised to give His Church the leaders she needs to accomplish His purposes (Ephesians 4:7-12); and

WHEREAS, for far too long individual churches have looked outward for their necessary leaders rather than inward (Luke 10:2-3; John 20:21); and

WHEREAS, God often calls unexpected people to ministry leadership for His glory (1 Samuel 3, 1 Samuel 16, Matthew 9:9, John 21:15-19, Acts 9) and invites us to discover and develop those he calls (Acts 6, 2 Timothy 2:1-2, Titus 1:5-9); therefore; be it

RESOLVED, that we trust in Christ's promise to provide both His Church and His churches with the leaders they need; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we recommit to recovering a culture of calling out the called within this convention and within our churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we pray regularly and expectantly for the ascended Christ to bless His churches with the leaders they need from within as well as from without; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will encourage individual MBC churches to identify those the Lord may be calling into ministry leadership; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we partner throughout Baptist life to raise awareness of the need to call out the called and to encourage and equip one another to discover, develop, and deploy leaders; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that as ministry leaders are called, equipped, empowered, and even sent that we will give God all the praise and glory for keeping His promises to His Church.

Resolution No. 4: On Honoring the Aging

WHEREAS, Job 12:12 says, "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long-life bring understanding?" and as Job 32:7 says, 'Age should speak; advanced years should teach wisdom.' and;

WHEREAS, the call of Scripture to be lifelong disciples is a clear mandate: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us ... So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day." (2 Corinthians 4:7, 16), and;

WHEREAS, demographic research shows that the numbers of senior adults are increasing in numbers never before seen in history, and;

WHEREAS, there are many in our culture who prey upon, mislead, and manipulate senior adults financially and medically, and;

WHEREAS, today senior adults represent one of the largest unreached people groups in America and the state of Missouri, and;

WHEREAS, since there is no organized voice for the aged in Baptist life in general; be it

RESOLVED, that as messengers of the 189th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention we exhort our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to educate ourselves on the issues of aging, that we learn to be advocates for a Christ-like understanding of aging, and that we serve the aging with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Resolution No. 5: On Student Associations

WHEREAS, the freedom to associate – or not associate – with any individual or group is a right with which we are endowed by our Creator (Psalm 1:1-2; II Corinthians 6:14); and

WHEREAS, such freedom to associate is guaranteed to us in the first amendment to our US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, there have been efforts by some institutions of higher learning to violate this freedom to associate by prohibiting student groups from establishing certain criteria for membership and leadership within their associations; and

WHEREAS, various legislators in our Missouri General assembly have recognized this infringement of rights and have advanced legislation to protect student organizations; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention assembled in Springfield, October 23-24, 2023 applaud and encourage our elected officials to continue to stand strong in support of our students' freedom to associate, and pass legislation that will protect this right; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we admonish all public institutions of higher learning to recognize and uphold the rights of all student associations to establish their own criteria for membership and leadership in student organizations.

Resolution No. 6: On SB39

WHEREAS, God created humans as male and female, separate and distinct with differing roles and capabilities; and

WHEREAS, in 1972 the US Congress passed Title IX as part of the Educational Amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965, the Vocational Education Act of 1963, the General Education Provisions Act, and others, which prohibit discrimination in education based on sex; and

WHEREAS, there have been efforts to conflate the legal definition of "sex" with cultural conceptions of "gender identity," resulting in biological males being allowed to participate in women's sports on the high school and collegiate levels, and

WHEREAS, such efforts diminish the ability of girls and women from competing on a fair basis since there are clear differences in the physical abilities of those who are biological males and those who are biological females; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention assembled in Springfield, October 23-24, 2023, commend those who led the effort to pass SB39, which prohibits any post-secondary educational institution from allowing any biological males to compete in an athletic competition that is designated for biological females; be it further

RESOLVED, that we go on record as publicly supporting the right of biological females to compete against one another in a fair competition unencumbered by the presence of biological males.

Resolution No. 7: On SAFE Act

WHEREAS, the Bible clearly declares that God created humans in His own image as distinctly male and female (Genesis 1:27; Matthew 19:4); and

WHEREAS, the Bible also commands us to protect and defend those who are vulnerable – including children (Psalm 82:4, Matthew 18:6); and

WHEREAS, much of our culture has ignored these biblical teachings and has instead begun to prescribe hormone therapies and surgical modification on minors that result in permanent, life-changing consequences, often including sterilization, and

WHEREAS, such medical practices, if done for other purposes, would generally be considered malpractice or child abuse, or both; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri General Assembly has passed legislation prohibiting such medical practices within our state; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention assembled in Springfield, October 23-24, 2023, extend our appreciation to those legislators who led the fight for the passage of SB49 during the last legislative session; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we extend our appreciation to all in the Missouri General Assembly who voted in favor of SB49, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commend Governor Mike Parson for signing SB49 into law; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage Missouri Baptists, and all people of faith to use whatever position and influence we may have to stand strong against those who would abuse or mutilate children for any reason.

Resolution No. 8: On Conversion Therapy Bans

WHEREAS, the Scriptures teach that truly loving our neighbor means telling them truth while exercising compassion, rather than promoting falsehoods in order to affirm their mental or emotional state; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States guarantees the freedom of speech to all individuals; and

WHEREAS, the tenth amendment to the US Constitution also prohibits the government encroaching into every area of life but rather limits the role of government to those responsibilities delineated in the constitution; and

WHEREAS, those who seek counseling for any physiological, or mental/emotional condition have a right to seek such care from professionals trained in the respective field, free from the intrusion of government policies adopted by those who are not professionals in the respective field; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson County legislature has, in April 2023, passed ordinance #5711 relating to a ban on so called conversion therapy for minors, which includes a criminal penalty provision, and

WHEREAS, this legislation violates providers' and counselees' rights and sincerely held religious beliefs, protected by the Free Speech, Free Exercise, and Equal Protection clauses of our Bill of Rights. Such infringement is both unconstitutional and immoral, and

WHEREAS, this legislation infringes on parental rights by effectively limiting legal guardians' medical and counseling options for their minor children, and

WHEREAS, such bans put pastors, school counselors, and staff in jeopardy of punishment for encouraging a student's desire, along with his parents, to align his sexual feelings or conduct with his moral or spiritual convictions, and

WHEREAS, such bans usurp the role of statewide professional boards who have legal jurisdiction to set statewide standards for professional conduct by licensed counselors; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Missouri Baptist Convention assembled in Springfield, October 23-24, 2023 oppose the banning of such therapies that seek to guide individuals into a more biblical, and psychologically healthy perspective of their own sexuality; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we oppose any ban imposed by any government entity (local, county, state, or federal) that would restrict the opinion and practice of professionals who are trained in their respective fields; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon the Missouri General Assembly to pass legislation that would prohibit such bans on conversion therapies; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we call upon the County legislature of Jackson County, along with any other entity that has passed such bans, to repeal and rescind the bans they have already imposed on the medical, psychological, and religious professionals within their jurisdictions.

Resolution No. 9: Exhorting Affiliated MBC Churches to Develop Biblical Definitions and Policies to Confront Sexual Abuse

WHEREAS, the Missouri Baptist Convention 2022 Sexual Abuse Response Team (Task Force) recognizes the devastating impact of sexual abuse on society, as well as on affiliated churches and their congregations; and

WHEREAS, as part of its commission to acknowledge sexual abuse and to equip Missouri Baptist Convention member churches to work to prevent, report, and facilitate healing from the effects of sexual abuse in their congregations; and

WHEREAS, the Bible deems sexual assault/abuse as sin against God (Genesis 34); and

WHEREAS, explicit passages address non-consensual sexual acts as sexual assault and a violation of God's law (Genesis 12:10-16); and

WHEREAS, sexual assault/abuse can result in physical and emotional trauma, shame, and loss of self-worth (2 Samuel 13); and

WHEREAS, every life has been created in the Image of God and has worth, dignity, and value (Genesis 1:27); and

WHEREAS, God ordained the sexual union between a husband and a wife (Genesis 2:24-25), for their pleasure, with the intent to "be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth" (Genesis 1:28), and to symbolize the one-flesh relationship between Christ and His Church; and

WHEREAS, anyone who has experienced sexual abuse, can find hope, healing, and freedom in Christ (Luke 4:18–19) because He will deliver the needy, the afflicted, and the oppressed and rescue them (Psalm 22:24; Psalm 34:18), and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Abuse Response Team has defined sexual abuse as: Any sexual activity or harassment, with perpetrators exerting power over the other, making threats against another, or taking advantage of victims. Sexual abuse also includes acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by any means. The absence of force or coercion does not diminish the abusive nature of the conduct; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the 189th session of the Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in Springfield, Missouri, October 23–24, 2023, exhort churches and their leaders to recognize the potential effect sexual abuse can have on individuals and their congregations; to use the Sexual Abuse Response Team’s biblical definition of sexual abuse; and to develop and/or strengthen policies and procedures to acknowledge, prevent, report, and facilitate healing from the effects of sexual abuse in their congregations consistent with Holy Scripture and applicable law.

Resolution No. 10: Strengthening and Clarifying Laws Concerning Pastors and Churches Regarding Sexual Abuse

WHEREAS, those in pastoral ministry are entrusted with the responsibility, under the authority of Christ, to serve, shepherd, and guard those whom the Lord entrusts to their care (1 Peter 5:1–4); and

WHEREAS, Scripture makes clear that overseers must be above reproach keeping watch over the congregations they serve as those who will give an account and, therefore, will receive a stricter judgment (1 Timothy 3:1–7, James 3:1, Hebrews 13:17); and

WHEREAS, The Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (BFM), Article XV, condemns “all forms of sexual immorality” and states, “We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, [and] the abused”; and

WHEREAS, laws and codes of professional ethics in Missouri prohibit sexual relationships between professionals such as physicians, psychiatrists, attorneys, and their patients/clients, even with consent, because the position of authority held by the professional creates an unhealthy opportunity for abuse; and

WHEREAS, various states have passed laws that criminalize sexual acts between pastors and those under their care and make no exception for the consent of the victim since members of the clergy are in a position of trust, which is broken when the one in authority engages in a sexual act with the victim (such states include Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin); therefore; be it

RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the 189th session of the Missouri Baptist Convention meeting in Springfield, Missouri, October 23–24, 2023, encourage lawmakers to pass legislation to provide consistent definitions and classification of sexual abuse by pastors, as sexual abuse committed by pastors constitutes a clear abuse of authority and trust; and be it further

RESOLVED, we encourage Missouri lawmakers to remove barriers to the free flow of information between churches and other entities about employees and volunteers and, in so doing, empower churches to prevent sexual abuse; and be it further

RESOLVED, that while we hold convictions about and affirm local church autonomy, we also believe that it is both important and biblical (1 Corinthians 14:33) to develop a culture of transparency and mutual responsibility between churches, so that affiliated churches are not places for predators to hide, as we, “contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death,” seeking “to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love” (BFM, Article XV); and be it further

RESOLVED, that while in this world we must face the temporal consequences of sin, such as disqualification from ministry, we joyfully acknowledge that there is no sin that cannot be forgiven and no person who cannot be restored to Christ (Psalm 103:12, Ephesians 1:7–8); and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage churches to be proactive in vetting all volunteers and staff by using in-depth background and reference assessments to thwart any abuse; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we work to discover and implement effective methods to protect the innocent and assist victims and survivors of abuse and preserve the witness of Christ’s Church.

Disposition of Resolutions:

The Committee on Resolutions took the following actions respecting disposition of resolutions submitted by messengers to the Convention, the subject matters of which are addressed in the resolutions recommended for adoption:

Resolution submitted by Joshua Boley on Calling Out the Called, see Resolution No. 3

Resolution submitted by Keith Vawter on Thanks to Pathway and Rob Philips, see Resolution No. 2.

Resolution submitted by Mike Leake on Exhorting Affiliated Missouri Baptist Convention Churches to Develop Biblical Definitions and Policies to Confront Sexual Abuse, see Resolution No. 9.

Resolution submitted by Mike Leake on Strengthening and Clarifying Laws Concerning Pastors and Churches Regarding Sexual Abuse, see Resolution No. 10.

Resolution submitted by Ron Mackey on Honoring the Aging, see Resolution No. 4.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission on Conversion Therapy Bans, see Resolution No. 8.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission on SAFE Act, see Resolution No. 7.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission on SB39, see Resolution No. 6.

Resolution submitted by the Christian Life Commission on Student Associations, see Resolution No. 5.

Resolutions Not Reported Out:

The Committee on Resolutions does not report out the following resolutions submitted by messengers to the Convention:

Resolution submitted by Adam Cochrun on Equal Protection of the Laws for Preborn Children.

Resolution submitted by Bill Cook on Remote Viewing and Voting at the SBC.

Resolution submitted by Keith Vawter on Spread of Immorality by Officials in Washington DC to the rest of the World.

Resolution submitted by Ryan Marks on Upholding a Biblical, Pro-Children Stance.

Respectfully submitted,**Committee on Resolutions**

Blake Hearson, Northland Baptist Church, Kansas City

Denise DesCombes, Fellowship Kansas City Church, Kansas City

Courtney Janes, Calvary Baptist Church, Hannibal

Travis Yeargans, River's Edge Fellowship, Kansas City

Trent Young, First Baptist Church, Owensville

Resolutions Not Recommended by the Committee- Requiring Two-Thirds (2/3) Vote to be Considered:

Missouri Baptist Resolution on Equal Protection of the Laws for Preborn Children

(1) WHEREAS, an individual human life begins at the moment God combines the reproductive cell of a man with that of a woman and begins the process of forming the body of the child in the womb—biblically called conception, and biologically called fertilization (Genesis 4:1, 17; 16:11; 21:2; 25:22; 29:32; 29:33-35; 30:5, 7, 17, 19, 23; 38:3-5, 24-25; Exodus 2:2; 21:22; Leviticus 12:2; Numbers 11:12; Judges 13:2-7; Ruth 4:13; 1 Samuel 1:20; 2:21; 4:19; 2 Samuel 11:5; 2 Kings 8:12; 15:16; 1 Chronicles 4:17; 7:23; Job 10:8-12; 31:15; Psalm 51:5; 139:13-15; Ecclesiastes 11:5; Isaiah 7:14; 8:3; 26:17; 44:2, 24; 49:5; Jeremiah 1:4-5; 20:17; 31:8; Hosea 1:3, 6, 8; 2:5; 12:3; 13:16; Amos 1:13; Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:24, 31, 36), and

(2) WHEREAS, from the moment of fertilization, all human beings are created equal—of equal value because all are made by God in His own image (Gen 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6; Proverbs 22:2; James 3:9), and

(3) WHEREAS, God's holy character despises partiality in judgment and unequal weights and measures, but a just weight is His delight (Deuteronomy 10:17; 2 Chronicles 19:7; Job 34:10-21; Prov 22:2; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:6-12; 10:12; Galatians 2:6; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:23-25; 1 Timothy 5:21; James 2:1-9; 1 Peter 1:17-19; Lev 19:35-36; Deut 25:13-15; Prov 11:1; 16:11; 20:10, 23; Ezekiel 45:10; Hos 12:7; Micah 6:11), and

(4) WHEREAS, consistent with His character, God's Word treats preborn persons similarly to born persons, including requiring similar justice for harm criminally done to either, and using the same terms to define children whether inside or outside the womb (Exod 21:22-25; Judg 13:2-7; 16:17; Psa 22:9-10; 71:6; Isa 49:1; Jer 20:14-18; Ruth 1:11; Gen 25:21-26; Rom 9:10-13; Job 3:3; Luke 1:15, 24, 36; Gen 21:7; 25:22; Luke 1:41, 44; 2:12, 16; 18:15; Acts 7:19; 1 Pet 2:2; Col 4:14), and

(5) WHEREAS, God commands civil authorities to do justice generally, and specifically to do justice to the fatherless, and He forbids the showing of partiality in judgment (Exod 22:22-24; 23:2-3; Lev 19:15; Deut 1:16-17; 16:18-20; 24:17; 27:19; Psa 82:2-3; 94:6; Prov 18:5; Isa 1:16-17, 23; 10:1-2; Jer 5:28; 7:5-7; 21:12; 22:3; Ezek 45:9; Amos 5:15; Matt 23:23), and

(6) WHEREAS, Jesus commands what is commonly called the Golden Rule, that "whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them," and He sums up the whole of the Scriptures for how we must think and act toward our neighbors from fertilization onwards with the Royal Law: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt 7:12; 19:19; 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 6:31; 10:27; Lev 19:18; Rom 13:9; Gal 5:14; James 2:8), now, be it therefore

(7) RESOLVED by the messengers of the MBC meeting in St. Charles, Missouri, October 24-25, 2022, that we reject partiality in judgment and any position or practice that denies the equal protection of the laws to our preborn neighbors from fertilization, and be it further

(8) RESOLVED, that equal protection requires the same legal prohibitions and available sanctions against homicide that exist to protect persons after birth to likewise protect persons before birth, thereby serving to deter all persons from willingly aiding with or procuring or performing prenatal homicide, and be it further

(9) RESOLVED, that such equal protection would require a case-by-case determination, and would not alter any existing presumption, defense, justification, immunity, or clemency, including that mothers would not be subject to criminal liability if under criminal duress, mistake of fact, or in a life-threatening medical emergency, or for an accidental or natural death, or for an act prior to the effective date of the law, and be it further

(10) RESOLVED, that such equal protection would not prohibit the practice of in vitro fertilization (IVF), but would require it to be performed without willfully destroying a living human being, and finally, be it

(11) RESOLVED, that we, our churches, and our ministries love both our born and preborn neighbors as ourselves by continuing steadfast in our commitment to pursue pure and undefiled religion towards both mothers and children prayerfully, financially, and in practice in prenatal and postnatal care through pregnancy resource centers, counseling, fostering, adoption, and other available means.



2023 Nominating Committee Report to the Missouri Baptist Convention

An (M) following a nominee's name denotes a minister and an (L) denotes a layperson. Listings followed by an asterisk (*) indicate proposed re-election to a second term. Listings followed by two asterisks (**) indicate proposed election to a full term

Executive Board

Term Expiring 2024

1. Ryan Anderson (M), Riverview, Osage Beach (C) (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2025

1. Ted Middleton (M), Calvary Heritage, Columbia (C) (Filling unexpired term)
2. Kaleb Mosley (M), FBC, Shelbina (NE) (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2026

1. John Birchett (M), Second, Springfield (SW)
2. Brett Blair (M), Faith, Washington (EC)
3. Kent Brosseau (L), FBC, Crane (SW)*
4. Woodrow Burt (L), Fifth Street, Hannibal (NE)
5. Cliff Crosnoe (L), Lynwood, Cape Girardeau (SE)
6. Matthew Culbertson (M), Faith, Festus (EC)
7. Marvin Daniels (M), Mosaic Bible Fellowship, Kansas City (WC)**
8. Mike Hayden (L), FBC, New London (NE)*
9. Rob Hurtgen (M), FBC, Chillicothe (NW)
10. Bradley James (M), Hillcrest, Lebanon (SC)
11. Robert Korff (M), Spring Garden, Olean (C)
12. Wes Mayfield (M), Roby Baptist, Roby (SC)
13. Aaron Mick (L), Fellowship, Greenwood (WC)*
14. Michael Quinn (M), Concord, Jefferson City (C)
15. Paul Reams (M), Ely, Kennett (SE)
16. Tim Weddle (L), Frederick Blvd, St. Joseph (NW)

Committee on Order of Business

2024 Chairman: Dennis Gard

Term Expiring 2026

Dennis Gard (M), Central, Eureka

Credentials Committee

2024 Chairman: Gary Mathes

Term Expiring 2026

1. Tyler Murphy (M), Southside, Fulton
2. Robert Shelton (M), FBC, Plattsburg

Missouri Baptist Christian Life Commission

Term Expiring 2024

1. Becky Allen (L), FBC, Annapolis (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2026

1. William Harding (L), Main Street, Greenfield*
2. Jayson Hoagland (M), FBC, Wright City
3. Robert Hodson (M), FBC, Lamar
4. Dave Nixdorf (M), River of Life, Cameron

Missouri Baptist Historical Commission

Term Expiring 2025

1. Brian Baker (M), FBC, Marceline (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2026

1. Cody Fleenor (M), FBC, Oak Ridge
2. Cody Harlow (M), FBC, Camdenton
3. Gaylord Mustin (L), Pleasant Valley, Liberty*

Missouri Baptist Foundation

Term Expiring 2026

1. Jason Marlin (M), FBC, Kirksville
2. Michael McCoy (L), Freshwater, Jefferson City*
3. Jason Sparks (M), Sandy, Hillsboro**
4. Charles Washburn (L), FBC, Chillicothe*

Missouri Baptist Foundation

Term Expiring 2026

1. Jason Marlin (M), FBC, Kirksville
2. Michael McCoy (L), Freshwater, Jefferson City*
3. Jason Sparks (M), Sandy, Hillsboro**
4. Charles Washburn (L), FBC, Chillicothe*

Missouri Baptist Children's Home

Term Expiring 2026

1. Mary Ann Allen (L), Oakwood, Kansas City*
2. Chasity Black (L), FBC, Memphis
3. William Arthur Bryant (L), FBC, Richland
4. Traci Byrd (L), Faith Community Bible Church, Jennings*
5. Steve Francis (M), FBC, West Plains
6. Ean Hendrix (M), Glendale, Springfield*
7. Mary Beth Henson (L), FBC, Iron Mountain
8. Glenn Scott (L), FBC, Tarkio
9. Travis Yeargans (M), Rivers Edge Fellowship, Kansas City

Baptist Homes and Healthcare Ministries

Term Expiring 2024

1. Breanna Mather (L), Frederick Boulevard, St. Joseph (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2025

1. Nathan Hammock (M), FBC, Vandalia (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2026

1. Beverley Campbell (L), Deer Creek, Cuba
2. John Canterbury (M), FBC, Iron Mountain*
3. Kenette Harder (L), FBC, North Kansas City*
4. Kathy Lackey (L), FBC, Shelbina
5. Roger Martin (L), FBC, Fairfax
6. Michael McMullen (L), LifeConnection Church, Independence*
7. Allen Nichols (M), FBC, Lilbourn*

Hannibal-LaGrange University

Term Expiring 2024

1. Mitch Grainger (M), FBC, Dexter (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2027

1. Gene Downing (L), Southern Hills, Oklahoma City, OK (Filling unexpired term)

Term Expiring 2028

1. Nate Adams (M), Western Oaks, Springfield, IL*
2. Larry Gamm (L), Second, Bowling Green
3. Mikala King (L), Concord, Jefferson City
4. William Osborne (L), FBC, Forsyth
5. Wes Segawa (L), Kaumana Drive Baptist, Hilo, HI

Missouri Baptist University

Term Expiring 2026

1. Brent Campbell (L), FBC, Troy
2. Adam Cruse (M), FBC, Arnold
3. Michael Gregory (M), Tower Grove, St. Louis*
4. Kurt Knodell (L), FBC, Poplar Bluff
5. Becky Krupski (L), Canaan, St. Louis
6. Ken Parker (M), FBC, Kearney
7. Daniel Pentimone (L), Summit Woods, Lee's Summit
8. Scott Perry (M), Temple, Sullivan
9. T.D. Stubblefield (L), FBC, Chesterfield*

Southwest Baptist University

Term Expiring 2028

1. Joe Brand (L), FBC, Salem**
2. Bruce Davison (L), Olivet Baptist, Wichita, KS
3. Thomas Johnston (M), Immanuel, Roseau, MN
4. Dale Smith (M), The Road Church, Grain Valley
5. Jonathan Swan (M), FBC, O'Fallon