

## ***Partnering With One Another To Worship***

### **The 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of The Beech River Baptist Association Session One: October 17, 2011, First Baptist Church, Lexington**

Moderator, Rev. Dale Gravatt, Pastor of Mt. Gilead, called the 2010/2011 Annual Meeting of Beech River Baptist Association to order at 7:00 P. M. He welcomed Rev. Kevin Bromley, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Parsons, to the platform for a word of welcome and opening prayer. Following the prayer, Rev. Jason Varnick, Minister of Music for our host church, led the assembled in singing "Nothing But The Blood of Jesus."

The Moderator then recognized Dr. Christopher Young, Pastor of Union Baptist and the Credentials Committee Chairman. Dr. Young recommended that those messengers then registered and those to be registered compose the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Beech River Baptist Association. He further moved that those present in session constitute a quorum. The motion passed.

Then Dr. Young, who is also the Vice-moderator, brought a motion that the order of service as printed in the Book of Reports on page 1 serve as the program agenda for the 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Beech River Baptist Association. The motion passed.

The Moderator recognized the following representatives from organizations who were present from across our state: Rev. Randy Pool, Mississippi River Ministry; Dr. Richard Well, Union University; and Shannon Dykstra, Life Choices Pregnancy Help Center. Moderator Gravatt also reminded the messengers that if there were any resolutions anyone would like to have considered, those resolutions should be given to the Resolutions Committee, whose Chairman is Rev. Bobby McCord, before leaving tonight. The Resolutions will be presented tomorrow night during the second session.

Dr. Mike Thrower, Director of Missions, was called on for the recognition of new pastors and staff. The following were introduced as new pastors in the association: Rev. Ben Holny, Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and Rev. Mark Smith, Cub Creek Hall Baptist Church. Also recognized were Mr. Shaun Carver, Children's Minister, First Baptist Church, Parsons; and Mr. Keith Runyon, Outreach and Education Minister, Sand Ridge Baptist Church.

The Moderator began the first business session by calling on Don Martin, FBC, Lexington layman and Association Treasurer, to present the Treasurer's report (Printed on the green pages in the Book of Reports). After the presentation there was a time for questions. There were no questions and the report was accepted as printed.

Rev. John Heskett, Pastor of Sardis Baptist Church and Budget Committee Chairman, was recognized to present the proposed 2012 Budget. He presented the budget (page 3 in the Book of Reports) as a motion from the Budget Committee so it required no second. Rev. Heskett noted this was the fourth year there

has been no staff salary increase. Some of the funds in the missions and program categories were decreased in the 2012 budget because they were not used by those groups in 2011. Rev. Heskett suggested churches increase their giving by giving percentage wise.

The Moderator then called for anyone with questions or discussion to come to the microphone placed at the front of the sanctuary and state their name and church.

David Autry, Messenger from First Baptist Church, Parsons, was recognized with comments and a question. He questioned the distribution of funds in the budget, particularly those in the Missions and Programs line items and the staff insurance line item. He noted \$2,800.00 was taken out of the Missions and Programs line items and added into insurance. Mr. Autry asked why the Director of Missions put such a low priority on Missions and Programs and focused on insurance.

The Moderator called on the Budget Committee Chairman to answer this inquiry. Rev. Heskett noted that, as is occurring with insurance in general, our staff insurance plan, which is Guidestone Insurance with the Southern Baptist Convention, has increased. There would have been a greater insurance increase if the Director of Missions had not suggested moving to a plan with a higher deductible. The 105 Medical Plan was increased to help cover some of those higher deductible costs, however the budget totals remain the same as last year's budget.

Dr. Michael Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington, was then recognized. He noted that more could be done if more churches supported the Association with their gifts. He suggested churches increase their giving a little more. He then asked if anything was being done to encourage churches to begin giving or increase their giving.

Rev. Jimmy Minor, Pastor, Southside Baptist Church, stated his church and other churches would give more if they saw the association doing more and not cutting missions.

The following messengers were recognized in turn to make comments on the proposed budget. Those speaking against the budget were Mr. David Autry and Rev. Bobby McCord, Pastor First Baptist Church, Decaturville. Those speaking for the budget were Dr. Hoyt Wilson, Pastor Chapel Hill Baptist Church; Rev. John Heskett; and Rev. Dale Gravatt.

Rev. Rodney Hardin, Pastor Wildersville Baptist Church, was then recognized. He called for the previous question. The vote to cease discussion and proceed with the previous question passed.

The vote on the proposed 2012 Budget was taken by show of hands. There were 83 YES votes to accept the proposed budget and 46 NO votes. The proposed budget passed.

Moderator Rev. Dale Gravatt recognized Dr. Christopher Young for the Executive Board report. Dr. Young noted the Executive Board met three times in 2011. Several reports were received including one to estab-

lish guidelines by which our Disaster Relief Team will operate.

The floor was then opened for any Miscellaneous Business. Dr. Marty Comer, Pastor of Sand Ridge Baptist Church, with input from Dr. Michael Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church Lexington, made the following motion. I move that a committee be appointed by the Moderator to study ways to increase our associational mission giving and our budget and that some action plans be presented to the Executive Board in their next meeting. This motion was seconded by Dr. Adams. The motion passed.

Dr. Mike Thrower, was recognized to present the Director of Missions report (attached to the minutes). Before giving his formal report Dr. Thrower noted some mission activities the association promoted. There were no volunteers to participate in these projects. These projects were both local and out of state. He went on to remind the messengers that several of the churches do participate in their own mission project in Belize, Mexico, and other areas including local and international missions.

Rev. Dewy Jones, Pastor, Mt. Ararat Baptist Church, was recognized to present the Centennial Fund Offering. \$723.00 was taken for the Beech River Baptist Centennial Fund Offering.

Rev. Jason Varnick, Minister of Music of First Baptist church, Parsons, led all present in singing "Victory In Jesus."

The Moderator introduced Dr. Paul Clark, Director of Worship and Music Ministries of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, as the evenings speaker following the special music. Dr. Clark has recently authored a book, "Tune My Heart To Sing Thy Grace."

Rev. Varnick led the Choir of First Baptist Church, Parsons in singing "I've Never Been This Homesick Before."

Dr. Clark began by showing a brief video from Dr. Randy Davis, Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Director. Dr. Clark spoke on Worship. He noted The Priority of Worship, The Mandate for Unity in Worship, and The Result of True Worship is Unity. Romans 12:1-10, Hebrews 13:15 -16, and Revelation 4:1-3; 5:13, John:20 -22 were referenced.

Rev. Gravatt thanked Dr. Clark for being with us. He encouraged everyone to stay for the food and fellowship to fellow. He thanked First Baptist Church, Parsons for serving as hosts for this meeting. The Moderator thanked those who prepared the refreshments. He reminded everyone that the Tuesday night session would be at Union Grove Baptist Church. A map to the church is available at the association web site, [www.brbaweb.org](http://www.brbaweb.org).

The Moderator called on Rev. Bobby McCord to close the first session of the Beech River Baptist Association with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 P. M.

**The 141<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Beech River Baptist Association**  
**Session Two, October 18, 2010, Union Grove Baptist Church**

Rev. Dale Gravatt, Moderator and Pastor of Mt. Gilead Baptist Church, called the second session of The Beech River Baptist Association to order at 7:00 P. M. and thanked Union Grove Baptist Church for hosting the Tuesday session. He recognized Mr. Tom Thurman, Deacon Chairman, for a word of welcome and prayer. Mr. Thurman on behalf of Union Grove's new Pastor, Rev. Lewis Screws, welcomed those present and made a few announcements before he led in opening prayer.

Rev. Adam Wood, Music and Youth Minister of Grace Baptist Church in Henderson and former Pastor and Music Minister of Union Grove, led the congregation in singing "To God Be The Glory."

The Moderator then made a few announcements. He noted that only messengers elected by their churches were allowed to vote during the business sessions. He made the following corrections and additions. Page 16, the summary information page for the 2010 ACP year was put in the Annual Meeting books by mistake. Correct 2011 sheets were handed out at registration. He reported the Centennial Offering taken during the Monday night session was \$723.00. There were 176 registered messengers and 24 guests for a total of 200 attending the first session of the Annual Meeting. Mr. Darren Andrus was recognized as the representative from the Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He is a Campus Director at the Bartlett Campus.

Moderator Gravatt recognized Mr. Greg Eads, Sand Ridge Baptist Church Administrator and Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the 2011/2012 report of Officers and Workers located on pages 4 and 5 of the Book of Reports. Mr. Eads made one correction to the printed report. Under Associational Committees, Nominating Committee, Tracy McCormick was replaced with Alma Townsend, member of First Baptist Church, Parsons. The report was approved as printed (attached to the Minutes).

Rev. Michael Stanford, Children's Minister. First Baptist Church, Scotts Hill, representing the Time and Place Committee, was called on to give the Time and Place report. He moved that the 2013 Annual Meeting take place on Monday night, **October 21, 2013**, at Union Baptist Church and Tuesday night, **October 22, 2013**, at Mt. Gilead Baptist Church. As previously voted the 2012 Annual Meeting will take place Monday, **October 15, 2012**, at Sand Ridge Baptist Church and Tuesday, **October 16, 2012**, at First Baptist Church, Decaturville. This report was accepted as presented.

Rev. Bobby McCord, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Decaturville and Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, brought the four resolutions listed on page 6 of the Book of Reports. They were brought and voted on individually. Resolutions one through three passed with no opposition. There was some discussion on the fourth resolution which reads as follows.

*"WHEREAS the Southern Baptist Convention has been called the Southern Baptist Convention for over 160 years, AND WHEREAS the 'Southern Baptist Convention' makes a bold statement to the inerrancy, inspiration, and infallibility*

*of scripture, the importance of life, the sacredness of marriage, and the deity of Jesus Christ in it's Statement of Faith. AND WHEREAS the name 'Southern Baptist' means something when spoken. BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers of the 141st Annual Meeting of the Beech River SOUTHERN Baptist Association will give our support to keep the name, The Southern Baptist Convention".*

The chair recognized Steven Ross from Wildersville Baptist Church. His question was who can go to the Southern Baptist Convention. The Moderator answered that any elected messenger from any Southern Baptist Church can go. There were two who spoke against the motion: Rev. John Heskett, Pastor of Sardis Baptist Church; and Rev. Rodney Hardin Pastor of Wildersville Baptist Church, and two who spoke for the motion: Rev. Bobby McCord; and Mr. Glenn Ford member of Rock Hill Baptist Church. Dr. Michael Adams, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Lexington called for the previous question. Dr. Adams' motion to end debate and vote on the motion carried. The original motion was voted on and that motion carried also.

The next order of business was the election of officers for the 2011/2012 associational year.

The chair opened the floor for nominations for the office of Moderator. Rev. Dale Gravatt was nominated by Rev. Bobby McCord. Rev. Gravatt, as Moderator, called on Vice-Moderator, Dr. Christopher Young to take over the election of Moderator. Mr. Glenn Ford moved the Moderator be elected by acclamation with Dr. Michael Adams giving a second. The motion carried to elect Rev. Gravatt by acclamation.

The chair opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice-Moderator. Dr. Hoyt Wilson, Pastor of Chapel Hill Baptist Church moved that Dr. Christopher Young be elected by acclamation. Rev. Bobby McCord made the second. Dr. Young was elected by acclamation.

The chair opened the floor for nominations for the office of Treasurer. Mr. Don Martin a Layman of FBC, Lexington and the present Treasurer, was nominated by Rev. Jimmy Burroughs, Pastor of Pine Grove Baptist Church. Mr. Buddy White, First Baptist Church, Decaturville, made the second. Mr. Martin was elected with no opposition.

The Chair opened the floor for nominations for the office of Clerk. Mrs. Frances Thrower a member of FBC, Lexington and present Clerk was nominated by Mrs. Tammy Young, Associational Woman's Missionary Union Director and member of Union Baptist Church. Dr. Christopher Young moved Mrs. Thrower be elected by acclimation. Mr. Glenn Ford made the second. Mrs. Thrower was elected with no opposition.

The Moderator called for any miscellaneous business. There was none .  
Rev. Adam Wood led the assembly in singing "There Is A Fountain."

The chair recognized Rev. Kevin Bromley, Pastor of First Baptist Church, Parsons, for a time of memorial. He read the names of those members from our various churches who had gone on to be with the Lord

during the past year. Following this time of memorial Rev. Wood led the assembled in singing “Blessed Assurance.”

Before the Special Music Rev. Gravatt introduced the evenings speaker, Dr. Christopher Young. Dr. Young is currently Pastor of Union Baptist Church. He serves our association as Vice-Moderator.

Special music was presented by Rev. Adam Wood. He sang “On My Cross.”

Dr. Young spoke on “Why Do we worship?” Exodus 20:1-6, which follows, was his text:

*.1And God spake all these words, saying, <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup>Thou shalt have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup>Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; <sup>6</sup>And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Dr. Young noted five things about worship: 1. A relationship is imperative to worship. 2. A remembrance must impassion. 3. There are restrictions inherent In worship. 4. There are repercussions involved with worship. 5. There is reward included in worship.

The Moderator thanked Dr. Young for his message and called on The Director of Missions, Dr. Mike Thrower, for presentation of officers to the Association.

The Director of Missions, Dr. Mike Thrower, presented the 2011/2012 officers of the association. He noted all the officers remain the same for the coming year. It was pointed out that this was the first full term for the Moderator and Vice-Moderator. Both had assumed these positions during the year due to a vacancy created by the moving of the previous moderator to a church out of the association.

Moderator Gravatt encouraged everyone to stay for a time of fellowship. He then called on Dr. Marty Comer to close the 141<sup>st</sup> session of the Beech River Baptist Association with prayer at 8:40 P. M.

**Total Registered Messengers: 183 from 36 Churches**

**Total Registered Guests: 19**