Followers of Jesus are true partners in the Lord, Dr. John Yeats, MBC executive director, told messengers Monday evening at the 183rd Annual Meeting of Missouri Baptists.

Yeats spoke to Missouri Baptists during the opening session of the meeting, held at Connection Point Church, Raytown.

“Missouri Baptists, we’re better together,” said Yeats. “That’s the gist of synergy: people can accomplish more together than separately.”

Yeats noted that the apostle Paul, in his writings, uses the Greek word sunergos -- the root word for synergy -- several times to refer to his fellow workers. “There were people like Priscilla and Aquila, Timothy, Titus, Epaphroditus, Philemon, Mark, and Luke who Paul viewed as his synergizing partners in ministry,” Yeats said. In Philippians 4:3, the Christian Standard Bible translates the word sunergos as “true partners” in the Lord.

Yeats said that Missouri Baptists understand the concept of synergy because of all the ministries they share: disaster relief, children’s homes, campus initiatives, ministries to international students and workers who have come to our state, and much more. “Synergy is a biblical concept worthy of incorporating into our lives and work,” he said.

Yeats shared three principles of synergy:

(1) Practically, the mission of the Lord requires synergy. ‘Part of the Baptist DNA is that we embrace a global responsibility to reach all people,’’ he said.

(2) The overwhelming work demands synergy. With so many of the world’s 7 billion people lost and without Jesus, we must work together to reach them with the gospel. This involves our Southern Baptist entities as well as our cooperative ministries in the state.

(3) The angst of Jesus for His Bride is transformed to joy in synergy. On the night He was betrayed, Jesus prayed for unity. Unity does not mean uniformity. It recognizes diversity within the body of Christ but singularity in purpose.

“The secret to godly synergy is loving one another instead of loving ourselves,’’ Yeats said, closing his message by inviting Missouri Baptists to stand and read in unison the words of Jesus in John 13:34-35 - “I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
Nominating Committee recommendations

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.

Executive Board
Term Expiring 2020
1. Tim Burgess (M), FBC, Mt. Vernon (SW)
2. Joe Costephens (M), FBC, Ferguson (EC)*
3. Larry Heenan (M), Spring Valley, Raytown (WC)*
4. John Hessel (M), FBC, Oakville (EC)
5. Gina Jordan (L), Rock Springs, Licking (SC)
6. Bonnie Lee (L), Open Heart, Columbia (C)
7. Mark Still (L), FBC, Branson (SW)*
8. Wanda Stull (L), Concord, Jefferson City (C)
9. Melissa Throgmorton (L), FBC, Elsberry (EC)*
10. Sarah Wasson (L), Bethany, Cape Girardeau (SE)*
11. Linda Welch (L), FBC, Golden City (SW)*

Missouri Baptist Christian Life Commission
Term Expiring 2020
1. Steve Betts (L), Philadelphia, Rolla*
2. Chuck Hoskins (M), FBC, Arnold
3. Jeff Voepel (M), Emerson, Maywood*
4. Michael York (M), FBC, Salem*

Missouri Baptist Historical Commission
Term Expiring 2020
1. Donald Estes (M), Shawnee Hills, Jackson*
2. Dennis Hahn (L), FBC, St. Charles*
3. David Updegrave (M), FBC, Wellington

Missouri Baptist Foundation
Term Expiring 2018
1. Connie Benson (L), Second, Bowling Green (Filling unexpired term of Jay Hughes)
2. Scott Sullivan (L), Pleasant Valley, Liberty (Filling unexpired term of Floyd Gilzow)

Term Expiring 2020
1. Dan Case (L), Concord, Jefferson City
2. Mike Dennis (L), FBC, Camdenton*
3. Al Groner (M), FBC, Monroe City*
4. Rob Hawkins (L), FBC, West Plains*

Missouri Baptist Children’s Home
Term Expiring 2020
1. Christopher Bond (L), Parkway, Creve Coeur*
2. Wayne Carrigan (M), FBC, Creve Coeur, Licking
3. Bonnie Carter (L), Carpenter Street, Mexico
4. Betty Cox (L), Illmo, Scott City
5. Muriel Elder (L), McCarthy, St. Joseph
6. Ward Franz (L), FBC, West Plains
7. Robert Hodson (M), FBC, Lamar*
8. Welby Jones (M), Sterling Acres, Kansas City
9. Cara Peoples (L), FBC, Richmond*

Baptist Home
Term Expiring 2019
1. Ryan Bliss (L), Ridgecrest, Springfield (Filling unexpired term of Judy Warson)

Term Expiring 2020
1. Jerry Arnold (L), Frederick Boulevard, St. Joseph*
2. Donald Clark (L), FBC, Lebanon*
3. Randy Ewart (M), Alexandria, Alexandria*
4. Doug Fitzgerald (L), FBC, Lesterville*
5. William Jackson (M), Black River, Black*
6. Tom Luthy (L), FBC, Lebanon*
7. Keith Perren (M), Highland, Hillsboro*

Hannibal-LaGrange University
Term Expiring 2021
1. Mike Atherton (M), FBC, O’Fallon (Filling unexpired term of Jim Arico)
2. Adam Mallette (M), Calvary, Republic (Filling unexpired term of Bob Caldwell)

Term Expiring 2022
1. Loretta Bringer (L), South Union, Maywood*
2. Bobbie Crane (L), FBC, Harvester
3. Leo Endel (M), Emmanuel, Rochester, MN
4. Bryan Gruber (L), FBC, Mexico
5. Ilda Kennon (L), Sandy, Hillsboro
6. Gary Shultz (M), FBC, Fulton*

Missouri Baptist University
Term Expiring 2019
1. Matt Cain (L), Morse Mill, Dittmer (Filling unexpired term of Jeff Anderson)

Term Expiring 2020
1. Jesse Barnhart (M), Parker Road, Florissant*

(continued on page 3)
Nominating Committee members nominated

Missouri Baptist Convention president Ken Parker, in consultation with the other officers, has nominated eight new members for three-year terms on the Nominating Committee, terms to expire 2020. Ryan Kunce, First Baptist, Bethany, has been nominated to serve as chairman for 2018.

Term Expiring 2018
1. Brian Veal (M), FBC, Moberly (Northeast) (filling unexpired term of Brad Newbold)

New Members term expiring 2020
1. Ted Bachman (M), Southern Hills, Bolivar (Southwest)
2. Dinae Chichester (L), Northern Hills, Holt (West Central)
3. Kristi Hardecke (L), FBC, Owensville (Central)
4. Benjamin Leonard (M), FBC, Cabool (South Central)
5. Justin Perry (M), FBC, Viburnum (Southeast)
6. Buddy Perstrope (M), FBC, St. Charles (East Central)
7. Joe Thrower (M), Prince Avenue, Hannibal (Northeast)
8. Charlie Washburn (L), FBC, Chillicothe (Northwest)

Nominations continued from page 2

2. Nick Catrow (M), Chapel Hill, Thayer*
3. Jim Cline (M), Mineola, Mineola*
4. Jason Fleenor (M), Stoutsville, Stoutsville*
5. Chad Hodges (M), FBC, Wright City*
6. Tom Delaney (L), FBC, Union*
7. Ronald Peterson (L), FBC, Orlando, FL*
8. James Plymale (M), The Ridge Church, Villa Ridge*
9. Bob Winter (M), FBC, Festus-Crystal City*

Southwest Baptist University

Term Expiring 2022
1. David Brown (M), Hillcrest, Lebanon*
2. Don Fahrni (L), Corticelli, Russellville*
3. Susan Gilmore (L), FBC, Mt. Vernon*
4. Robert Ingold (L), Second, Springfield*
5. Donna Neil (L), South Haven, Springfield*

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

Term Expiring 2018
1. Harold Boyer (L), FBC, Poplar Bluff (Southeast)
2. Terry Delaney (M), Union, Mexico (Central)
3. Mark Fugitt (M), Mountain Grove Family Church, Mtn. Grove (South Central)
4. Duane Goss (L), FBC, Kearney (West Central)
5. Todd Johnson (L), Highland, Hillsboro (East Central)
6. Brian Jump (M), FBC, Clever (Southwest)
7. Tyler Stark (L), Laura Street, Maryville (Northwest)

Term Expiring 2019
1. Brian Beadle (L), FBC, Branson (Southwest)
2. John Davis (L), Claycomo Baptist, Kansas City (West Central)
3. Cathy DeGraffenreid (L), Riverview, Osage Beach (Central)
4. Todd Higgs (M), Living Stone, Portageville (Southeast)
5. Ryan Kunce (M), FBC, Bethany (Northwest)
6. Barry Reynolds (L), FBC, Licking (South Central)
7. Brenda Sharpe (L), FBC, Lewistown (Northeast)
8. David Wells (M), Sandy Baptist, Hillsboro (East Central)
Additions to Executive Board report

During the Monday afternoon meeting of the Executive Board the following items were reported for inclusion in the Executive Board report:

Report from the Executive Board to the Missouri Baptist Convention
(To add to the Executive Board Report on pages 31-32 of the Book of Reports.)

1. The Board considered and approved four recommendations from the Administrative Committee.
2. The Board heard and adopted the report and plan of action of the Agency Restoration Group.

Additions to Executive Board Recommendations
(To add to the Executive Board Recommendations on pages 33-35 of the Book of Reports.)

8. The Executive Board recommends to the MBC that the Convention approve the Missouri Baptist Foundation Bylaws change as follows:

We, the undersigned, being all of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, a Missouri Benevolent corporation (the “Corporation”), acting pursuant to Section 352.110 RSMo. and Article I, Section 5 of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, do hereby adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, BYLAW 1, Section 3 Term of Trustees of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation provides, in part, “Each Trustee elected for a term at a regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be elected for a term that shall begin upon the recording of the result of the election.” and

WHEREAS, BYLAW 2, Section 1.a. Election of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation provides, “Election: The board officers shall be elected annually by the Board of Trustees at the first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year.” and

WHEREAS, BYLAW 3, Section 2.4 Nominating Committee of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation provides, “Nominating Committee: A Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees shall be composed of three Board members and the President of the Foundation. The three Board members of the Committee shall annually be elect-
ed by the Board at its last regular Board meeting prior to the close of the Foundation’s fiscal year. Of the three Board members to be elected to the Committee, one shall be completing a term of service on the Board in the year of election, one shall have at least one entire year remaining in his or her term and one shall not be so limited and may be an Emeritus or Advisory Trustee. It shall serve the Board in providing nominees for the officers of the Board for presentation at the first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year.” and

WHEREAS, BYLAW 1, Section 3 conflicts with BYLAW 2, Section 1.a, by providing the possibility that a board officer elected at the previous first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year could be removed by the election of a new board member at the following regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention and BYLAW 1, Section 3 conflicts with BYLAW 3, Section 2.4, by providing the possibility that a nominating committee member elected at the last regular Board meeting prior to the close of the Foundation’s fiscal year could be removed by the election of a new board member at the following regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention, leaving vacancies in either or both board officers and nominating committee members.

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that
BYLAW 1, Section 3 Term of Trustees of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation be amended by the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, by deleting that portion of the current BYLAW 1, Section 3 Term of Trustees that states, “Each Trustee elected for a term at a regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be elected for a term that shall begin upon the recording of the result of the election.” and replacing that deleted language with, “Each Trustee elected for a term at a regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be elected for a term that shall begin at the close of the first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year.” and

WHEREAS, BYLAW 3, Section 2.4 Nominating Committee of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation provides, “Nominating Committee: A Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees shall be composed of three Board members and the President of the Foundation. The three Board members of the Committee shall annually be elect-
ed by the Board at its last regular Board meeting prior to the close of the Foundation’s fiscal year. Of the three Board members to be elected to the Committee, one shall be completing a term of service on the Board in the year of election, one shall have at least one entire year remaining in his or her term and one shall not be so limited and may be an Emeritus or Advisory Trustee. It shall serve the Board in providing nominees for the officers of the Board for presentation at the first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year.” and

WHEREAS, BYLAW 1, Section 3 conflicts with BYLAW 2, Section 1.a, by providing the possibility that a board officer elected at the previous first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year could be removed by the election of a new board member at the following regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention and BYLAW 1, Section 3 conflicts with BYLAW 3, Section 2.4, by providing the possibility that a nominating committee member elected at the last regular Board meeting prior to the close of the Foundation’s fiscal year could be removed by the election of a new board member at the following regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention, leaving vacancies in either or both board officers and nominating committee members.

“BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that
BYLAW 1, Section 3 Term of Trustees of the Bylaws of the Missouri Baptist Foundation be amended by the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Baptist Foundation, by deleting that portion of the current BYLAW 1, Section 3 Term of Trustees that states, “Each Trustee elected for a term at a regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be elected for a term that shall begin upon the recording of the result of the election.” and replacing that deleted language with, “Each Trustee elected for a term at a regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention shall be elected for a term that shall begin at the close of the first regular meeting of the Board following the start of the Foundation’s fiscal year.”, subject to obtaining the subsequent approval in writing of this amendment by the Executive Board of the Missouri Baptist Convention and by the Messengers to the next regular meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

(End)
Credentials Committee completes report

1. According to the governing documents of the convention, specifically the Credentials Committee Rules and Procedures, the committee recommends the churches listed below be removed from the list of member churches in the Missouri Baptist Convention. These churches are being removed because they have either requested removal or they have disbanded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Year Disbanded</th>
<th>Date Removed</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cedar Bluff Baptist Church</td>
<td>Fair Grove</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>6/18/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cristo La Unica Esperanza</td>
<td>Purdy</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8/24/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crossroads Baptist Church</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8/13/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Baptist Church</td>
<td>Blodget</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4/21/17</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Baptist Church</td>
<td>Ellisville</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2/26/17</td>
<td>Merged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Baptist Church</td>
<td>Raymondville</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>8/1/17</td>
<td>Removed Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Vision Community Church</td>
<td>Nixa</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4/3/17</td>
<td>Merged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis &amp; Clark</td>
<td>Baptist Church, Rushville</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5/13/15</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lighthouse Independent Baptist</td>
<td>Cole Camp</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>12/31/16</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Star Baptist Church</td>
<td>Cape Girardeau</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>3/19/17</td>
<td>Merged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TimberRidge Community Church</td>
<td>Kirksville</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>11/20/16</td>
<td>Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. According to the governing documents of the Convention, specifically the Credentials Committee Rules and Procedures, the committee recommends the churches listed below be removed from the list of member churches in the Missouri Baptist Convention. These churches are being removed because they no longer meet the criteria of remaining a member church according to the Credentials Committee Rules and Procedures, section 7.a.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amazing Love Community Church</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>St. Louis Metro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont Baptist Church</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>Blue River-Kansas City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caplinger Mills Baptist Church</td>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Mid-Lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CrossRoads Bible Baptist Church</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>Blue River-Kansas City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Encounter Church</td>
<td>Imperial</td>
<td>Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Baptist Church</td>
<td>Brookfield</td>
<td>Linn-Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full Faith Christian Center</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>Blue River-Kansas City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paseo Baptist Church</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>Blue River-Kansas City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodcrest Chapel</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>Mid-Missouri</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Monday evening update

The MBC Credentials Committee reported to the Convention on Monday evening and made the recommendation on page 29 of the *Book of Reports* with the following additions to the list of newly affiliated churches:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Churches</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anthem Church</td>
<td>Columbia</td>
<td>Stan Hayek</td>
<td>Mid-Missouri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifepointe Church</td>
<td>Sedalia</td>
<td>Rusty Thomas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Re-affiliating Church</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iona Baptist Church</td>
<td>Cape Girardeau</td>
<td>Allan Fletchall</td>
<td>Cape Girardeau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitewater, First</td>
<td>Cape Girardeau</td>
<td>Matthew Butrum</td>
<td>Cape Girardeau</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Parker appoints tellers for 2017 meeting

Missouri Baptist Convention president Ken Parker presented his appointments to the 2017 Tellers Committee during the Monday evening session of the Missouri Baptist Convention. This committee serves during this year’s annual meeting.

The Tellers committee assists the presiding officer with vote-taking, collecting ballots, tabulating results and announcing the results to the presiding officer.

Those appointed to the Tellers Committee are all currently serving as Disaster Relief volunteers. The list includes: David Wells, Sandy Baptist, Hillsboro—Chairman; Mike Beasley, Trimble Baptist, Trimble; Ruth Beasley, Trimble Baptist, Trimble; Donna Berry, FBC, Fenton; Jim Bone, FBC, Arnold; Nick Catrow, Rose Hill, Thayer; Roy Christie, Northern Hills, Holt; Leighton Clemons, Country Meadows, Independence; Kay Clemons, Country Meadows, Independence; Marie Condley, Claycomo, Kansas City; Joe Dayringer, Northern Hills, Holt; Al Groner, Calvary, Hannibal; Chris Houghtaling, First Blue Springs, Independence; Sherinn Kessinger, FBC, Grandview; Dennis Myers, Connection Point, Raytown; Dorothy Myers, Connection Point, Raytown; Kenny Sisk, Journey, St. Joseph; Cindy Stuck, Pleasant Valley, Liberty; Gary Tracy, Northern Hills, Holt; Charles Washburn, FBC, Chillicothe.

Retiring executive board members listed

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

Robin Dale, serving 2011-2017
Maynard Grannemann, serving 2014-2017
Larry Lewis, serving 2010-2017
Joe McMullen, serving 2014-2017
Stephen Spencer, serving 2014-2017
Larry Underhill, serving 2014-2017
Rollie Warren, serving 2011-2017