

2020 MISSOURI
BAPTIST CONVENTION
ANNUAL MEETING



We Belong
TOGETHER



Dr. John Yeats,
MBC Executive Director

We Belong Together

In 1835, Missouri Baptists formed what now is known as the Missouri Baptist Convention with a vision to cooperatively communicate the gospel in and beyond our state. Throughout the convention's history, Missouri Baptists have worked through significant challenges — the Civil War, two world wars, multiple natural disasters like the great floods of 1927 and 1993, economic collapses like the Great Depression and the Great Recession, and pandemics like the Spanish flu and Covid-19. Through it all, we persevered together.

Missouri Baptists have worked together to launch great ministries in our state. We have established more than 2,000 churches; organized humanitarian ministries like orphan care, foster care, crisis pregnancy centers, adoption agencies, and safe care for sexually exploited women and minors; founded four campuses for the aged, a number of institutions of Christian higher education, and much more.

At the same time, we have worked cooperatively with other Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program, which funds SBC ministries across North America and around the world — including six world-class seminaries such as Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City.

Those who came before us had a vision for what God would do through people who trust Him and work together for common purposes. We belong together. It's in our faith statement, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, Article XIV: "Cooperation." When we act in the power of the Holy Spirit on what we believe, it is amazing what is accomplished for the sake of the gospel.

Turn the pages inside. Look at the brief introductions to MBC ministries and missions. Capture in your mind the impact of MBC's great institutions. Together in the Lord's strength, working collaboratively for nearly 200 years, we have impacted more lives with the gospel than any gifted individual or any great church could do alone. It's clear: We belong together.

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VISION & MISSION

The Missouri Baptist Convention

Who we are

The Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) is a network of 1,800 independent Southern Baptist churches that work together to carry out the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). Missouri Baptists elect an Executive Board that oversees the convention's ministries. The MBC missionary staff, in turn, carries out these ministries in cooperation with Missouri Baptist churches, associations, and entities.

Missouri Baptists recognize eight regions of ministry in the state and work cooperatively with about 60 Baptist associations in which local churches are grouped for cooperation with one another.

The faithful giving of Missouri Baptist churches to the Cooperative Program (CP) funds these ministries. CP also supports a number of MBC entities under the governance of trustees elected by Missouri Baptists. These entities are:

The Missouri Baptist Children's Home
The Baptist Home
The Missouri Baptist Foundation
Hannibal-LaGrange University
Southwest Baptist University
Missouri Baptist University

Our vision and mission

The vision of the MBC missionary staff is:
Transforming lives and communities with the gospel.

The mission of the MBC staff explains how your state missionaries strive toward this preferred future. That mission is: ***Cooperating with Missouri Baptists to make disciples, multiply churches, and develop leaders.***

That's the reason the MBC was founded in 1835. And it's the reason Missouri Baptists labor together for this moment in kingdom history.

A shared vision

While the vision of transforming lives and communities with the gospel applies to state missionaries, they believe the vision reflects the heart of all Missouri Baptists. MBC missionaries seek to be the best possible stewards of the resources Missouri Baptists have entrusted to them; to carry out the historic mission of making disciples, multiplying churches, and developing leaders; and to strategically lead all Missouri Baptists to transform lives and communities with the gospel.

One team serving Missouri Baptists

The MBC missionary staff is one team with six strategic emphases to carry out its vision and mission:



MAKING DISCIPLES. Ministries include evangelism; strategies for church leaders and families to make, mark, mature, and multiply disciples; and age-graded training events and conferences to equip Missouri Baptists to transform lives and communities with the gospel.



MULTIPLYING CHURCHES. Ministries include discovering multiplying churches, sending churches, and church multipliers; training sending churches; mentoring, assessing, and training church multipliers; deploying church multipliers throughout Missouri, across the U.S., and around the world; and partnership missions.



DEVELOPING LEADERS. Ministries include a statewide network of local church leaders, associational leaders, and convention staff members who work together to provide pastoral leader development and care; church revitalization; transitional pastor training; and disaster relief training and deployment.



COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES. These include ministries on 26 Missouri campuses; training events for collegiate leaders; a summer missions and mentoring initiative; international student ministry; equipping churches to reach out to nearby campuses; developing leaders to serve on new campuses; and coordinating mission experiences for students.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE. Ministries include the office of the executive director, who leads the state missionary staff, administers Cooperative Program and Missouri Missions Offering funds, and sets the state's cooperative strategy; *The Pathway*, the official news journal of Missouri Baptists; business services; and property management.



MINISTRY SUPPORT. Ministries include creative services (graphic design, web and social media, and video); promotion of the Cooperative Program and the state missions offering; live-event support; technology; and Christian apologetics.



Timeline of Missouri Baptists

- **July 19, 1806** – Bethel Baptist Church (fondly called “Old Bethel”) becomes the first permanent non-Catholic house of worship west of the Mississippi River.

September, 1816 - Seven churches band together to form Bethel Association.



- **June 6, 1835** – 150 churches form the Baptist Central Society of Missouri. Their committee hires a handful of travelling preachers at a salary of \$12.50 a month.

1842 – The Baptist Central Society of Missouri becomes the General Association of United Baptists in Missouri.

1846 – General Association of United Baptists in Missouri affiliates with the newly formed Southern Baptist Convention.



- **1858** – LaGrange Male and Female Seminary is founded in La-Grange. It ultimately grows into Hannibal-LaGrange University.

1877 – Missouri Baptist Women’s Foreign Missions Society is founded in Lexington.



- **1878** – Southwest Baptist College is founded in Lebanon. It ultimately grows into Southwest Baptist University, relocating to Bolivar.

1881 – The General Association of United Baptists in Missouri becomes the Missouri Baptist General Association. The first year’s budget is \$2,321.25.

1886 – The Baptist Orphan’s Home is founded in St. Louis. It

HISTORY TIMELINE



ultimately becomes the Missouri Baptist Children's Home, which ministers to thousands of children and families each year.

- **1913** – The Missouri Home for Aged Baptists is founded in Ironton. It ultimately becomes The Baptist Home, with campuses in Arcadia Valley, Ashland, Ozark, and Chillicothe.

1915 – For the first time, women are elected to the Missouri Baptist General Association's board.



- **1925** – The Cooperative Program – Southern Baptists' method of funding missions and ministry – is launched.

1946 – The Missouri Baptist Foundation is founded in Jefferson City with three accounts and \$80,000 in assets. Today, it has more than 900 accounts and more than \$144 million in assets.



- **1957** – Missouri Baptist College is founded in St. Louis. It ultimately becomes Missouri Baptist University.

1958 – The Missouri Baptist General Association becomes the Missouri Baptist Convention.

1984 – MBC churches report 20,574 baptisms.

2001 – *The Pathway* becomes the official news-journal of the MBC and prints its first issue a year later.

October 13, 2011 – The MBC executive board elects Dr. John Yeats as the 20th executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention.



- **2019** – Gifts to the Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering hit an all-time high of \$821,722.



MAKING DISCIPLES

Brad Bennett, Director



Brad Bennett

The Making Disciples Group's overarching objective is to assist Missouri Baptists in developing biblical strategies and processes to make disciples who make disciples. Our areas of expertise in making disciples include evangelism and age-graded ministries such as children, students, and Sunday school.

The Making Disciples Group has developed a biblical discipleship model we call L.I.F.E. or Life-Cycle. The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) is our Lord Jesus' mandate to the church to make disciples that make disciples. When taking a closer look at the Great Commission, we see four main distinctives identified by the LIFE acronym:

L - Leading people to Christ

All disciples are to regularly practice relational evangelism and to equip others to share the gospel boldly.

I - Identifying people to Christ

All disciples are called to connect to a new community and culture through baptism and church membership.

F - Fully maturing in Christ

All disciples are to grow into the likeness of Christ through Bible study, prayer, service, and the exercise of spiritual gifts.

E - Equipping others to equip others

All disciples are to be equipped to make disciples who in turn make disciples.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Being a pacesetter among state conventions as an influencer through discipleship and evangelism
- Implementing the LIFE initiative in more than 30 associations across Missouri
- Witnessing a 45 percent increase in baptisms as Missouri Baptists embrace the LIFE discipleship strategy
- Building a network of disciple-making consultants for Missouri Baptists

MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

Rick Hedger, Director



Multiplying Churches is one group with four primary strategies:

Multiplying Churches Here - It is our desire to see new churches started in two SEND City centers (St. Louis and Kansas City) as well as throughout small-town and rural Missouri. To do this we discover, develop, and deploy new sending churches and church planters in these areas of MBC life.

Multiplying Churches There - Through a missions strategy, we establish approved partnerships with regional Baptist conventions to assist them in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting.

Multiplying Churches Everywhere - We seek to prayerfully discover nations where God is leading MBC to partner for the purpose of assisting and initiating missional strategies. We work with partners such as the International Mission Board (IMB) and international Baptist conventions to evangelize, disciple, and plant churches where there is a need to reach the nations for the Kingdom of God.

Calling out the Called - We desire to intentionally ask God to call out and send 100 units from MBC churches to go and serve among the nations through our IMB by 2025.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Multiplying 60 new churches by discovering, developing, and deploying 12 new planters annually around Missouri
- Developing 60 new sending churches to partner with new churches
- Increasing potential IMB missionaries in Missouri to 100 in the next five years
- Establishing two additional state partnerships and at least three new international partnerships
- Increasing our MBC church partners to 25 percent participation in partnership missions



Rick Hedger



DEVELOPING LEADERS

Jim Misloski, Director



Jim Misloski

In partnership with Missouri Baptists, the Developing Leaders Group glorifies God by developing leaders who transform lives and communities with the gospel. We are leaders driven by a framework of four leadership arenas: self, others, teams, and organizations.

These are applied to three initiatives:

Kingdom Leader Development –

Identifies and promotes environments where church and associational leaders can grow in communication, ecclesiology, and leadership in order to develop leaders in every sphere of influence.



Resound Network - Partners with associations and churches to catalyze a movement of revitalized and replanted churches by engaging churches and equipping leaders.

Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief – Provides a readiness, response, and recovery environment that brings help, hope, and healing to people in times of need by mobilizing a network of volunteers, churches, and associations.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Provide an exceptional new pastor /pastor's wife orientation on a regular schedule, which includes a next-generation mentoring component
- Identify and promote resources to help church and associational leaders sharpen their skills in leadership, communication, and pastoral care
- Equip leaders by establishing a synergistic leadership pipeline that discovers, develops, and deploys revitalizers and replanters throughout Missouri and beyond
- Engage 250 churches in the network process, 50 partner churches across the state, and three network teams in each zone
- Add 200 new volunteers each year to Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief
- Increase the number of students involved in disaster relief summer missions by 25 percent

Our leadership philosophy can be found at mobaptist.org/developingleaders.

COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES GROUP

Gene Austin, Director



The Collegiate Ministries Group has three primary ministries under the banner of MBCollegiate:

Campus Ministry - Providing resources and networking for 24 campus missionaries serving 26 campuses in Missouri, as well as working with our three Baptist universities. This includes an ongoing strategy for starting new ministries, strengthening existing ministries, and equipping local churches and individuals to reach students.

A key component of this strategy is raising up ministry leaders to serve as future campus missionaries as well as in local MBC churches. We also serve as a resource and partner for churches that desire to reach campuses near their churches.



Gene Austin

Student Missions – Communicating various opportunities within our state and through our partnerships with NAMB and IMB for students to go on mission. We challenge students to consider God's call on their lives, where He might be sending them, and help them through the process of going.

International Student Ministry – There are thousands of international students on campuses in our state. We equip and resource campus ministries and churches to reach these students with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Raising up and sending out 25 collegiate students as campus missionaries or church ministry leaders
- Establishing five new campus ministries
- Partnering with 10 MBC churches to establish a gospel presence on campuses near them
- Seeing 50 students called, sent, and going to the mission field as journeymen or on another long-term mission experience
- Establishing regional networks of people focused on reaching international students

For additional information, visit mbcollegiate.org.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

John Yeats, Executive Director



Dr. John Yeats,
MBC Executive Director

The Executive Office is one group with three primary ministries:

Executive Director – Leads the state missionary staff, administers Cooperative Program and Missouri Missions Offering funds, and sets the state's cooperative strategy. This includes governing documents, MBC standing committees and commissions, the Executive Board, business services and properties management, human resources, church benefits, and special projects.

Cooperative Ministries – In which the executive director and his staff work with MBC and SBC entities, directors of missions, the Woman's Missionary Union, and other organizations.

The Pathway – The MBC's official news journal with 30,000 print subscribers and 40,000 online readers in 115 countries. Editor Don Hinkle also serves as the MBC's director of public policy.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Facilitating efficient and effective processes and policies impacting the entire team
- Working with the Cooperative Program Vision Task Force to project funding for the near and distant future
- Connecting with Missouri Baptist households through *The Pathway* and other communication streams
- Using fraternal relationships with MBC entities to foster a greater sense of synergy
- Creating a new generation of biblically-based public policy advocates who network with civic leaders

MINISTRY SUPPORT & APOLOGETICS

Rob Phillips, Director



Ministry Support & Apologetics is one group with four primary ministries:

Creative Services - Providing graphic design, web and social media, and video services to MBC's missionary staff.

Media, Technology & Events - Supporting convention-led live events like the MBC Annual Meeting. We manage MBC's telephone and computer networks, desktops and laptops, and mobile devices. We ensure the integrity of the convention's networks and databases for the benefit of our churches. And we consult with MBC churches about their audio-visual needs.

Promotion of CP and MMO - Raising awareness of and participation in the Cooperative Program (CP). Further, we promote the annual Rheubin L. South Missouri Missions Offering (MMO), which funds nearly 20 missions projects within our state's borders.

Christian Apologetics - Equipping Missouri Baptists to defend the Christian faith through printed resources from High Street Press, conferences hosted by MBC churches and associations, and the Missouri Baptist Apologetics Network.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Engaging half of all MBC-affiliated churches in the Missouri Missions Offering (785 of 1,800 churches participated in 2019)
- Championing the Cooperative Program
- Increasing participation in the Annual Church Profile (75% in 2017; 79% in 2018)
- Expanding our lead among state conventions as an influencer through social media
- Enhancing proprietary apps for the MBC Annual Meeting and Disaster Relief
- Revamping the MBC website to stay on the cusp of leading technology and trends
- Continuing to resolve more than 90 percent of staff's technical issues within four hours
- Training more church leaders in SBC Workspace, a database shared with other state conventions and SBC entities
- Launching a yearly retreat for MBC-church tech directors around the state



Rob Phillips

MISSOURI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Dr. Neil Franks, President and Treasurer

Since 1946, the Missouri Baptist Foundation (MBF) has developed, managed, and distributed funds for the benefit of ministries around the world. Currently, the MBF has more than \$144 million in assets under management in 900 accounts.

Our professional staff and MBC-elected trustees are committed to encouraging a revolution of resources to help individuals and ministries achieve their unique financial objectives and, ultimately, to help advance the gospel here at home, across the nation, and around the world.

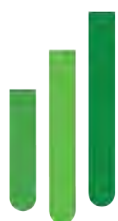


MBF promotes Christian stewardship. We assist in estate and gift planning, and provide educational seminars for churches and other groups. Further, we provide professional management of assets entrusted to us by individuals and families, churches, and mission or ministry organizations in order to grow principal and provide income for ministry.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Pursue a ministry partnership with 50 percent of MBC churches
- Present Estate Planning Seminars in 5 percent of our churches each year
- Distribute \$6 million annually to ministries that advance the gospel
- Celebrate 75 years of advancing the gospel through the MBF in 2021

Learn more at mbfn.org.



MISSOURI
BAPTIST FOUNDATION
GREAT COMMISSION • GREAT INVESTMENT

MISSOURI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Russell Martin, President and Treasurer

How do you find meaning in life? We believe it is through making a difference in the lives of others – and thereby making a difference in the world. We believe in changing the world – one life at a time. Nothing is more fulfilling than knowing that our lives actually leave a lasting legacy.

There are thousands of children, youth, and families all around us looking for hope, healing, and restoration, but often they don't know where to find it. For more than 130 years, Missouri Baptist Children's Home has been a place that makes a lasting – and everlasting – difference in the lives of children, youth, and families.

Through giving and serving, you're engaged in our ministries. Because of you, in 2019 Missouri Baptist Children's Home, through our affiliates MBCH Children and Family Ministries and The LIGHT House, ministered as follows:

- 126 babies were born who may have been aborted
- 17 children came to know Christ as Lord and Savior
- 327,854 days of care were provided to children, youth, and families
- 22 young ladies were served through human trafficking rescue
- 303 foster/adoptive/relative/kinship homes were maintained, and 29 new families were trained and licensed to become foster parents
- 1,705 people were trained in Stewards of Children to help prevent child sexual abuse
- And much more ...

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Equip the agency and churches to strengthen families
- Provide appropriate services to meet the needs of clients and communities
- Seek diverse funding streams to support the ministries of MBCH

The ministries of Missouri Baptist Children's Home and our affiliates are making an impact. Our mission statement is: "Missouri Baptist Children's Home is committed to serving God by responding to the needs of children, youth, and families to make a lasting difference in their lives." We know God uses you to make that possible. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.



Learn more at mbch.org.

CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Your Cooperative Program giving supports three universities affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention.



Hannibal-LaGrange University

Dr. Anthony Allen, President

HLGU is deeply committed to helping students discover, develop, and demonstrate God's purpose for their lives. Our aim in Christian higher education is to help students find a vocation where they can use their God-given gifts and talents to accomplish a task that provides fulfillment and satisfaction for the glory of God.

At the heart of Hannibal-LaGrange lies its commitment to four core values: Christ Centered, Learner Focused, Globally Minded, and Service Oriented. Great joy and encouragement come from serving in a community of faith that is built on trust, service, and integrity.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Continue our Christ-centered thriving culture
- Experience strategic growth
- Enhance our Christ-centered transformational learning
- Deepen our strategic stewardship

Learn more at hlgu.edu.



Southwest Baptist University

Dr. Eric Turner, President

Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. Our vision is to be the exemplar Christian university, providing a transformative and holistic educational experience.

SBU faculty and staff are committed to upholding the following core values grounded in Scripture to prepare servant-leaders for a global society: Christian distinctiveness; Baptist heritage; compassion and care for SBU's family; academic excellence; social and spiritual development; and personal wellness.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Cultivate the holistic development of students intellectually, socially, physically, and spiritually
- Establish strategic, global relationships and develop mission-aligned academic programs
- Prioritize institutional sustainability, efficiency, and effectiveness

Learn more at sbuniv.edu.

Missouri Baptist University

Dr. Keith Ross, President

Missouri Baptist University is filled with people who believe our students have the potential to change the world for the better. We are a community where students develop lifelong friends and mentors, and where they are challenged to realize their potential and clarify their path in life.

MBU is an evangelical Christian, liberal arts institution and offers programs of study leading to professional certificates, undergraduate degrees, and graduate degrees in an environment where academic excellence is emphasized and a biblically based Christian perspective is maintained. The University is committed to enriching its students'

lives spiritually, intellectually, and professionally, and to preparing students to serve in a global and culturally diverse society.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Expand and strengthen integration of faith and learning across all academic disciplines
- Identify and develop new academic offerings and programs that meet the demands of today's marketplace and complement the mission of MBU
- Increase scholarship endowments that help ensure student accessibility and affordability

Learn more at mobap.edu.



THE BAPTIST HOME

Dr. Rodney A. Harrison, President



Learn more at thebaptisthome.org.

vision is to assist each senior adult to live up to his or her highest potential by addressing spiritual, emotional, physical, social, and security needs.

Key goals for the next five years include:

- Complete the Ashland Campus, strategically located north of Jefferson City
- Establish the corporate office at the Baptist Building in Jefferson City
- Increase the number of Missouri Baptists served by 20 percent

Since 1913, The Baptist Home has served Missouri Baptists with quality care for the aging, driven by a biblical perspective. In the past 35 years, The Home has grown from one to four campuses, each with a campus pastor who serves the spiritual needs of each resident. The Home also provides educational resources for seniors, their families, local churches, and community organizations.

Missouri Baptists are committed to supporting the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. The Baptist Home serves this commitment through compassionate care to our aging population. To accomplish this need, The Baptist Home provides nearly \$2 million in benevolent assistance to residents in long-term care who can no longer pay the full cost of these services.

Undergirding our mission and philosophy of care is a biblical worldview that informs every aspect of The Baptist Home ministry. The Baptist Home's

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

What is the Cooperative Program?

The Cooperative Program (CP) is the funding process Southern Baptists have used since 1925 to support missions at the state, national, and international levels. Through CP, the ministry reach of one church extends around the world as 47,000 cooperating churches join hands to fulfill the Great Commission.



How does CP Work?

The Cooperative Program begins with you – your tithes and offerings to your local church. Your church, in turn, commits a percentage of its annual budget to the Cooperative Program and sends its CP gifts to the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC), which distributes CP funds from all 1,800 MBC-affiliated churches according to an approved plan.

In 2020, the MBC invested 60 percent of CP giving in Missouri missions and related causes, such as the Missouri Baptist Children's Home and Christian higher education, and sent the remaining 40 percent to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

The SBC used CP funds from Missouri and 40 other state conventions – more than 47,000 local churches combined – to support nearly 9,000 full-time missionaries, six seminaries, and ethics and religious liberty.

Why give through the Cooperative Program?

Your Cooperative Program giving comes back to you – in church-staff retirement and insurance benefits, training, events, evangelism and discipleship resources, and other ministries for the local church.

CP supports evangelism, church multiplication, church revitalization, disaster relief, children's homes, Christian higher education, human trafficking rescue ministries, student and collegiate ministries, hunger relief, partnership missions, transitional pastor training, Missouri Baptist news and information, summer missions, and much more – and that's just in Missouri.

CP enables every giver and every local church to make an impact for Christ in Missouri, throughout North America, and around the world.

HOW THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WORKS



1. **YOU GIVE** YOUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS TO YOUR CHURCH.



2. **YOUR CHURCH** GIVES A PERCENTAGE
OF ITS BUDGET TO THE MBC.



3. **THE MBC** INVESTS 60 PERCENT IN
MISSOURI MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES,
AND SENDS THE REST TO THE SBC.



4. **THE SBC** SUPPORTS MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES
IN NORTH AMERICA AND AROUND THE WORLD.