MISSOURI BAPTIST

APOLOGETICS NETWORK

2026-27

MBAN DIRECTORY

The Missouri Baptist Apologetics Network is a group of church leaders committed to the defense of the Christian faith and called to equip believers to more effectively share their faith.

MISSOURI BAPTISTS

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CONTENTS

A Message from MBAN President Jim Schurke 3

2026-27 MBAN Directory 4

… but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.

— 1 Peter 3:15-16 (CSB)

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A MESSAGE FROM MBAN PRESIDENT JIM SCHURKE



Did you know that your Missouri Baptist Convention is one of the very few state conventions in Southern Baptist life to provide resources to address the ever-increasing need for Christian apologetics?

Apologetics, or a strong defense of the faith, is needed now more than ever. As followers of Christ, we're inundated with subtle – and not-so-subtle – attacks on our beliefs and practices. The standards upon which our nation and our culture are founded are subject to open ridicule daily. We must be prepared to defend our faith in such a way that Christ is honored in our actions and speech.

I think it was very well said in 1 Peter 3:15: "But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect" (NIV).

This is where the Missouri Baptist Apologetics Network (MBAN) comes in. It's a statewide network of volunteers who are eager to help equip our local church members in apologetics. This network, made up of more than 20 pastors and laypeople, brings an impressive list of resources to support the apologetics efforts of our churches across our state.

On the following pages, you'll find a brief biography, photo, and contact information for each member. And as you'll see, MBAN offers a vast array of subjects: apologetics for children, creation vs. evolution, the cults, worldviews, the afterlife … and on it goes. Please call on us; we're here to help.

Until He comes … go!

Jim Schurke
Layman, Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Springfield, Mo.
President, MBAN

2026-27
MBAN DIRECTORY



DUSTIN BURDIN

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Webb City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Marriage and sexual ethics; homosexuality; transgenderism; abortion; end-of-life ethics; ethical decision making; using ethics for apologetics

Phone: 417-673-4655
Email: ethicalthinking@icloud.com



CLAYTON CARVER

Pastor, Small Groups and Administration, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mo.

Apologetics topics: C.S. Lewis; human design; apologetics and culture; theology of apologetics; history of apologetics; arguments for God's existence; reliability of Scripture; reliability of the resurrection; world religions; new religious movements; the problem of evil; secularism; postmodernism; natural theology; ethics/morals

Phone: 573-576-4174
Email: claytontcarver@gmail.com



BRUCE CLARK

Director, Greater St. Louis Chapter of Reasonable Faith; Lay leader, Faith Baptist Church, Festus, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Biblical doctrine; theology; arguments for the existence of God; the historical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus; the problem of evil

Phone: 314-680-0664
Email: bruce.clark@reasonablefaithorg.onmicrosoft.com



DR. JEANIE CRAIN

Layperson/Teacher, Frederick Blvd. Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Reading the Bible as literature; biblical studies; philosophy; Christian apologetics

Phone: 816-248-5035
Email: crain@missouriwestern.edu



DR. TIMOTHY FABER

Director of Missions, Lake of the Ozarks Baptist Association, Eldon, Mo.

Apologetics topics: What it means to be created in the image of God; ethics; religious liberty; God-ordained government

Phone; 573-480-2704
Email: timothy@ephesians412.com



DENNIS JACKSON

Layman/Teacher, Anchor Point Baptist Church, Independence, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Resurrection of Christ; reliability of Scripture; creation

Phone: 816-810-8274
Email: dennisj@j-country.com



JULIE LOOS

Contributing Writer, Mama Bear Apologetics, Ballwin, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Apologetics training for women and children; how apologetics can inform your prayers; youth exodus and faith retention; reliability of the Scriptures; igniting a passion to pray

Phone: 636-527-8369
Email: julie@mamabearapologetics.com

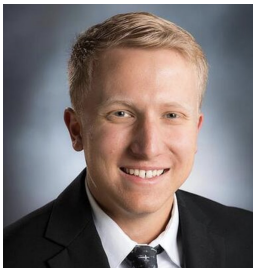


JEFFREY MASKROD

Lay Leader, River Bluff Fellowship, Ozark, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Origins; intelligent design; resolving apparent conflicts between science and Scripture; philosophical apologetics; arguments for God's existence.

Phone: 417-379-4491
Email: jmaskrod@gmail.com

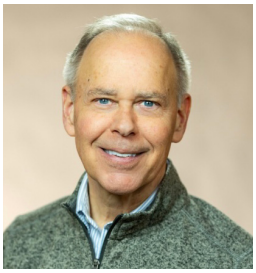


PAUL NELSON

Lay Leader, First Baptist Church Plattsburg, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Evangelism to Latter-day Saints, atheists, and universalists

Phone: 816-539-2510
Email: npaul071603@gmail.com



ROB PHILLIPS

Associate Executive Director, Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Introduction to Christian apologetics; worldviews; Islam; Jehovah's witnesses; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; same-sex attraction; the afterlife; the doctrine of salvation; the Trinity; Satan; eschatology; ghosts, UFOs, and aliens

Phone: 573-636-0400, ext. 304
Email: rphillips@mobaptist.org



JIM SCHURKE

MBAN President 2023-27 Layman/Apologetics Instructor, Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; cult identification; Jehovah's Witnesses; interfaith witness

Phone: 417-882-0254
Email: jmeschurke@sbcglobal.net



LACEY SHELTON

Women's Bible Teacher, FBC Ozark, Ozark Mo.

Apologetics topics: The history of feminism vs biblical womanhood; The Restoration Movement of Latter-day Saints; Jehovah's Witnesses; Seventh Day Adventists; a brief history of the prosperity gospel

Phone: 417-581-2484
Email: laceyrshelton@gmail.com



DR. ROGER SHERRER

Senior Pastor, Teaching and Connections, First Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Atheism; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Phone: 417-664-2728
Email: roger@fbclebanon.net



HANNA SIMS

MBAN Secretary-Treasurer 2025-27 Layperson/Teacher, Red Bridge Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Evidential apologetics for kids, teens, and adults; tactics for asking good questions to plant seeds of truth; worldviews

Phone: 816-392-0094
Email: networkerstec@gmail.com



DAVID STAMPS

Lay Leader, Fellowship of Wildwood, Wildwood, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Church history; historical theology; systematic theology; textual criticism; defense of the resurrection

Phone: 314-753-0242
Email: dkstamps1018@yahoo.com



VINCENT TICHENOR

Lay Leader, First Baptist Church Forsyth, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Philosophical apologetics; defending core Christian doctrines; natural theology; abortion; gender identity.

Phone: 417-413-7287
Email: vgtichenor@gmail.com



DR. JOHN VAUGHAN

Lay Leader, Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Mormonism (LDS Church); church growth; sex and gender; evil, suffering, and pain; biblical truth in a culture of truth, half-truths, and lies; miracles and science; God, Jesus, and culture

Phone: 417-350-1774
Email: cgtoday@att.net



DANIEL WEYAND

Pastor, Sonrise Baptist Church, Bonne Terre, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Hamartiology (a study of sin); why we can trust the Bible; hermeneutics (interpreting biblical texts)

Phone: 573-783-8919
Email: pastorweyand@gmail.com

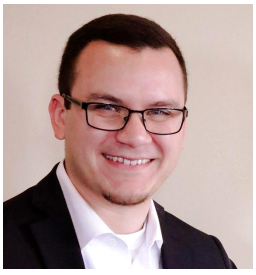


COLTEN WRIGHT

Pastor, Linn Creek Baptist Church, Linn Creek, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Presuppositional apologetics; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Oneness Pentecostalism; apologetics as it applies to everyday living

Phone: 573-836-4847
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GABRIEL ZELAYA

Worship Leader, Pisgah Baptist Church, Excelsior Springs, Mo.

Apologetics topics: Classical, presuppositional, and evidential apologetics

Phone: 816-868-7166
Email: gabrielzelaya95@gmail.com

AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Affiliate members have moved out of Missouri but continue to be active members of Southern Baptist churches affiliated with their state convention. They also continue to be active in MBAN activities and are available as resources for Missouri Baptist churches.



TRENT BLAKE

Associate Pastor of Youth, Clayton Baptist Church, Clayton, Ga.

Apologetics topics: Arguments for God's existence; minimal facts argument for the resurrection of Jesus; the historical reliability of the New Testament; the problem of evil; an explanation of hell.

Phone: 863-844-1175
Email: trent.blake@claytonbaptistchurch.com

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Associate members are active members of like-minded, non-MBC affiliated churches in Missouri. These members have historical ties to MBC-affiliated churches, and their beliefs align with *The Baptist Faith & Message 2000*. They may be counted on to serve Missouri Baptist churches in their defense of the Christian faith. Associate members serve as non-voting MBAN members.



ED CROTEAU

Lay Pastor-Apologetics, Journey Church International, Lee's Summit, Mo

Apologetics topics: Introduction to Christian apologetics; the miracle of Israel; the Christian foundation of America; why the Bible is God's Word; the deity of Christ; the resurrection of Jesus Christ; biblical prophecy; creation vs. evolution; reaching today's young adult; understanding the gospel.

Phone: 816-394-8816
Email: eacroteau@gmail.com

HOSTING AN APOLOGETICS* WORKSHOP AT YOUR CHURCH IS AS SIMPLE AS 1, 2, 3:

1 Pick a date

Popular formats include:

- One-day (typically Saturday or Sunday)
- Two-day (typically Saturday-Sunday)
- Three-day (typically Friday-Sunday)

2 Select your topics and speakers

Go online to mobaptist.org/apologetics/mban and select from the speakers and topics that meet your needs. Reach out to them by phone or email and confirm dates, topics, and other details.

Popular topics include:

- Creation vs. evolution
- Atheism and evidence for the existence of God
- Worldviews
- Christian apologetics
- The reliability of Scripture
- The Watchtower (Jehovah's Witnesses)
- The LDS Church (Mormons)
- LGBTQ+ and gender identity

3 Promote the workshop

Promote the workshop from the pulpit, through Sunday school classes and small groups, in church bulletins, on your website, and through social media.

** Apologetics simply means a reasonable defense of the Christian faith. Followers of Jesus should be ready at all times to share a reason for the hope in us (1 Pet. 3:15-16).*

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