



24 September 2026

Dear Missouri Baptists:

I want to share some important information with you about how Missouri Baptists are caring for our aging brothers and sisters in Christ, and how two of our entities – the Missouri Baptist Children’s Home (MBCH) and Baptist Homes & Healthcare Ministries (BHHM) – are working together to meet this need during challenging times.

For more than a hundred years, Baptist Homes has provided compassionate, Christlike care for seniors across our state. But the senior adult health-care industry has changed. The cost to provide care continues to rise, and Baptist Homes has been affected significantly. Despite their very best efforts, the ministry of Baptist Homes is simply no longer sustainable in its current form, and alternative paths must be considered.

Thankfully, there *is* a path forward – one that continues a Missouri Baptist legacy of senior care, while stewarding our resources carefully and wisely. MBCH has offered to acquire two Baptist Homes facilities — in Ashland and Ozark. These campuses are financially and operationally the strongest for Baptist Homes. The remaining five properties – Adrian, Arcadia Valley, Shelbina, Smithville, and Vandalia – will be sold to another senior-care provider. Baptist Homes will cease its operation, but ministry to senior adults will continue in Ashland and Ozark under the leadership of MBCH.

This news may feel unsettling to you, as it was to me when I first heard it. But I want you to grasp the heart behind it. This is good stewardship. It’s Missouri Baptists finding a wise way to keep our promise to care for the vulnerable in every season of life.

James 1:27 tells us that pure religion is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress. For decades, MBCH has lived out that biblical mandate for children and families. Now, MBCH is expanding its ministry by extending that same calling to senior adults. In essence, the Missouri Baptist ministry responsibility for senior care will pass from Baptist Homes to MBCH.

The trustees of both entities have approved this plan, and so did the MBC Executive Board at its August 24-25 meeting. So, here’s what happens next:

Messengers from Missouri Baptist churches will gather in St. Charles October 26-27 for the MBC Annual Meeting. There, they will be asked to approve Baptist Homes’ request to sell its assets and cease operations. Next, messengers will be asked to approve the MBCH’s request to assume the MBC’s ministry responsibility for senior care, clearing the way for the acquisition of the Ashland and Ozark properties.

Because these decisions impact the governing documents of the MBC, MBCH, and BHHM, messengers will need to approve the change in ministry assignments – from Baptist Homes to MBCH – at two consecutive annual meetings, this year and next year.

If you're a messenger from your church, it's especially important that you're prepared to vote on these measures. Even if you're not planning to attend the annual meeting, I want you to be fully informed about what's happening across our state.

Staff and residents of all Baptist Homes have been notified of these decisions. Baptist Homes is working closely with MBCH and the potential buyer of the five other facilities to ensure a smooth transition of management and consistent care of residents. Please know that top priority is being given to ensure minimal impact on those in senior care.

As we approach the annual meeting, more information will be shared via *The Pathway*, video, e-newsletters, and social media. Meanwhile, I'm asking you to pray — for our residents, our staff, and for wisdom as we take this next step together. Missouri Baptists have always found a way to care for the most vulnerable among us. By God's grace, we will keep doing that, in every season of life.

May the Lord bless you as you continue to serve Him faithfully.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wes Fowler', with a stylized, looping design.

Wes Fowler
Executive Director-Treasurer