

Bethel Baptist Association

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MAY 2022

A Special Called Executive Committee Meeting has been called for Sunday, May 15 @ 5:00 pm Blakely First Baptist Church in Blakely, GA

A Mission Strategist has been called by the search committee for consideration.

You will be able to meet him at Blakely First Baptist Church.

A "Meet & Greet" is at 5 pm; then Q & A time. Afterwards the Executive Committee will vote by secret ballot. Refreshments to be served after the vote.

BY-LAWS

OF THE BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE XV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the following:

(1) general officers of THE ASSOCIATION; (2) leadership specialists; (3) ministry team leaders; (4) chairpersons of all standing committees; (5) pastors of affiliated churches; and (6) two other members elected by each church, one of whom must be a layperson.

The Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of THE ASSOCIATION shall also serve as the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of the Executive Committee respectively.

Legislative Wrap-up: Georgia legislative session concludes as one of the best

Having served at the Georgia State Capitol as a lobbyist for 15 years, I believe this was the best year ever for getting good legislation across the finish line.

One of things that Georgia Baptists want to be known for is not what we are against, but what we are for! This year we were for more legislation than we were against!

We monitored at least 27 bills covering 18 legislative subjects. Out of those 18 subjects, we were supporting 13 of those areas of legislation. I think with all that has been going on in the past two years that this is BIG news!

Here are some examples of the top bills that were passed and supported by Georgia Baptists:

Maternity Supportive Housing This bill SB 116, known as “Betsy’s Law,” was authored by Sen. Randy Robertson. This law allows non-profit organizations (including churches) to offer maternity supportive housing to pregnant and new mothers over the age of 18. It would provide free maternity supportive housing for up to six pregnant moms and up to 18 months postpartum. This will help on our focus of Pre/Post Natal Care with Mission GA.

Appeals Process for School Library Obscenity SB 226, authored by Sen. Jason Anavitarte, ensures that our children are protected from sexually explicit material. This allows a proper appeal process when parents see material that is obscene. We must have laws that provide more transparency for and power to parents while at the same time ridding our schools of obscene materials.

Parents Bill of Rights SB 449 was one of two pieces of legislation that reinforced the rights of parents to inquire about activities in our public schools. Rep. Josh Bonner’s bill was passed during the legislative session. This bill codifies parental rights when it comes to their child’s education. The bill affirms a parent’s ability to request information from a principal or superintendent.

Ban on Teaching Divisive Concepts HB 1084 by Rep. Will Wade was one of two bills that was introduced to the legislature to ban the teaching on such things as Critical Race Theory in public schools. Children do not need to feel as though they are inherently oppressed or inherently oppressors based on their race. We cannot allow indoctrination that divides our country, produces more racial strife, and teaches an anti-American worldview to our children.

Save Girls Sports HB 1084 was also amended by the House on the 40th day to include language that would address the concerns of protecting girls’ sports from having biological males competing in their athletic events. The amendment empowers athletic associations like the Georgia High School Association to designate athletic competitions on the basis of gender and protect girls’ sports.

Free Speech on College Campuses HB 1, known as the “Forum Act” (Forming Open and Robust University Minds), was introduced by Rep. Josh Bonner. This bill protects students on our college campuses regarding their freedom of speech. It eliminates things like “free speech zones.” It protects the right of all people to engage in lawful expression.

Mental Health Legislation HB 1013, initiated by Speaker David Ralston and sponsored by Rep. Todd Jones and Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver, is a bill that seeks to do things like, expand insurance coverage for those with mental health issues. The Senate removed from the bill coverage mandates, changed definitions, and added conscience protections that can be applied to churches and 501-C’s.

NO Expansion of Gambling Last, but not least, there was a BIG WIN for something that did NOT pass this year at the Capitol – gambling legislation! There were approx. nine bills leftover from the 2021 session that were available to be acted upon: Sports Betting, Horse Racing and Casinos. An attempt to pass two of the Horse Racing bills failed in the Senate and Sports Betting failed in House Rules Committee. Bottomline: For at least eight years in a row, we have been able to stop ALL gambling expansion legislation in the Georgia General Assembly! This can only be attributed to God’s convection power and grace!

I want to thank the Georgia Baptists who played a part in praying and contacting their legislators!

Mike Griffin

Public Affairs Representative

706-436-2646 cell

Moderator's Musings

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Tells to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

As we approach summer, we have no shortage of things to be praying over. First, everyone needs to be praying for our AMS search committee, our AMS candidate, and our executive committee. They will be meeting on Sunday May 15 to meet and vote on our candidate. Pray for clarity as to God's will for our association. Second, most of our churches have young adults entering new stages of life. High School seniors are graduating and taking their next steps in life, and college students are doing the same. Keep all of them in prayer as they enter new, and challenging, chapters of their lives. Finally, be praying for all our churches as they prepare for various summer ministries. VBS is right around the corner for many of our churches, be praying God will prepare the hearts of the workers, children, and parents as the Gospel of Jesus is shared.

God Bless You All,

Pastor Nathan



CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Mar. 31 - Apr. 30, 2022

Arlington	450.00
Bethel	
Beulah	
Blakely FBC	1,637.26
Bluffton	332.57
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	377.34
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	369.84
Edison	122.00
Enterprise	1,346.29
Faith	625.00
Fort Gaines	
Georgetown	416.66
Leary	298.31
Milford	
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	49.12
Mt. Hebron	
Mt. Vernon	296.76
New Bethel	
New Hope	95.25
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	250.00
Shiloh	708.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhatree	494.96
Springvale	100.00
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	50.00
TOTAL	\$8,806.86
Balances April 30, 2022	
General Fund	138,168.44
Designated Fund	11,406.42
New Work Fund	7,753.29

Keep Praying for the
Associational Mission Strategist Search Committee!

Cathy Arnold - (Morgan Baptist Church)
Ryan Lancaster - Chairman, (Arlington BC)
Karin Tabb - (Milford BC)
Chris Sumner - (Southside BC) Blakely)



Bethel Baptist
Association

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May 2022

- 8 Happy Mother's Day
- 15 A Special Called Meeting of the Bethel Baptist Association Executive Committee, 5:00 pm Blakely First Baptist Church. A "Meet & Greet" with prospective AMS, Q & A Time, Special Vote
- 30 Memorial Day

June 2022

- 19 Happy Father's Day
- 20 BBA Executive Committee Meeting, Association Office @ 7 pm