

Southern Baptist Convention Faces Challenges - Affirms Cooperation

By Jeremy Westbrook

Ohio Baptists gathered with over 12,000 messengers, guests, and exhibitors in Anaheim, CA, June 14 -15, for the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. In recent months, many leaders had described this annual convening as one of the most important, if not the most important in over three decades. With the recent report released from Guidepost that revealed almost two decades of sexual abuse cover up, I believe they were accurate.

We recently published our SCBO position after reviewing the Guidepost report stating that sexual abuse is not only a barrier to the



Southern Baptists from across the country and around the world met in the Anaheim Convention Center.

In November 2021, Ohio Baptists expressed our commitment to address the scourge of sexual abuse with the creation of the SCBO Sexual Abuse Task Force (SATF). The SATF

time for us to shed tears of grief and repentance which will lead to God-honoring reform in our churches and our convention.

I also believe that we should walk away from our time in Anaheim with hope and encouragement that we as a convention are moving in the right direction. Here are a few highlights:

First, fifty-two new IMB missionaries were commissioned to serve the nations. Second, all the Sexual Abuse Task Force recommendations were received and adopted, and as a convention, we resolved and reaffirmed our commitment to pro-life. Third, our newly elected SBC

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5...



SBC Messengers Vote to Adopt Numerous Recommendations from the SBC Sexual Abuse Task Force

gospel; it is an attack on the gospel. The abuse of another person made in the image of God within the context of the local church is an unthinkable act of darkness. Just as light dispels darkness, however, truth dispels deception. The Guidepost report, while painful, is necessary for reform and healing.

is conducting a review of all SCBO policies regarding sexual abuse and is drafting new policies and pathways for prevention and appropriate response within our convention.

Just as we long for the day when God will wipe away all tears from every eye, we are grieved now by the tears of survivors. Now is the

ALSO IN THIS EDITION

- Record Setting African American Retreat - Page 4
- Legacy of Ohio's First Commissioned Missionaries - Page 5
- Serve Tour Dayton Coming This October - Page 7
- Job Postings - Page 8



Faithfulness to God often requires spiritual ambidexterity which does not come easily to us. During the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall under the leadership of Nehemiah, the Israelites found themselves under threat of violence. When the wall around Jerusalem had reached the halfway mark, the enemies of the Jews began to threaten violence against the city and its people. The people had become discouraged and frightened.

As God's chosen leader of the people, Nehemiah responds with a rousing battle cry, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your

daughters, your wives, and your homes." Who would not take courage after a speech like that? The workers returned to the work of building while preparing themselves for battle. The burden bearers worked with one hand and carried swords in the other, while the builders kept swords at their sides. The Israelites implemented other defensive measures to ensure that their mission continued, and the workers were safe.

Few moments so encapsulate the central mission of Southern Baptists as the International Mission Board commissioning services. At the SBC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, we saw fifty-two new missionaries sent to the nations. Many are going to dangerous and dark places. This is the work to which we are called, and this is the reason we cooperate. Yet, like the Israelites under Nehemiah's leadership, we must be ready to not only carry out the work, but to protect those engaged in the work. Last week, Southern Baptists demonstrated this readiness by approving the recommendations of

the Sexual Abuse Task Force. These measures are the starting point to ensuring that our churches become safe places from which to carry out our vital mission.

My hope is that Southern Baptists will continue to be ambidextrous in our work for the kingdom; laboring with fervency in the task of the Great Commission on the one hand but taking up the work of defending the vulnerable among us on the other. Protecting our churches and those who gather with us is not a distraction from our mission, it is a necessary part of it.

"Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your homes."

I am here to serve you, Ohio Baptists. Please reach out to me anytime at president@scbo.org.

Your partner in the gospel,
Ray Umphrey, SCBO President



Matt Pardi

I was so thankful to be able to attend the SBC Convention in person, and very encouraged by the tone and accomplishments of the event in Anaheim. One of the most powerful moments for me came when hearing the short testimonies and prayer requests of the fifty-two new IMB missionaries. It was inspiring to hear their faith, to be encouraged by their passion, and to be reminded of the great things we can accomplish together.

In the Northwest Region of Ohio, I have been hearing your requests for more support and connection to help navigate challenges and questions currently facing the SBC. We are blessed that one of the ladies serving on the SCBO Sexual Abuse Task Force (SATF) lives right here in our region. She is graciously volunteering some of her time for conversation with individuals who need to talk. Knowing that honest conversations and a supportive community can help so much, I am very grateful for her willingness to support our churches and members seeking healing and health. Please reach out to me if you would like to be connected: mpardi@scbo.org



Art Fulks

In June, I was blessed to visit with Pastor Mark Williams and the great folks at French City Baptist Church, Gallipolis, as well as being a part of Pastor Robert Austin's first anniversary celebration at First Southern Baptist Church, Pomeroy.

It was a joy to connect with Southeast Region pastors in Anaheim at the SBC Annual Meeting where Pastor Mark Stinson, Trinity Baptist Church Cambridge, was chosen to serve as chair of the Committee on Convention Events and Strategic Planning. Trinity also held its first service at their new location in their new facility on May 29. Many Southeast Region churches are holding Vacation Bible School this summer and a tent revival is scheduled for July 7-9, at First Southern, Pomeroy with evangelist Phillip Coffey.

The annual Amplify Preaching Conference is scheduled for Monday, September 26, at First Baptist Lancaster. Confirmed main session speakers are Ben Mandrell, James Merritt, Kirk Kirkland, and Daniel Dickard, 2022-23 FBC Pastors Conference President. Registration (\$35) is now open: <https://www.scbo.org/event/amplify-preaching-conference>.

REGIONAL UPDATES



Reagan Wagoner

It was so good to see many of you in Anaheim! We saw fifty-two IMB missionaries commissioned, and heard that in 2021, NAMB planted 1,018 churches!

Here locally, Lakota Hills and CABA hosted the first Multiplication Pipeline Training in the Southwest Region. We had about fifty pastors and leaders who joined us. Jim Scott and Jeremy Westbrook did a great job leading us. If you would like to join us for the next Multiplication Pipeline Training, we would love to have you on August 22, at 6 pm at East River Road Baptist Church in Hamilton, OH.

The Southwestern Baptist and Ohio Valley Baptist Associations will host this event. You can register at <https://www.scbo.org/event/multiplication-pipeline-dinner-and-info>

Mark your calendar and register to bring your leaders and future leaders to the Southwest Ohio Leadership Conference from 9 am to 4 pm September 8, at Springboro Baptist Church featuring Vance Pitman, Shane Pruitt, Hershael York, and more! Cost is just \$20, but to encourage you to bring someone with you, the conference is buy one, get one free! Register today at www.swohioleaders.com.

I would love to meet you for breakfast or lunch and hear about what God is doing in your church or discuss how to start a multiplication pipeline, residency, or new church. Let me know how I can be praying for you in 2022. Email me at rwagoner@scbo.org to get together!



Rick Williams

“Encouragement is oxygen for the soul.” One of the great opportunities I have as the Regional Catalyst for Central Ohio is coming alongside pastors and seeking to encourage them. At the same time, I have been encouraged in meeting with pastors in our area. Over the last few months, I have been blessed by the commitment of Central Ohio pastors to lead their churches to make and multiply disciples with flexibility and endurance in these challenging times.

This past month I had the privilege of taking part in a Send Relief South Dakota Mission Trip. I was able to visit one of the fifteen Send Relief Ministry Centers in North America. During this trip I had the opportunity to visit leaders from the Central Ohio area who are serving in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. It was a blessing to see how God is using leaders from Central Ohio on mission with Him in South Dakota!

I have personally discovered that summertime is a great season to refuel. I have resources that will help you experience renewal. I am looking forward to sharing these resources with pastors this summer. I would love to meet with you for breakfast or lunch. Please contact me at rwilliams@scbo.org.



Chad Keck

Great things are happening across the West Region of our state. University Baptist Church, under the leadership of Jason Wing, is in the process of building a new worship center. This new facility will help them connect people to the gospel throughout the Beavercreek area.

FBC Miamisburg is also refreshing their gathering space. Pastor John Michael LaRue has led this congregation to some key facility updates in their children’s and student’s space. Buildings and facilities are one of the tools we can use to connect the gospel with people in our community. I am

grateful to see how God has provided both the resources and the vision to these two congregations as they fulfill the Great Commission in the Dayton area. ckeck@scbo.org



Stephen Owens

It is an honor to serve Ohio Baptists in the Northeast. This month I had the privilege of participating in two worship gatherings in my region. Pastor Mike Feliciano, Fellowship Church of Wellington, invited me to preach for their seventh church anniversary where two men were baptized. Praise God. It was a wonderful time of celebration and fellowship.

Pastor Drew Carroll, Cornerstone Church of Aurora, invited me to do the pastoral prayer for his church via a recorded video on Father’s Day. It was an honor to encourage their church in prayer on such an important day. It was a great privilege to serve these churches. Pastors, if I can assist you or your church, please feel free to reach out. I would love to serve you and encourage your church. I would like to fellowship with you or share a meal together. Contact me at sowens@scbo.org.

Ohio African American Fellowship Meets for Record-Setting Retreat

By Stephanie Heading

In early June, members of the Ohio African American Fellowship (OAAF) met in Cincinnati for two days of fellowship, worship, and biblical challenge. This annual event brings together ministry leaders, pastors, and believers from all over Ohio who are actively seeking to encourage African American participation in every facet of kingdom building. This year's event, organized and executed by President Tony Harris, attracted the largest group to ever participate in an OAAF Retreat.

to the community. They are Pastor Jerome Byrd, Good News Baptist Church, Cincinnati; Pastor Darryl Hammock, City of Refuge Baptist Church, Columbus; and Pastor David Gray, First Baptist Church, Garrettsville. Each of these pastors received a generous financial award of \$2,500 presented by Reginald Hayes, SCBO Convention Relations – Community.

More information and contact details for the OAAF can be found online at <https://www.scbo.org/aaf>.



The Ohio African American Fellowship (OAAF) retreat broke the record as the largest annual retreat in the group's history. Attendees enjoyed worship, fellowship, and biblical challenge featuring speakers from around the country, as well as a scrumptious buffet meal.

Speakers for the two-day event included both state and national leaders. SCBO State President Ray Umphrey and SCBO Executive Director Treasurer Jeremy Westbrook addressed the retreat, as well as National African American Fellowship (NAAF) Executive Director Dennis Mitchell and President Frank Williams.

Additional speakers included Dr. Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), International Mission Board (IMB) African American Mission Strategist Jason Thomas, and Interim SBC Executive Committee President Willie McLaurin.

During the retreat, SCBO chose to specifically recognize three OAAF pastors for their outstanding service

meals to homes in Eaton. "One of those homes was the house of a man named Fred," said Jackson. After pleasantries, Fred mentioned that he had been thinking about visiting First Southern and shared health battles he is facing. "I asked if I could pray for him. He invited me in and before I prayed, I asked him, 'Fred, are you a Christian?' He shook his head no."

Jackson asked Fred if he could share the gospel with him and Fred said yes. "How wonderful it was to hear him pray and ask Jesus into his heart right there in his kitchen. I was thrilled and left with the expectation that he might be at church on Sunday."

Fred's profession of faith was not random, according to Jackson. "It was a divine appointment. Travis and Carlena McDaniel are usually the ones who drop off Fred's dinner. God has been using their faithfulness and friendliness and service month after month and that opened the door for me. He used the faithful cooking, serving, and preparing by the church members. The team prayed prior to my arrival last night, and God was already working in Fred's heart, and we did not know it."

Soon after, Jackson realized an additional blessing from Fred's profession of faith. "It hit me! God had just given me the greatest privilege outside of being saved and that was to share the gospel and see a person respond and accept Christ."

That very day, Jackson was celebrating the anniversary of his own conversion experience. "Forty-six years to the very night, what had happened in my heart continues to happen in the hearts of others recognizing their need to be saved. God is working in our church in a great way. He is answering prayer. Lives are being changed and God is using us."

Food Delivery Leads to an Eternal Decision

By Stephanie Heading

Delivering an ordinary meal led to an extraordinary experience recently for the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Camden.

His church sponsors a monthly outreach, providing food to those in need, according to Pastor Greg F. Jackson. "John and Shawna Keehner lead a wonderful monthly ministry of providing meals to our community. A great team prepares, cooks, serves, and delivers."

On a recent Tuesday night, Jackson was on the delivery team taking

First Commissioned Missionaries From Ohio Leave Legacy

By Mark Snowden

Missions run deep in the Dorr family.

David and Roberta Dorr were the first couple from an Ohio Southern Baptist church appointed as Foreign Mission Board (FMB) missionaries in 1958. They were members of Tri Village Baptist Church in Columbus. However, they almost did not get the chance to serve due to an unexpected diagnosis.



Ohio's first missionary appointees to foreign fields were Dr. and Mrs. David Dorr appointed in 1958 for medical missions in Yemen. Pictured with the Dorr family is Dr. Baker James Cauthen, (left) executive secretary of the Foreign Mission Board, and Pastor C.H. Hockensmith (right) of the Tri Village Baptist Church in Columbus where the Dorr's were members.

"My father completed medical school at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, Maryland," said John Dorr, youngest son of David and Roberta and a current IMB missionary. "As they were applying to the FMB, David discovered he had Hodgkin's disease so they could not go. My mother struggled with this as they were giving up all and ready to go and then 'God let this happen.'"

Instead of going to the mission field, David applied to do a surgical residency at the Columbus Veterans Hospital. Following his four-year residency, which included plastic surgery, David went in for a check-up. His doctors could find no evidence of Hodgkin's disease.

"They originally considered going to Baptist Hospital in Nigeria," said John. "After four years in Ohio, they saw the need at Baptist Hospital in Gaza and ended up going there."

Foreign missions have continued through John and his wife, Debbie. The two met as ten-year-old children in Israel where Debbie's mother, Margaret Lindsay was a missionary. Today, John and Debbie serve as missionaries overseas, while their son Philip serves at IMB home office in Richmond, Virginia, as a graphic designer.

Just this past Easter, John was delighted to see a series of Old and New Testament television programs released across the Middle East in the Arabic language. "Never before have Southern Baptists been part of conveying so much of the Bible in one day."

John pointed out that "Ohio Baptists contributed to all of this, unwittingly of course, but nonetheless, part of the story of how God 'works all things together for good, for those who love him and are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28."

John credits the faithfulness of Ohio Southern Baptists for the ministry of his family. "Tell Ohio Baptist to keep praying, giving and going because they have already impacted the world through my parents and their first fruit offering to the Lord, and they are impacting it again in these days."

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leaders are biblically grounded and conservative theologically. Finally, I was part of an impromptu prayer meeting with leaders from both the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and the Florida Baptist Convention.

We are not a perfect family, but there is no other place I would rather be right now than cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention to plant churches, send missionaries and theologically train the next generation! Also, I was proud to watch a couple of our Ohio leaders who made nominations and recommendations from the floor. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Lord and Ohio Baptists as your Executive Director-Treasurer.



Jeremy Westbrook

SCBO New Pastor and Staff Orientation Returns for First Time in Over Two Years



SCBO recently welcomed new Ohio pastors and staff at the New Pastor and Staff Orientation at the SCBO offices. This was the first time this event has taken place since March 2020.

Scorecards and Checklists Bring Focus to Church Revitalization

By Dwayne Lee

When pastors and church leaders think about church revitalization, they are often looking for something that will help guide their thoughts and the process. Leaders seek assistance from others who have already gone through the process, or they look to associational and state conventions leaders.



Yet what happens when those individuals are not available or when pastors are up at three in the morning praying over churches and their futures? What resources can leaders rely on when they are looking to set their minds at ease and keep focused on the task at hand?

Scorecards and checklists are two simple things leaders can use. A coach or a pastor uses a scorecard to gauge where the church is currently.

By using numbers, asking questions, and gathering data the scorecard gives us a baseline for the church.

A checklist can also help a pastor stay on track through the entire church revitalization process and keep him focused on the matters at hand. The checklist might be different from church to church, but in his new book, *The Church Revitalization Checklist*, Dr. Sam Rainer from Church Answers has put together a brief checklist to help pastors during the process.

Rainer's checklist includes Priorities, tending to what is most urgent; Pace, how fast can the church move; Perspective, managing expectations;



People, the church's capacity to move forward; Place, the issues of facilities; Purpose, rekindling an outward focus; and Pathway, the realistic next step.

This checklist might impact each pastor differently, but it can give leaders an idea of the things they should be focusing on as they walk their churches through the beginning stages of revitalization. This checklist can even be valuable to leaders amid the revitalization process.

For more information on church revitalization, please contact Dwayne Lee at dlee@scbo.org.

Online Giving Now Available for SCBO Contributions

We are thrilled to share with you that the SCBO now has online giving for you or your church to make contributions to the Cooperative Program, Disaster Relief, and the Ray Roberts State Mission Offering!

Simply visit www.scbo.org/give and select the option that best fits your preferred method of giving. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Chief Financial Administrator, Kevin Heaton, at kheaton@scbo.org.

www.scbo.org/give



Serve Tour Dayton Bringing Compassion Ministry to Ohio this October

By Stephanie Heading

This October, Ohio Southern Baptists will be the hands and feet of Jesus as Send Relief, the compassion ministry arm of the North American Mission Board (NAMB), partners with SCBO to host Serve Tour Dayton, October 7-8, 2022.

Serve Tour Dayton is a two-day compassion ministry event which seeks to inspire churches to

their own communities.”

When deciding where to focus this outreach weekend, Heading noted that Dayton has a unique set of issues. “There is significant need in Dayton, based on years of decline as major corporations left town. The tornado outbreak on Memorial Day 2019 flattened parts of the city and recovery is still ongoing. In addition,

Ministry projects may include providing medical and dental assistance, conducting light construction, serving first responders, cultivating community gardens, holding food distributions, providing sports camps and block parties, serving at local food pantries, helping with park cleanup, and landscaping, caring for the homeless and offering ESL clinics.



collaborate in meeting needs and changing lives for the sake of the gospel. “With the help of SCBO churches, we can shine a light in Dayton by blessing the city and providing mission opportunities to churches,” said Dr. John A. Heading, Serve Tour Dayton project manager. “We want volunteers to see themselves as mobilized missionaries in a way that stimulates on-going ministry partnerships in Ohio, and we hope that this experience will encourage pastors and churches to consider new compassion ministry opportunities in

Dayton experienced the Oregon District mass shooting, which left nine dead and seventeen wounded in August 2019,” said Heading.

Dayton City Government and Dayton Public Schools as well as other service organizations and local citizens are submitting projects for Serve Tour Dayton. Heading will approve projects over the summer and make them public on August 29. “Our plan is to find ways to meet needs and bless churches, schools, local governments and compassion ministry non-profits.”

Anyone can volunteer for Send Tour Dayton. “Churches, small groups, college students, individuals and many others can be part of this outreach,” said Heading. “Our goal is to have a minimum 1,000 volunteers in Dayton the weekend of October 7-8.”

Volunteer sign-up is open now. To sign up, visit www.sendrelief.org/servetour/dayton. For more information about being involved in Serve Tour Dayton, contact John Heading at jheading@scbo.org.

Around Ohio

MT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH 1822-2022 SHARING GOD'S LOVE FOR 200 YEARS

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church located at 8645 Kenwood Rd. in Cincinnati, Ohio would like to invite everyone to its 200th Anniversary Service on Sunday, July 16-17, 2022.

<https://mtcarmelbaptist.org/>

STUDY TOUR OF ISRAEL SET FOR SPRING 2023

Ohio Baptist pastors, staff and spouses are invited to a study tour of Israel in Spring 2023 led by Dwayne Lee and Mark Snowden. Participants will spend eight days in Israel and two days traveling. Cost is \$3,500 to \$4,000 per person and includes airfare. A \$300 deposit secures your spot.

More information is available by request from Charity Scaggs at 513-724-7182 or email at CABAoffice@gmail.com.

Job Postings

PASTOR OF MUSIC AND YOUTH

Reynoldsburg Baptist Church is accepting resumes and recommendations for a pastor to provide leadership to our music and youth ministries. Additional details and application instructions are available at <https://rbctoday.com/staffopenings/>

PASTOR

Indian Lake Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational pastor to serve in Lakeview, Ohio. Those interested may contact:

Don Faulder
PO Box 322
Lakeview, OH 43331
(937) 596-6880

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Chroma Church in Dublin, Ohio is looking for a part-time Associate Pastor. The position is a 20 hours per week part-time job with a salary of \$1500 per month. Education and experience requirements include minimum three years of church leadership experience, minimum one year of formal biblical/theological training, and seminary degree preferred but not required.

For more information, please contact Chroma Church at Jihye.barrowman@chromacolumbus.org

Messenger offering free classified ads for ministry openings

The Messenger is offering classified ads free of charge for churches searching for new pastors and staff members. The Messenger is available to churches and individuals in Ohio and across the country. To submit a classified ad, please send brief information about the position along with a return phone number or email to classifieds@scbo.org.

How to Become a Christian

If you are not a Christian, meaning you have never surrendered your will to the Lord Jesus, let me share briefly how you can make this life changing decision. GOD WANTS TO SAVE YOU.

FIRST, you must believe that God loves you and wants you to have peace in your heart and an everlasting life (John 3:16).

SECOND, you must recognize that you are a sinner, that you have done things which have displeased God and that you have separated yourself from Him (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

THIRD, you must believe that Jesus came to this earth, was actually God in the flesh, lived a perfect life, and yet went to a cruel cross, dying for your sins, paying once and for all the penalty of sin (1 Peter 2:24). However, it's not enough just to

know these three things. Many of us knew them for years before we ever gave Jesus our lives.

FOURTH, you must personally ask Jesus to come into your life and forgive you of your sins (Revelation 3:20).

You can pray this prayer now and if you mean it with all of your heart, Jesus will come in just like He said. He cannot lie.

Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner. I'm really sorry for my sins, Lord. I ask you now, Lord Jesus, to come into my heart, forgive me of my sins, take control of my life, and make me the kind of person You want me to be. I now receive You into my heart. Thank You for coming in. I will follow You all the days of my life. In Your name I pray, Amen.

What is the Lord doing in your church or ministry?

-- Tell us your story --

The Ohio Baptist Messenger is a monthly publication highlighting what the Lord is doing in SCBO churches or ministries, and we need your help! Tell us your story and we could feature it in an upcoming issue of The Messenger. Please submit your stories to messenger@scbo.org.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Heading at messenger@scbo.org.

Published monthly by The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio for members of Southern Baptist churches in Ohio.

9000 Antares Ave
Columbus, Ohio 43240

Member of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Jeremy Westbrook | Executive Director-Treasurer, Editor

Ohio Baptist
MESSENGER