

2016 Annual

Baptist Convention of Iowa



www.bciowa.org

PO Box 619, Ankeny, IA 50021

515-809-2819

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Containing Directories and
Statistical Reports and Proceedings
of the Twentieth Annual Convention

at

Holiday Inn & Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa
November 5, 2016

Cornerstone Church of Ames
Ames, Iowa | November 4, 2017

CONVENTION OFFICE

Baptist Convention of Iowa
PO Box 619
Ankeny, IA 50021
515-809-2819
bciowa@bciowa.org
www.bciowa.org

CONVENTION STAFF - EXECUTIVE TEAM

Executive Director-Treasurer	Tim Lubinus TLubinus@BCIowa.org
Discipleship Team Leader	Chris McRae CMcRae@BCIowa.org
Friendship Baptist Center 1526 Martin Luther King Parkway, PO Box 41188 Des Moines, IA 50314 515-244-1701	Jon Jamison & Mindy Jamison Directors JMJamison@BCIowa.org
Business / Finance Assistant	Bobbie Thies Bthies@BCIowa.org
Administrative Assistant	Mandy Stenberg mstenberg@BCIowa.org
Pastor / Church Support	Ed Gregory EGregory@BCIowa.org
Pastor / Church Support	John Shaul JShaul@BCIowa.org
Communications Coordinator	Jon Olsen IowaBaptistNews@gmail.com
BCI State Disaster Relief Director	Dave and Jeanne Wedekind dwedekind@mwbc.org
WMU Coordinator	Joni Wilkinson IowaWMU@gmail.com

2016 Executive Board
Convention Officers

President	Ken Livingston	First Grace Baptist, Sheffield
1st Vice President	Robert Knight	New Birth Baptist, Ames
2nd Vice President	Brandon Barker	Westwind Church, Waukee
Secretary	Jerome Risting	Temple Baptist, Mason City

The final column indicates the region.

NW = Northwest NE = Northeast M = Metro
SW = Southwest SE = Southeast

Executive Board

Eric Schumacher	2018	Grand Avenue Baptist Church – Ames M
Zach Vester	2018	New Life Baptist Church – Davenport SE
Eric Bosin	2018	Veritas Church - Iowa City SE
Stan Hayek	2018	Candeo Church – Waterloo NE
Steve Marean	2018	Crest Baptist Church – Creston SW
Bob Scott	2018	Heartland Community Baptist Church - Sioux City NW
David Alexander	2017	Cornerstone Community, Chariton SE
John Faulkner	2017	Calvary Baptist, Glenwood SW
Cody Hinton	2017	Redemption, Council Bluffs SW
John Jakes	2017	Calvary Baptist, Indianola M
Darin Ulmer	2017	Community Baptist, Marion NE
Jim Parker	2016	Sojourn, Council Bluffs SW
David Miller	2016	Southern Hills Baptist, Sioux City NW
Rex Rains	2016	New Life, Dubuque NE
Jill Olsen	2016	Crestwood Baptist, Des Moines M
Stephen Wolfe	2016	Temple, Mason City; Northwood NE
Ryan Perz	2016	Cornerstone Baptist, Orange City NW
Ken Barlow	2016	Bethany Baptist, Keokuk SE

2016 Administrative Committee

Ken Livingston	President First Grace Baptist, Sheffield
Robert Knight	1st Vice Pres., New Birth Baptist, Ames
Brandon Barker	2nd Vice Pres. Westwind Church, Waukee
Jerome Risting	Secretary Temple, Mason City
John Jakes	Calvary Baptist, Indianola
David Miller	Southern Hills Baptist, Sioux City
Jill Olsen	Crestwood Baptist, Des Moines

BCI STANDING COMMITTEES {Date indicates term expiration}

Credentials Committee

Terry	Wilkinson	2016	CrossPointe, West Des Moines
Jerry	Mease	2016	New Bridge, Winterset
Roger	Vester	2017	New Life Baptist, Davenport
Wilma	Faulkner	2017	Calvary Baptist, Glenwood
Jon	Olsen	2018	Crestwood, Des Moines
Cynthia	Gregory	2018	First Family, Ankeny

Program Committee - 2016 Annual Meeting

CHAIR	Ken Livingston	Convention President
	Robert Knight	Convention Vice President
	Jerome Risting	Convention Secretary
	Tim Lubinus	Executive Director
	Mandy Stenberg	Administrative Assistant

Nominating Committee

David	Miller	2016	Southern Hills Baptist, Sioux City
Ken	Barlow	2016	Bethany Baptist, Keokuk
Darin	Ulmer	2017	Community Baptist, Marion
John	Faulkner	2017	Calvary Baptist, Glenwood
Jack	Owens	2018	Cornerstone, Ames
Stephen	Wolfe	2018	Temple, Mason City; Northwood

Baptist Foundation Committee

Bob	Scott	2016	Heartland Community Baptist, Sioux City
Ryan	VanArkle	2016	Living Hope Community, Des Moines
Mike	Carlson	2017	New Bridge, Winterset
Don	Ward	2017	Madison Baptist, Ft. Madison
Joe	Powers	2018	Crest Baptist, Creston
Joyce	Hardymon	2018	Immanuel Baptist, Cedar Rapids

Historian

Joe	Needham	2017	Living Hope Baptist, Ossian
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Baptist Convention of Iowa
CONSTITUTION
Approved November 2015

In these constitution and bylaws, the male pronoun is used uniformly for convenience. However, the use of the male pronoun shall not be construed to exclude women from service unless such is clearly delineated in this constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE I, NAME

The name of this body is Baptist Convention of Iowa ("Convention").

ARTICLE II, PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of this Convention to offer an Agency of Cooperation for the churches and missions, to promote the preaching of the gospel in Iowa and throughout the world, to support ministerial and Christian education, to organize and promote all phases of work fostered by this Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, and to aid any benevolent or moral movements it may deem promotive of God's kingdom.

ARTICLE III, AUTHORITY

1. The Convention shall have ultimate control of any institutions that have been, or may be, acquired by or originated in this body.
2. The Convention shall choose for each institution a board of trustees, in number according to the charter of each institution, and fix their terms of service, reserving the right to change the terms of service of such trustees and to remove from office any and all of them at will. Boards of trustees and other agencies shall in everything be subject to the control of this Convention.
3. The Convention reserves the right, as plainly implied in the first section of this article, to effect a change in the charter of any of its institutions. Any institution which desires to amend its charter shall publish the proposed amendment in the official publication of the Convention at least ninety days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Convention. Any proposed amendment shall be presented in the Annual Book of Reports.
4. Trustees shall make such annual and special reports of their expenditures and of the state of their respective institutions as this Convention may require.
5. No trustee shall be paid a salary, fee, or commission by the institution he serves as trustee for his service as a trustee. Any situations in which a trustee may receive direct or indirect compensation for services unrelated to their service as a trustee shall be disclosed before participating in such matters. Trustees may participate with the members' approval or they must recuse themselves during votes upon the matter.
6. While independent and sovereign in its own affairs, this Convention recognizes the autonomy of churches and associations and disclaims all right of exercising authority over any church, association or any other Baptist institution not under the management of this Convention.

ARTICLE IV, MEMBERSHIP

1. The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist Churches and Missions cooperating with the Convention and selected on a financial basis. A cooperating church shall be defined as one participating in and contributing to the causes of the Baptist Convention of Iowa, i.e., cooperative program and missions giving. Each messenger shall be a member of the church which elects him/her.
2. Two messengers shall be allowed from each cooperating church or mission.
3. One additional messenger shall be allowed from each cooperating church or mission for any part of the first five hundred dollars contributed to the work of the Convention, one additional messenger for the next five hundred dollars above the first five hundred dollars contributed to the work of the Convention, and one additional messenger for each five hundred dollars contributed to the work of the Convention above the first one thousand dollars.
4. The messengers shall be elected and certified by the churches to the Convention with no church having more than ten messengers.
5. The previous year's giving to the Baptist Convention of Iowa (cooperative program and/or state missions offering) shall be used to determine the number of messengers from any one church.

ARTICLE V, OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Convention shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a secretary, and a treasurer.
2. All officers except the treasurer shall be elected at each annual meeting of the Convention, the president during the first session and the vice presidents in the same session or a subsequent session. Their term of office shall begin at the close of that annual convention.
3. The executive director-treasurer elected by the Executive Board of the Convention shall serve as the treasurer of the Convention.
4. The term of the office for the president is limited to two years, and he shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one year has elapsed from the time his successor is named.
5. No employee of the Convention, its several institutions, agencies, or programs of work receiving compensation from the Convention's budget, shall be eligible to serve as president, first vice president, or second vice president.
6. Officers of the Convention, officers and members of boards of trustees, and members of committees of the Convention shall hold membership in a church affiliated with and in cooperation with the Baptist Convention of Iowa.

ARTICLE VI, DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Convention and serve as chairman of the executive board while presiding at meetings, maintaining order, and deciding all points of order except those appealed to the body. It shall be the president's privilege to speak as any other person, provided one of the vice presidents has been called to the chair. The president shall serve as ex-officio member of all committees, except when the president chooses to ask one of the vice presidents to serve.

2. The first vice president shall act in full capacity of the president when the president is unable to fulfill the responsibilities, the office is vacant, or the president chooses to invite the vice president to serve.
3. The second vice president shall be available to preside when called upon by the president. The second vice president shall act in full capacity of the first vice president when the first vice president is unable to fulfill the responsibilities or the office is vacant.
4. The secretary shall record all proceedings of the Convention in session, and the Executive Board in its meetings. The secretary keeps a file of the minutes in a fireproof protection. This file constitutes the authentic record of the Convention.
5. The executive director-treasurer, elected by the executive board of the Convention, shall serve as treasurer of the Convention.
 - a. The treasurer shall receive and disburse the general and designated funds of the Convention as authorized by the Convention in session.
 - b. The treasurer shall have charge of invested and trust funds, invest and disburse the same, and collect and disburse interest thereon, subject in both cases to instructions of the Convention or of its administrative committee and the executive board.
 - c. The treasurer shall make an annual report to the executive board for its approval and to the Convention for its approval of all receipts, disbursements, expenses, and investments.
 - d. The treasurer's books shall be audited/reviewed by a certified public accountant. A statement by the auditor/accountant concerning the audit/review and the Convention's business will be published in the minutes.
6. The president, first vice president, second vice president, and secretary shall constitute the executive officers of the Executive Board and shall have all the powers formerly entrusted to trustees. However, nothing in this Constitution shall be deemed to require said executive officers to be held to the same legal standard as a trustee to the extent that such legal standards exceed those that would be applicable to a corporate officer.

ARTICLE VII, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

At the annual meeting, the Convention shall nominate and elect an Executive Board of the Baptist Convention of Iowa.

1. Regular members shall be chosen from each region (as region is defined in the bylaws).
2. The regular members shall be elected for a term of three years and may be re-elected for a second three-year term. After a lapse of one year, he/she may serve again if elected.
3. An effort shall be made to ensure balance between pastors and laity, and between male and female; however, the primary consideration for selection of Executive Board members shall be their expertise to serve effectively.
4. When vacancies occur between annual meetings of the Convention, these may be filled upon recommendation of the Administrative Committee and a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board present and voting.

5. All members of the Board shall be members in good standing of Baptist churches which cooperate with the Convention in its programs of work and the Cooperative Program.
6. Nominees shall hold membership in a BCI affiliated church within a region for at least one year before being eligible to serve on the Convention's Executive Board. Persons moving from a region to another shall vacate their position on the Board.
7. Members of the Executive Board may be removed in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation, Article IX.

ARTICLE VIII, DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board shall be the executive, administrative, and promotional agency of the Convention and shall act under the instructions of the Convention, acting in its own capacity as a body through its Administrative Committee.
2. The Executive Board shall recommend to the Convention both a proposed goal or objective for raising funds, and a proposed distribution. The Board shall promote all missionary, educational, and benevolent causes of the Convention, and receive and disburse all funds according to the annual budget adopted by the Convention.
3. The Executive Board shall have authority to act, as a body or through its Administrative Committee, in all matters committed to it by the Convention and in matters which may arise between Convention sessions.
4. With the exception of the state office building, the Executive Board shall have authority to purchase, sell, or lease property and to incur indebtedness necessary for the operation of the Convention. The state office building shall not be sold or leased without the approval of the messengers in an annual or called meeting.
5. It shall be the specific duty of each member of the Board to promote the Convention's program in his/her respective area of the state.
6. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum after every member has been notified sufficiently in advance.

ARTICLE IX, THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

1. The president, first vice president, second vice president, secretary, and executive director-treasurer shall serve as the Convention's Administrative Committee. Additionally, the Executive Board shall elect three of its members to serve on the Administrative Committee as well. Ad hoc committees may be changed, added, or deleted at the discretion of the Executive Board.
2. The president of the Convention shall serve as president of the administrative committee and the secretary of the Convention shall serve as secretary of the administrative committee.
3. Members of the administrative committee shall not receive compensation from the Convention budget, nor may members of their immediate families. Any situations in which a member may receive direct or indirect compensation from the Convention for services unrelated to their service as a member, shall be disclosed before participating in such matters. Members of the committee may participate with the other committee members' approval or they must recuse themselves during votes upon the matter

ARTICLE X, DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Administrative Committee shall act under the authority of the Executive Board and/or the Convention in any matter committed to it by the Board or by the Convention.
2. The Committee shall act on any emergency administrative matter and its action shall carry the authority of the Convention, subject to review by the Executive Board.
3. The Committee shall not involve the Board or Convention in financial obligations, or project any major plans or work not authorized by the Board or the Convention.
4. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum after every member has been notified sufficiently in advance.
5. The Administrative Committee shall serve as the budget and audit committee for the Convention, and shall meet with the executive director-treasurer to prepare the budget which is to be presented to the Executive Board in its September meeting. The Board shall present this budget to the Convention in its annual session.
6. The Administrative Committee shall serve as the resolutions committee of the Convention while the Convention is in session.

ARTICLE XI, ALTERATIONS

1. Any alterations to the Constitution may be made by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, when the vote is taken without regard to the total enrollment at any annual meeting of the Convention, provided that:
 - a. Any proposed amendments must be either submitted in writing to the Convention one year before being voted on, or recommended by the executive board. In either case they must be published in the official publication of the Convention at least ninety days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Convention.
 - b. Any proposed amendment shall be presented in the Annual Book of Reports and read during the first session of the Convention.
 - c. An amendment shall only become effective upon approval by the messengers at two successive annual meetings of the Convention.
2. Any alterations to the bylaws may be made by a simple majority vote of the members present, when the vote is taken without regard to the total enrollment at any annual meeting of the Convention, provided that:
 - a. Any proposed amendments must be either submitted in writing to the Convention one year before being voted on, or recommended by the executive board. In either case, they must be published in the official publication of the Convention at least ninety days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Convention.
 - b. Any proposed amendment shall be presented in the Annual Book of Reports and read during the first session of the Convention.

**Baptist Convention of Iowa
BYLAWS**

Bylaw I – EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The executive board of the Baptist Convention of Iowa shall consist of 20 regular members plus the president, first vice-president, second vice-president, and secretary.
2. Four regular members shall be chosen from each region.
3. The state shall be divided into five regions: four regions consisting of counties in the four geographic quadrants of the state, and the fifth being comprised of counties in proximity to Des Moines. All regions will be specifically defined within the Operations Manual. Composition of the regions cannot be changed without executive board approval.
4. One third shall be elected each year to serve a three-year term. However, only six members will be elected every third year.

Bylaw II – DISBURSEMENTS

1. All cooperative program receipts to the Convention shall be disbursed according to percentages or amounts approved by the Convention in its annual budget.
2. Special gifts shall be applied according to the instructions of the donors, in keeping with charitable contribution laws and the guidelines of the executive board and agency trustees.
3. Undesignated gifts may be applied as the Convention wills.
4. The treasurer(s) of the Convention funds and institutions shall be bonded for faithful performance of duty. These bond(s) are to be approved by the administrative committee of the executive board.

Bylaw III – MEETINGS

1. The Convention shall choose its meeting times and place.
2. The administrative committee of the executive board, when sufficient emergency arises as to time or place, may change the annual meeting either as to time or place or both.
3. Special meetings of the Convention shall be called by the president upon approval of the administrative committee. Those present, after at least a thirty-day notice has been presented by the president, shall constitute a quorum.
4. The Convention shall use the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order to guide its parliamentary procedures. A parliamentarian may be appointed by the president of the Convention.

Bylaw IV - CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. Nominating Committee:

- a. Purpose: This committee shall serve to nominate members of those committees and boards specifically related to the Convention and a historian. These committees shall include a credentials committee, program committee, nominating committee, and other continuing committees created by the Convention.
- b. Functions: Nominations for members on these committees and boards, including a stipulation of which member shall be chair, shall be presented at the last session of the annual meeting of the Convention. After opportunity for nominations from the floor, these committees shall be elected by the Convention and shall serve from the conclusion of that Convention meeting. The primary consideration of these committees shall be that those persons being nominated shall have special abilities or expertise that equips them to serve effectively in the area of their specified committee. An effort shall be made to see that there is geographical representation, as well as a balance between ministers and lay persons, and between male and female. Such concern for balance, however, shall not override concern for electing persons with skills to serve on the various committees (Article VII, Executive Board).
- c. Composition and Selection: This committee shall be composed of six members serving on a rotating basis, with two elected annually for three years.

2. Credentials Committee Purpose:

- a. This committee shall serve as the registration committee for the Convention's annual meeting.
- b. Function: As the Convention's registration committee during the annual meeting of the convention, this committee shall organize necessary procedures to effect the orderly certifying and seating of messengers.

All questions of registration of messengers shall be referred to this committee. This committee shall make reports to the Convention as to the numbers of messengers and guests registered.

- c. Composition and Selection: There shall be six members of this committee on a rotating basis, with members elected annually for three years.

3. Program Committee:

- a. Purpose: This committee shall plan and recommend the program for the annual meeting of the Convention.
- b. Function: This committee shall plan the next annual program sufficiently far in advance that provisional programs can be publicized to the constituency not less than one month before the scheduled meeting of that Convention. This committee shall recommend to the Convention the date and place of meeting for the next two years. Previously published dates and places shall be used except when special reasons for changing are noted and approved by the Convention or the executive board.
- c. Composition and Selection: This committee shall be composed of five members elected to serve one year.

4. Baptist Foundation Committee:

- a. Purpose: It shall be the purpose of this committee to serve the Baptist Convention of Iowa by receiving assets to be held and invested for the purpose for which they are received, i.e., scholarships, loan funds, mission funds.

- b. Function: This committee shall receive and invest assets with the executive director-treasurer serving as chief executive officer working with the committee to serve Baptists in Iowa and the causes of Christ.
- c. Composition and Selection: This committee shall be composed of six members serving on a rotating basis with two being elected annually for a three year term. A member shall serve no more than two three year terms until the lapse of at least one year. The members shall be nominated to the Convention by the nominating committee.

5. Historian:

- a. Purpose: The historian shall be responsible for accumulating, indexing, and communicating information about our history to our constituency.
- b. Function: The historian shall bring to the attention of the Convention occasions when anniversaries or special events need to be commemorated. The historian shall be responsible for updating the digests of the history of the Baptist Convention of Iowa.
- c. Selection: The historian shall be elected for a three-year term and can be re-elected.

Income		2014	2015	2016	2017	Variance	Percent
	Cooperative Program	\$495,000	\$600,000	\$618,000	\$625,000	\$7,000	1.13%
	North American Mission Board	\$902,707	\$958,632	\$807,500	\$807,500	\$0	0.00%
	Iowa Mission Offering	\$31,000	\$33,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0	0.00%
	Lifeway	\$57,000	\$70,000	\$67,000	\$76,400	\$9,400	14.03%
	Guidestone	\$12,900	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$15,000	\$7,200	92.31%
	WMU	\$9,650	\$9,650	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$0	0.00%
	Registrations	\$56,491	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	Invest.+Foundations	\$62,032	\$0	\$0	\$52,500	\$52,500	
	TRA's	\$0	\$78,800	\$181,627	\$33,000	-\$148,627	-81.83%
Total Income		\$1,626,780	\$1,757,882	\$1,717,777	\$1,645,250	-\$72,527	-4.22%
Expenses							
CP: Missions and Seminaries 59%		\$99,000	\$300,000	\$309,000	\$312,500	\$12,500	4.05%
Iowa Ministry Fund					\$100,000	\$100,000	
Church Planting							
	New Church Support	\$405,636	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	0.00%
	Church Planter Development	\$41,037	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	0.00%
	Evangelism Projects (new)	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
	BCI Staff, benefits, travel	\$269,266	\$76,482	\$77,500	\$77,500	\$0	0.00%
Church Development and Ministry							
	State-wide Meetings	\$86,268	\$37,500	\$34,000	\$37,500	\$3,500	10.29%
	Includes: Pastor & Wives Retreat, Men's retreat						
	Reconciled, Impact						
	Ia Baptist Coordinator, Women's Retreat other Conf/Mtgs						
	Disaster Relief	\$8,700	\$14,700	\$14,700	\$20,000	\$5,300	36.05%
	Evangelism Projects (existing)	\$26,916	\$33,500	\$20,000	\$21,500	\$1,500	7.50%
	Baptist Friendship Center	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$31,000	\$40,000	\$9,000	29.03%
	Collegiate Ministry	\$9,400	\$9,400	\$9,400	\$9,400	\$0	0.00%
	WMU	\$8,850	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$5,850	\$0	0.00%
	BCI Staff, benefits, travel	\$174,843	\$222,927	\$215,965	\$106,361	-\$109,604	-50.75%
	Church Matching Annuity	\$21,600	\$14,425	\$14,425	\$30,000	\$15,575	107.97%

	Emergency Assistance	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
	Leadership Development	\$0	\$32,500	\$40,500	\$61,000	\$20,500	50.62%
	Contingency	\$53,060	\$20,000	\$4,229	\$3,028	-\$1,201	-28.40%
Administration and Governance							
	BCI Staff, benefits, travel	\$231,900	\$285,748	\$288,518	\$196,642	-\$91,876	-31.84%
	Includes: BCI Staff, Staff						
	Development, All personnel FICA and Work Comp						
	Communication, Retirement & Severance,						
	Boards/Committees	\$40,500	\$38,000	\$26,500	\$33,500	\$7,000	26.42%
	Includes: Annual Meeting,						
	Executive Board, Administrative						
	Committee, Committees, Audit						
	Office	\$25,480	\$24,000	\$24,340	\$0	-\$24,340	-100.00%
	Includes: Depreciation,						
	Association dues, Maint.,						
	Insurance, Utilities						
	Office	\$68,324	\$36,850	\$26,850	\$15,470	-\$11,380	-42.38%
	Includes: Supplies, Postage						
	Equipment, IT, Bank Fees, Communication						
Total Expenses		\$1,626,780	\$1,757,882	\$1,717,777	\$1,645,250	-\$72,527	-4.22%

2017 Calendar

January 21	BCI Administrative Committee Meeting
January 27 -28	BCI Men's Retreat (Chariton)
February 3-4	BCI Men's Retreat (Ankeny)
February 9	Foundation Committee Meeting
February 11	Church Planting Exec Board Work Group
February 26-28	Pastors & Wives Retreat – Urbandale
March 4	Community Transformation Exec Board Work Group
March 10-12	Ignite Youth Conference, Grace Church, Des Moines
April 16	Easter Sunday
April 21-23	ONE Women's Conference, Des Moines
May 4	Foundation Committee Meeting
May 18	Church Development Exec Board Work Group
May 29	Memorial Day - Staff Holiday
June 13-14	SBC Annual Meeting, Phoenix
July 4	Independence Day - Staff Holiday
July 10-15	Impact University, Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
August 26	BCI Administrative Committee Meeting
September 4	Labor Day - Staff Holiday
September 23	BCI FULL Executive Board Meeting
November 3	Pastor's Reception / Banquet, Des Moines, Location TBD
November 4	BCI Annual Meeting, Des Moines, Location TBD
November 23-24	Thanksgiving - Staff Holiday
December 25-Jan 1	Christmas Break - Staff Holiday

Baptist Convention of Iowa

Twenty first Annual Meeting

Holiday Inn and Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa

Saturday - - November 5, 2016 – MORNING SESSION

Parliamentarian: Paul Porter

Time	Agenda Item and Comments
8:30	Registration Begins
9:45 – 10:00	Music - Darin and Sara Ulmer
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome and exhortation from the Word - Ken Livingston
10:05-10:20	Executive Director's Address - Tim Lubinus – Video Update
10:20-10:23	Iowa Missions Offering Update - Prayer – Joni Wilkinson
10:23-10:38	Church Planting Panel: Andy Norris, Noel Gandy, Cole Deike, Cody Hinton

10:38 – 10:43	North American Mission Board Report – Steve Bass
10:43 – 11:48	International Mission Board Report – Patricia Riley
10:48 – 10:53	Seminary Report – Bruce McCoy
10:53-11:00	ERLC Report - video
11:00-11:05	Guidestone Report - video
11:05-11:20	2016 Update Panel - Chris McRae
11:20 – 11:25	Credentials Committee - Roger Vester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to seat messengers who have been, or will be certified by the Credentials Committee throughout the course of the meeting • Initial Registration Report
11:25-11:30	Program Committee - Ken Livingston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation to accept the program as printed and as may be adjusted by the president throughout the course of the meeting. • That the 2017 meeting be held November 4 with a location to be recommended by the 2017 Program Committee and that the 2018 meeting be November 10.
11:30-11:35	Executive Board - Ken Livingston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Annual Report • Presentation of the Budget, Calendar • Announcement of teller committee
11:35-11:40	Election of President
11:40 – 12:00	Remarks from Convention President - Ken Livingston

Baptist Convention of Iowa
Twenty first Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn and Suites, 4800 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines, Iowa

Saturday - - November 5, 2016 – AFTERNOON SESSION

Parliamentarian: Paul Porter

Time	Agenda Items and Comments
12:50-1:00	Music - Darin and Sara Ulmer
1:00-1:30	Annual Sermon – Trevin Wax
1:30-1:40	Cooperative Program - Video (Tim)
1:40–1:45	SBC Executive Committee Report/Address – Dr. Sing Oldham
1:45-1:50	Introduction of New Pastors - Ken Livingston (5)
1:50-1:55	Introduction of New Staff, Honor John Shaull – Tim Lubinus
1:55-2:00	ACS Instructions/Details - Mandy Stenberg

2:00-2:05	Impact University - Eugene Guthrie
2:05-2:10	Friendship Center - Jon and Mindy Jamison
2:10-2:15	Disaster Relief - Dave and Jeanne Wedekind
2:15-2:20	Election of Two Vice Presidents and Secretary
2:20-2:30	Vote on Budget, Calendar
2:30-2:35	Miscellaneous/New Business
2:35-2:40	Lifeway Report AND Presentation
2:40-2:45	Final Announcements - Tim Lubinus Upcoming Events: Men's Retreats, Spring Pastor/Wife Retreat, ONE Chris' giveaway Disciple's Path Book Series drawing results
2:45-2:55	The President closes the meeting and Ken Lupton gives LifeWay Gift to Ken
2:55-3:00	Closing Prayer - New President
3:00	Dismiss

2016 Minutes Annual Meeting – Baptist Convention of Iowa

Darin and Sara Ulmer led in worship.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by President Ken Livingston with a reading from Psalm 1.

Tim Lubinus presented the Executive Director's Report via a video and a recap of his report from the program.

Joni Wilkinson updated the efforts of the WMU and their heart for missions and missionaries. Joni led a prayer for missionaries and for the families of police officers recently shot in Des Moines.

Tim led a panel of church planters, Andy Norris, Noel Gandy, Cole Deike and Cody Hinton.

Steve Bass of the North American Mission Board brought video greetings from Kevin Ezell and David Platt and thanks BCI for being a national leader in giving to Cooperative Program giving and setting the example of thinking outside the box such as the mobile office.

Matthew Miller brought a report on the Southern Baptist Seminaries - with record enrollments at all six seminaries.

A video from Russell Moore from Ethics and Religious Committee was shown.

Dustin Sanders spoke on the benefits of Guidestone Financial

Discipleship Leader Chris McRae led a panel of Pastors on life in a small church - both positives and negatives. Jim Parker, Benjamin McKim, and Gus Enricie were on the panel.

Roger Vester, chair of the credentials committee, recommended seating the 142 messengers from 52 churches; and recommended that all additional properly credentialed messengers be seated throughout the meeting. Hearing no opposition, the recommendation stood without vote.

President Ken Livingston gave the program committee report. The 2016 program committee recommended to the messengers to accept the program as printed and as may be adjusted by the President throughout the course of the meeting. They further recommended that the 2017 meeting be held on November 4, 2017 and that the 2018 meeting be held November 10, 2018 with the locations to be recommended by the 2017 program committee.

The recommendation was approved by a show of hands.

Ken Livingston presented the president's annual report, then the proposed 2017 budget, the proposed 2017 calendar, and the committee and called for questions. The President also announced that Lloyd Eaken, Mike Carlson, John Jakes and Jerome Risting would serve as the teller committee.

President Ken Livingston announced he would not be seeking a second term as President and called attention to the qualifications for the office of President. He opened the floor to nominations. John Jakes nominated Robert Knight, Second by - . Hearing no other nominations - Ken closed the nominations. Robert Knight was elected by the messengers saying Amen !

Ken Livingston read from Ephesians 5:18 and talked about being under the influence.

Ken closed the morning session in prayer.

Afternoon Session :

Worship began at 12:52pm with Darin and Sara Ulmer.

Trevin Wax from Lifeway Christian Resources brought the Annual Sermon from 1 Peter 2:11-17.

Dr. Sing Oldham brought greeting from the SBC Executive Committee and reported that each Sunday - more than 100 languages are spoken in SBC Churches and the Baptism's are on the increase.

New pastors that were present were introduced by Ken Livingston.

Executive Director Tim Lubinus gave an update on BCI staff and recognized John and Sharon Shaul for their 31 years of service in Iowa. They will be retiring on December 31, 2016 - but will remain in Iowa.

Mandy Stenberg shared instructions on completing the annual ACP reports that are due December 15th.

Pastor Eugene Guthrie, co-director of Impact University, gave a brief history of Impact University which began over 17 years ago. The purpose of Impact University is to have a state-wide youth camp which focuses on evangelism and discipleship for junior and senior high school students. The camp is held in July and this year - 88 students and 38 staff attended.

Jon and Mindy Jamison shared about the changes to the organizational structure of the Friendship Baptist Center.

Dave and Jeanne Wedekind shared information on Disaster Relief.

Election of Vice President: The president called attention to the qualifications for the office of vice president.

Brandon Barker was nominated by Todd Stiles. No additional nominations were made and the President asked that Brandon be affirmed with an Amen from the Messengers.

Election of Second Vice President: The president called attention to the qualifications for the office of second vice president.

Jack Owens was nominated by Matt Yoder.

The President declared Jack Owens elected by acclamation.

Election of Secretary: The president called attention to the qualifications for the office of secretary.

Jerome Risting was nominated by Matt Risting.

The president declared Jerome Risting elected by acclamation.

Recommendation of the 2017 budget from the Executive Committee. Second by Ricky Rohrig. Recommendation passed with a show of hands.

The President presented the 2016 calendar. Recommendation from Executive Committee, Second by Cody Hinton. Recommendation passed with a show of hands.

The President called for miscellaneous or new business.

Question from Sandie Guthrie on why there was not Executive Board Nominations. Tim shared that the names submitted by the Executive Board were asked and the declined to serve.

Lifeway brought a report and made a presentation to Ken Livingston.

Tim Lubinus announced two upcoming Men's Retreats, Woman's Retreat and Pastor and Wives Retreat.

Chris McRae presented a Disciple's Path to the drawing winner - Ken Kraft.

President Ken Livingston called President Elect Robert Knight forward to close the meeting in prayer

The meeting adjourned at 2:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerome Risting, Secretary

President's Report
Ken Livingston

I was extremely honored and quite humbled last year when you elected me to serve as your President. It has been an amazing year and I feel so blessed that you gave me the opportunity to serve.

This has been a year marked by change. I realize for many of us change is scary and sometimes doesn't seem worth the trouble. As I am now well into my fifties, I like consistency and familiarity a lot more than I did when I was twenty! But change is exciting and encouraging when it is for the better and when we can envision the possibilities that are ahead.

It is clear that under the leadership of our Executive Director and Treasurer, Tim Lubinus we have made a change in vision and practice in many areas. I firmly believe he was being led by the Lord and showed great courage and wisdom in the direction he asked us to go. I would like to share a few of the changes I am most excited about and I feel will continue to help lowans reach other lowans with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

But first, I want to share my appreciation for all those who have served across the state of Iowa. Of course there are all of the pastors, along with their wives and families that impact communities large and small. I know there are challenges we face whether we are: full-time or bi-vocational, senior pastor or other pastor, large church or small. As you follow the call of God to shepherd, thank you! There are also so many church members across the state who serve and pray and give. Your participation in the work is absolutely vital and so very much appreciated.

I also want to thank the Executive Board because each and every member takes their duties seriously and they serve so faithfully. I have learned so much from the officers this year too: Robert Knight, Jerome Risting, and Brandon Barker. It was a delight to serve with each of you and I am amazed at the level of discernment and wisdom you brought to each and every major decision we made.

The Staff of the Baptist Convention of Iowa is definitely the best around. Under the leadership of Tim Lubinus, the focus and organizational structure has changed dramatically. We have a team that as Southern Baptists in Iowa we can be proud of and also be confident in the quality of work they produce. With veterans like Chris McRae, John Shaul, Ed Gregory, Joni Wilkinson, along with Jon and Mindy Jamison we not only had a great and productive year, but our future is in good hands as well. When Tim brought on new men and women to fill specific tasks that God had called them to and gifted them for - I believe we have barely scratched the surface for the possibilities ahead. Church Planting specialists like Geoff Safford, Todd Stiles, Donovan Santamaria, Gilmer Mauricio, and Arnaldo Achucarro. We also have Shane Kelley, Chase Abner, Jon Olsen, David and Jeanne Wedekind who are specialist in their area of service. Of course, we also have been blessed with wonderful Assistants like Mandy Stenberg and Bobbie Thies, and earlier in the year Eric Seever and Sandy Guthrie. Each and everyone of you brings so much value to the ministries of the BCI.

Some of the best changes that happen are when we start new churches here in Iowa. Please remember to pray for the new church plants and the pastors that lead them. We also have been able to brag to the

nation about the wonderful collegiate ministry that happens here in Iowa under the direction of The Salt Company. These ministries continue to thrive as they reach the next generation in Ames, Iowa City, Cedar Falls and we were even able to see a new Salt Company ministry begin in Columbia, Missouri. Praise the Lord! This year also brought about a couple new collegiate ministries under the banner of Light Company in Indianola and Creston.

Of course other big changes this year included the BCI offices going mobile which then ultimately resulted in the sale of our office building. After Tim decided to transition us to a mobile office, the Executive Board recommended to the convention to sell the office building. I called a special meeting of the convention on April 2, 2016 and we voted to sell the office building. We received a very reasonable offer a couple months later and have since closed on the property. I realize this was a big change.

With the national IMB going through what David Platt called an “organizational reset”, locally we also sought a way to transition the Friendship Baptist Center into a ministry that was locally sustainable since some changes to NAMB funding happened. What was initially one of those “scary” changes has become a real success story. The Friendship Baptist Center is set to thrive and continue to do great work in the future thanks to the leadership of Jon and Mindy and the local churches that have pledged to support them.

The Iowa Ministry Fund was conceived on a dry erase board in Tim’s living room and has become one of the best changes at the BCI in my mind. Not only are we giving 50% of our contributions to the Cooperative Program as Iowans, but we are also giving up to \$100,000 to various ministries in Iowa which are doing tremendous work in their area of ministry. It is truly a Southern Baptist type model for cooperating together to accomplish more than we could alone. Many thanks to Tim Lubinus for the creation of this fund, but also for Mike Carlson and the rest of the Baptist Foundation Committee for your work.

What I know as I finish out my term as your President, is that Iowa Southern Baptists care about missions and care about strengthening and growing local churches through making disciples. I am so proud of the work being done and the vision we have to do even more. We are focused on giving to others, sharing the Gospel with others, and making disciples of those who God places in our path. Well done. Thanks again for the privilege of serving with you all.

Executive Board - Community Transformation
BCI Office, Des Moines, Iowa
March 5, 2016

Members Present: Ken Livingston(President), Robert Knight(1st Vice President), Brandon Barker(2nd Vice President), Jerome Risting(Secretary), Tim Lubinus(Executive Director), Stephen Wolfe, Steve Marean, Bob Scott, John Jakes, Jack Owens.

Members Absent: Dave Miller, David Alexander, Jill Olson

Staff Present : Frank McCrary

Ken Livingston called the meeting to order at 10:00am
Members spent time filling out Prayer Cards and praying for the Pastors, their families and their church.

Ken shared a Devotional from Psalm 8: 1-4

Robert Knight led the group in prayer.

John Jakes motioned to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2016 Executive Board Meeting. Second by Robert Knight. Discussion on the handling of the scheduled vote for approving the sale of the office building. Tim and Ken shared the timeline and the reasoning for the April 2 date. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Report – Tim reported that thus far there is no overspending on any accounts, about the savings from Sandy's unexpected resignation and the hiring of a part time contracted position.

Frank McCrary shared a video on Disaster Relief and then a power point on how the committee is set up and the duties of the Disaster Relief Council members. Frank shared that he is working on developing working agreements with neighboring states. Question on why the group has not been called up – Frank is working on publicizing the group and making sure that the County Emergency Management officials know that we are here to help.

The Board looked at the recommendation from the Friendship Baptist Center Committee appointed by President Ken Livingston.

The proposal:

In order to foster greater direct involvement and investment in the Friendship Center ministries, the leadership of the Baptist Convention of Iowa has directed that an appointed committee be established to propose a perpetual board that will assist, encourage, and lead with the Center Directors. The proposed board will be responsible for leadership as well as securing ongoing funding for the Friendship Center.

For the purpose of information, this is the third draft of this proposal.

That the Friendship Baptist Center become a separate entity from the BCI governed by a 7 member board consisting of the two directors and 5 others. The board will be led by one of the Center's directors.

The initial board will be called by Jon & Mindy Jamison with the assistance of Tim Lubinus. A strong attempt will be made for this board to be made up of those involved in the past, those interested in the ministry for the future, a corporate partner, and a member of the Friendship Center community. All members of the board must be Christians in good standing in a Baptist Convention of Iowa church.

1. Board members that are not Friendship Center Directors will be appointed to staggered 3 year terms by the Friendship Center Board under the leadership of Friendship Center Directors (one of the board members will be from BCI, one of the board members will be from Metro Association, the other 3 members will be from a BCI member church).
2. Must be member of a BCI Church.
3. Board selection will be based on the specific skills and contributions of board members. This will include professional skills, corporate networking skills and community involvement.
4. The board chairperson is a Center Director.

Board Member Responsibilities

First year:

1. Create constitution and bylaws for the Board.
2. Pending the approval of the BCI Executive Board vote, Friendship Center Board will begin functioning by April 1, 2016 and will develop a plan for the new legal entity for the Center to be in place by the end of 2017.
3. Determine accounting procedures and personnel.

4. Develop fundraising plan.

5. Work with BCI to transfer ownership of the property that the Center currently uses to the new board as a gift as quickly as is prudent.

Ongoing responsibilities:

1. Actively pursue Friendship Center mission and goals.

2. Raise funds for ministry through church partnerships, special events, foundations, etc. The board is the sole individual responsible for raising the funds necessary for the execution of the Friendship Center's ministry. BCI and Metro are financial partners, not emergency fail-safes.

3. Be a sounding board, idea center, and accountability partner for Center

4. Be (or become) knowledgeable about poverty ministries and seek ways to use resources effectively for the community.

5. Develop clear systems to protect the Friendship Center (in its fiscal accountability as well as its reputation) and encourage spiritual, personal and vocational integrity in its leaders.

Key Relationships

1. As long as this relationship continues, the Metro Baptist Association will be a key partner in both financial and board leadership.

2. As long as this relationship continues, the Baptist Convention of Iowa will be a key partner in both financial and board leadership.

3. Southern Baptist Churches who connect with the Friendship Center will be key in providing financial support, ministry support, and board leadership.

Initial board members: Jon Jamison, Mindy Jamison, BCI representative: Tim Lubinus, Metro representative: John Jakes, At large representatives: Rocky Vest, Todd Stiles, and Joni Wilkinson

The recommendation from the committee was approved with minor changes (underlined portions of the above proposal).

Foundation Committee Proposal: Iowa Ministry Fund

February 11, 2016

Recommendation from Foundation Committee

Stephen Wolfe motioned to accept the recommendation from the Foundation Committee as revisedSecond by Jack Owens. Motion Carried.

Revised recommendation below – revised portions underlined - This portion was removed from funding sources - Also some funds from a proposal from Oklahoma Baptists to use our excess funds in money market or other low or none interest bearing accounts to invest in their building loan portfolio. The returns should be around 3-4%. (\$1MMX3.5%=\$35,000)

1. That we regard foundation accounts as accounts for two ministry areas:
 - a. Leadership Development for Churches

- i. Seminary Tuition Scholarships
 - ii. Collegiate Interns
 - b. Iowa Ministry Fund
 - i. Around Ten Iowa Ministries that Help the Hurting
- 2. Funding sources:
 - a. That we withdrawal 5% each year from our two foundation investments (Guidestone, Baptist Foundation of Texas) and split funds between two ministry areas. (\$600,000x5%=\$30,000, \$15,000 each)
 - b. That we split the Hyde Iowa Missions offering between these two funds. (\$30,000, \$15,000 each)
 - c. We designate 10% of Cooperative Program Funds to the Iowa Ministry Fund beginning January 1, 2017 (\$550,000x10%=\$55,000)
 - d. We designate income from current building loan into Iowa Ministry Fund
 - e. Any funds designated from individuals or churches or other organizations.
 - f. That we designate a one-time grant from BCI Office reserves to cover the balance of \$100,000 for the first year not included in funding sources above, e.g. will have savings of over \$35,000 from Sandy's unexpected resignation.
- 3. That we partner with Oklahoma Baptists for Iowa building loan and repair loan needs.
- 4. That we cease promotion of the other foundation accounts.
- 5. Iowa Ministry Fund (IMF)
 - a. That the Foundation Committee each year allocates funds for IMF
 - b. Annual Timeline:
 - i. Each February Meeting, select ten IMF categories (see below)
 - ii. March and April, requests from agencies (see application instructions below)
 - iii. Each May, Foundation Committee decides on agencies (see criteria below)
 - iv. Summer: Prepare video materials for Iowa Missions Offering
 - v. September: Promote and collect Iowa Missions Offering
 - vi. October: Distribute funds to agencies
 - c. IMF categories and agency (non profit)examples
 - i. Crisis Pregnancy: Informed Choices
 - ii. Addiction Recovery: Teen Challenge
 - iii. Help for troubled youth: LSI
 - iv. Adoption/Orphan: Bethany in Des Moines,
 - v. Emergency, Temporary Housing: Hope Ministries
 - vi. Prison Ministry and Aftercare: Prison Fellowship
 - vii. Public Policy: The Family Leader, ADF
 - viii. International Mission Focus: Baptist Global Relief
 - ix. **BCI Ministries:**
 - (1) **Ministry in poverty impacted neighborhood: Friendship Center**
 - (2) **Disaster Relief: Iowa's Disaster Relief**

Selection Criteria:

Foundation Committee solicits applications for funds and distributed according to criteria. For example:

- 1. State wide reach
 - a. 1-3 sites
 - b. 4-6 sites
 - c. 6+ sites
- 2. Connecting clients with local churches
 - a. Not allowed
 - b. Tolerated
 - c. Encouraged
 - d. Preferred, active, trained, supported
- 3. Evangelistic

- a. Not allowed
 - b. Tolerated with restrictions
 - c. Encouraged
 - d. Preferred, active, trained, supported
4. Years in existence
 - a. 0-1
 - b. 2-4
 - c. 4-10
 - d. 10+
 5. Clients served
 - a. 0-10
 - b. 10-50
 - c. 50-100
 - d. 100+
 6. Doctrine
 - a. Not Christian
 - b. Holds to Apostles Creed
 - c. Protestant
 - d. Evangelical
 - e. Uses BF&M or similar
 7. Transparency
 - a. No sharing of budget
 - b. Some sharing budget
 - c. Full sharing budget
 8. Board
 - a. No screening for faith or church membership required by board members.
 - b. Preference for Christians on the board.
 - c. Has Christian statement of faith and requires board members to affirm statement and be active members of a local church.
 9. BCI Partnership and Promotion
 - a. No acknowledgment of BCI partnership
 - b. Partnership
 - c. BCI Logo and acknowledgment listed on annual donor report and at annual meeting
 10. International Missions Project
 - a. Evangelistic, local, relational, church starting, unreached people group, development

Request for Funds (application instructions)

The Baptist Convention of Iowa is an organization of churches in Iowa, partnered with the Southern Baptist Convention to reach Iowa and beyond for Christ.

The Iowa Missions Fund was created by the Baptist Convention of Iowa to partner with and support organizations that minister to the people of Iowa. Some examples of ministry needs are:

1. Crisis Pregnancy counseling, pregnancy and STD testing, sonograms, referrals.
2. Ministry to those who in jail or prison; and prison after-care, helping recently released individuals to integrate back into community.
3. Addiction recovery, helping those suffering from addiction and helping them to integrate back into community.
4. Disaster Relief, ministries that seek to aid those impacted by a natural disaster like a flood or tornado.

5. Ministry to a poverty impacted community or neighborhood that seeks to create a healthy community.
6. Adoption/Orphan/Foster care, ministry to connect and place vulnerable children with families.
7. Troubled youth
8. Public Policy advocacy especially for issues like religious freedom, abortion restrictions, biblical marriage and family support, education choice, and reducing over-taxation. Also provides voter education.

Questions:

1. What is the organization's mission statement? Describe the purpose of the agency/organization and primary activities to accomplish the purpose. Include such other information as founding date, director's name and starting date with the organization and as director, number of sites/locations you serve and number of people you reach/serve.
2. Do you have a statement of faith? Attach it to application. Are your board members, staff, and volunteers required to affirm the statement of faith?
3. How do you partner with and cooperate with local churches and involve your clients in local churches or help local churches to extend their ministries to your clients? How are your staff/volunteers trained or encouraged to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and incorporate clients into local churches?
4. Include the most recent budget.

Funding Process: Complete application is due in BCI office by April 30. Foundation Board will meet in May for final decisions and decision will be announced by May 31. Promotional materials are prepared in June and July, distributed in August and a special offering is taken among BCI churches in September. Funding amounts are determined by September 30. Distributions begin in 1/12 increments beginning October 10.

Communication: When funding begins, organization/agency agrees to include BCI's logo and partnership in normal communication channels (e.g. newsletter, web site, annual meeting program, etc.).

The Board reviewed the following changes to the list of churches:

Here are the churches that are no longer meeting

Central Baptist - Fairfield
 Community Baptist - Burlington
 Memorial - Shenandoah
 Right Turn Cowboy Church - DeSota
 University Baptist Church - Ames

Churches that don't associate with BCI anymore

Burmese Christian Fellowship - Waterloo

Churches that have no ACP reporting and CP, IMO giving (2 Years or more)

University Baptist Church - Iowa City
 Our Church - Wayland
 Second Baptist - Fort Madison

Tim offered update to the list and will continue to monitor and adjust.

Steve Marean motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Brandon Barker.
 Brandon closed the meeting in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:17pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Jerome Risting

Executive Director Annual Report

Tim Lubinus

2016 was another strong year for the Baptist Convention of Iowa (BCI). We partnered to start five new churches in Iowa and helped to start one in Columbia, Missouri. We also welcomed three additional churches to join the BCI. For the second year in a row, the BCI was a leader for percentage increase in Cooperative Program giving among state conventions in the SBC, increasing 36% for the year ending September 30, 2016.

Our primary areas of ministry are church starting, church development, and community transformation. Each of these has a full report in this document.

The church starting report is below, but here I'll mention that in cooperation with the North American Mission Board (NAMB) we created new staff position in Iowa that is being multiplied in other state conventions: the church based church planting catalyst. We have observed that healthy churches plant healthy churches and want to work with and through local churches. To get started, we selected four BCI affiliated churches that have recently started a church and partnered with them to start another church each year. The churches are Redeemer Church in Cedar Rapids, First Family Church in Ankeny, New Heights Church in Indianola, and Cornerstone Church in Ames. Soon after starting the program, Cornerstone Church began partnering directly with NAMB to focus beyond Iowa to start churches and collegiate ministries in university cities in the Midwest. Shane Kelley is on staff with the BCI to coordinate leadership development. Chase Abner coordinates collegiate ministry.

Gilmer Mauricio and Arnaldo Achucarro began work with the BCI this year to support Hispanic pastors and churches in the state and to develop additional leader. They have hosted a number of events and we are looking forward to even stronger ministry among Hispanics in Iowa in the future.

To strengthen churches, Chris McRae, Ed Gregory, and John Shaull have been tireless this year in meeting with churches and pastors to support, encourage and pray for these churches. They are also working hard to develop associational structures so that churches and pastors near one another can connect for encouragement and shared ministry. This year we especially want to thank and honor John Shaull for sixteen years of service and fifteen years as pastor in Winterset. John has been one of the longest serving BCI staff and is well known and appreciated by pastors in central Iowa and beyond. We are grateful to God that John has such a legacy of service with BCI churches.

In addition, we're excited that we've begun funding the best organization in each of ten categories through the Iowa Ministry Fund. The Foundation Committee uses criteria like doctrinal alignment, years of proven effectiveness, state-wide impact, broad ministry scope, connection with local churches, evangelism and discipleship emphasis, and desire to partner with the Baptist Convention of Iowa churches to select the ministries. We intend to give an additional ten percent of our Cooperative Program income and half of the Iowa Mission Offering to the Iowa Ministry Fund each year. More information is in the Foundation Committee Report below.

The Friendship Baptist Center's directors Jon and Mindy Jamison began their transition to become an independent ministry. The Center is still loved and strongly supported by the BCI, but we believe will be more effective with its own board of local supporting churches.

With the resignation of Frank McCrary, the BCI disaster relief ministry's leadership is transitioning to a partnership with Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention (WMBC). Dave and Jeanne Wedekind will direct the disaster relief ministry for both BCI and WMBC.

"Under the hood" we made a number of other structural changes in the BCI including transitioning to a mobile office. This included closing the sale of our office building in Urbandale in August and moving two full-time administrative positions to part-time positions. Sandy Guthrie resigned in January, Bobbie Thies transitioned to a part-time contract position, and Mandy Stenberg joined our staff in August as ministry assistant. Jon Olsen has done a great job with communications and the newsletter and Joni Wilkens continues to serve as WMU coordinator.

In all, we had a very encouraging year and look forward to 2017. We are grateful to be in partnership with nearly 15,000 Iowans who gather each week in BCI affiliated churches to honor Jesus and to make his name known in our state.

2016 Church Starting Report **Tim Lubinus**

"so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." Ephesians 3:10.

We continue to regard church starting as a key strategy for reaching new Iowa communities for Christ. Normally the ingredients for a church start include a vision for church planting, qualified church planter, a needy location, a sponsoring church, and initial funding.

The BCI contributes to church planter development through providing scholarships for students working toward seminary degrees, supporting collegiate interns working in new collegiate ministries, and by partnering with NAMB to provide funding for interns and apprentices who are preparing for church planting. We provide an extensive assessment process including a weekend assessment retreat (provided by Multiply Group) for the planter. After successful completion, the planter goes through a church planter training process that includes eleven essential skills for church planters. Three people in Iowa have completed the trainer certification from Multiply Group, three planters have completed the training and four more are currently taking the training. We will require this training of new planters in the future.

As the planter is developed, a partnership is created to match a planter with a specific community and a sponsoring church. The BCI and NAMB contribute financially to help fund the planter for the first two years. To help identify the needs in each community, we provide extensive demographic information at ImpactIowa.net/. The BCI and NAMB have entered a partnership with four Iowa church planting churches to develop, place, and support new church starts.

In 2016, below is a list of Planters/Churches starting or having received BCI/NAMB funding:

1. Christ Point Baptist Church, Shenandoah, Noel Gandy
2. Frontier Church, Des Moines, Cole Deike and Andrew Self
3. Anthem Church, Stan Hayek and Luke Hettinger, Columbia, MO
4. Paragon Church, Grinnell, Cody Hinton
5. Cottage Grove Church, Des Moines, Andy Norris and Josh Moglestad
6. Capitol City Church, Carlisle, CJ Nissen
7. Hosanna Live Love and Laugh Church, DSM, Mark Scott
8. Stonebridge Church, Boone, Matt Yoder
9. CityScape Church, DSM, Cameron Scott

10. Redemption Hill Church, Sioux City, Richard Crowson
11. Crossroads Church, Red Oak Ricky Rohrig
12. Redeemer Church, Waterloo, Tom Ogston
13. Vetical Church, DSM, Matthew O'Mealey

New Affiliates, churches that have joined the BCI this year:

1. Harvest Bible Chapel, Davenport, Rob Willey
2. Swahili Baptist Church, DSM, Faustine Alobo
3. Grace Baptist Church, Waverly, Jim Lee

Collegiate Ministry Report

Chase Abner and Geoff Safford

College ministry continues to thrive and spread among BCI churches. In 2016, God has used our churches to start new college ministries and to influence collegiate leaders from across North America. Iowa's Baptist collegiate ministry is unique among many states because of our commitment to a church-based ministry model.

During the 2015-2016 school year, our collegiate ministries impacted over 6,000 students across our state with 311 students making new professions of faith. There were 542 students who were developed as leaders and nearly 400 who participated in mission work. Remarkably, students in Iowa-based collegiate ministries raised \$532,400 for missions during the school year.

In August, BCI churches planted two new churches with college ministries in Iowa and one in Missouri. Cornerstone Church (Ames) planted Cottage Grove Church in Des Moines and has established a Salt Company to impact students at Drake University, Des Moines University, Grand View University, and Des Moines Area Community College. New Heights Church (Indianola) planted Paragon Church in Grinnell with a college ministry, Light Company, to reach students at Grinnell College. Finally, Candeco Church (Waterloo) planted Anthem Church in Columbia, MO with a Salt Company at the University of Missouri.

Another highlight of the year came as over 300 college ministry leaders from across North America gathered in Ames for an event sponsored by the North American Mission Board. The event was called Hitchhikers: Salt Company and was designed to allow guests to learn the history and convictions behind Cornerstone Church's approach to reaching, discipling, and sending students with the gospel.

BCI continues to provide financial assistance to eight collegiate ministries through our partnership with LifeWay Christian Resources. We also support 2 collegiate interns who are serving through Veritas Church (Cedar Rapids), and Cottage Grove Church (Des Moines).

Looking ahead, BCI plans to continue assisting our churches to reach and disciple college students on more Iowa campuses, while also supporting our churches as they continue to plant in other states and around the globe.

Foundation Committee Report

The Foundation Committee had a very busy year. Upon observing that some of the funds haven't been accessed in over a decade the committee worked toward a major overhaul of the funds by creating the

Iowa Ministry Fund (IMF). The IMF is designed to support the best organization in ten categories of ministry. Below are the categories and the 2016 recipients:

1. Crisis pregnancy centers: Informed Choices of Iowa
2. Addiction recovery ministries: Teen Challenge of the Midlands
3. Ministries that support youth in crisis: Wildwood Hills Ranch
4. Adoption/Orphan/Foster Care ministries: No applicant this year
5. Ministries that provide emergency and transitional housing: Hope Ministries
6. Ministries that provide prison ministry and aftercare: Way, Truth, Life Ministries
7. Ministries that impact public policy: Two ministries: The Family Leader and Alliance Defending Freedom
8. Disaster relief ministry: BCI Disaster Relief
9. Ministries serving poverty impacted communities: The Friendship Baptist Center and Freedom for Youth Ministries
10. Cross-cultural ministries: No applicant this year.

To get things started for the IMF in 2016 the committee recommended and the executive committee approved that the IMF will be funded through 50% of this year's Iowa Mission Offering (the other 50% goes toward seminary tuition scholarships and collegiate ministry interns for new campus ministry) plus allocation of BCI's reserve funds in order to allocate \$10,000 for each group.

In the future the recommendation of the Foundation Committee and BCI Executive Board is that the IMF is funded through:

1. 10% of Cooperative Program Funds
2. 50% of Hyde Iowa Missions Offering
3. Use of income from BCI's Foundation Funds

The foundation committee offered twenty-five seminary tuition scholarships for full-time seminary students from BCI affiliated churches. Additionally, the foundation committee funded five collegiate interns in 2015-2016:

1. Creston, SWICC, Crest Baptist Church - Aaron Young
2. Indianola, Simpson College, New Heights Church - Kira Klepel
3. Cedar Falls, UNI, Candeo Church, - Christina Redd
4. Cedar Rapids, Coe College, Kirkwood College, Veritas Church - Jenny Calsyn
5. Ankeny, DMACC, First Family Church - Timor Nesbitt

Instead of initiating and servicing church building loans, the Foundation committee decided to partner with the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma (BFO) to handle future church loans. The BFO has already made at least one loan to a BCI affiliated church. At the time of this decision the BCI had two church loans: to Veritas Church in Cedar Rapids and to Crossroads Church in Red Oak. These loans are scheduled to both be paid off in 2020.

The market value of BCI trust funds with High Ground on October 21, 2016 was \$698,789.19. This includes the corpus funds listed below:

- Corpus Kier Memorial Fund \$20,000
- Lindberg-McFerron Scholarship Fund \$20,000
- Irene McFerron Small Church Fund \$30,000
- Hamilton Collegiate Missions Fund \$10,000
- Barnes New Work \$10,000

Iowa Woman's Missionary Union
Joni Wilkinson

By All Means, the theme for Woman's Missionary Union in 2016, calls Christian women to take whatever steps needed to participate in the redemptive work of Christ. I Corinthians 9:22b-23, NIV, says, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

WMU is an organization for women whose mission is to inform and inspire Christians to influence their world for Christ. They follow this passion by serving in the ministry of their churches, providing missions education, supporting missionaries through prayer and offerings and participating in hands on mission work in their local communities and beyond. WMU may be organized on a local church level, in associations of churches, and on state and national levels. Iowa WMU provides women from across the state opportunities to fellowship together, encourage one another, develop leadership skills, and work together for the sake of the gospel.

In 2016 Iowa WMU provided scholarship help for some church planter and pastor's wives to attend the ONE Conference for women held in April. We also featured World Crafts, a WMU fair trade ministry that provides sustainable income for artisans around the world by selling their crafts in the United States.

Iowa WMU nominated Iowa Missionary Mindy Jamison, Co-Director of the Friendship Baptist Center, Des Moines, for the 2016 Dellanna West O'Brien Women's Leadership Award sponsored by the WMU Foundation. For the past seventeen years, Mindy has invested her life in inner city Des Moines ministering to adults and children in the Friendship Center Community as well as mentoring several college and semester missionaries and volunteers serving at the Center. It was with great joy that eleven ladies from four Iowa churches were present to see Mindy receive this special honor at the National WMU Annual Meeting in St. Louis in June.

The Iowa WMU Coordinator serves as a contact person for International Mission Board missionaries with Iowa connections. In 2016 three families heading to the mission field have contacted us. Anyone interested in receiving communications from these missionaries can email iowawmu@gmail.com for an email address to contact these families. Along with the contact information, we'll give some guidelines for communication with them.

One blessing this year has been getting to know Ethel Mauricio, pastor's wife and North American Missionary serving the Lord at Iglesia Bautista Hispana Emmanuel in Cedar Rapids. Ethel spoke at the Iowa WMU Annual Meeting held on September 30 and October 1, 2016, at Calvary Baptist Church, Marshalltown. Ethel's son, Emmanuel, led the music at the meeting. One highlight of the time was singing a worship song in English and Spanish at the same time. We look forward to introducing Ethel to more Hispanic leaders serving the Lord in other states through the network of National WMU. At the annual meeting, the group held a reception for Mindy Jamison in honor of her Women's Leadership award presented earlier in the year.

As we approach the Christmas season, Iowa WMU will be distributing materials to churches and encouraging people to pray for our international missionaries and give generously and sacrificially to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering so that by all means, we may participate in the redemptive work of God through Jesus Christ, and in the process, share in its blessings.

IMPACT UNIVERSITY 2016 REPORT
Eugene Guthrie

THEME: "IS THIS NORMAL?"

IMPACT UNIVERSITY 2016 is a state youth camp for secondary students sponsored by the Baptist Convention of Iowa and supported by Metro Baptist Association.

Impact University met once again in 2016 on the beautiful campus of Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA. The date for this year's camp was July 11-16, 2016. We had 88 students and 36 adult leaders attend Impact University 2016. The theme for this year's camp was "Is This Normal?". Our focus scripture was Colossians 3:23-24. Challenging our students to live a life filled with devotion and obedience in their walk with Christ.

Cody Hinton was our chapel speaker for the week and brought dynamic and relevant messages from the book of Colossians. Cody is currently planting a church in Grinnell, IA.

Jay Safford served as our praise & worship leader for the week. Jay led a praise band consisting of Impact University students. Jay serves as Associate Pastor at New Bridge Church in Winterset, IA.

Students at Impact were divided into age group or 'schools' as follows:

- Red School for students entering the 7-8th Grades
- Blue School for students entering the 9th-10th Grades
- Orange School for students entering the 11-12th Grades (including 2016 graduates)

These schools meet twice a day throughout the week for discipleship training. The schools are further divided into family groups consisting of 8-10 students with a male and female adult "Family Leader".

These "families" meet together after each school session and evening worship service to discuss what they are learning and experiencing in their sessions. These family groups are the heart of Impact University and is where many of the truths settle in on the hearts of the students. This is why it is so critical to have mature followers of Christ volunteer to serve as Family Leaders.

The days of Impact were filled with Pep Rallies, School sessions, Family times, delicious meals, various recreation and fellowship opportunities, Ministry Classes (designed to give students tools and ideas of how to use their talents to serve in their churches) and worship services, etc.

It was another great week at Impact University and we who are privileged to serve wish to thank the Baptist Convention of Iowa for your continual support of Impact University. The staff of Impact consist of pastors, youth pastors and members of BCI churches around the state. Impact University exist to serve the churches of our state by providing a week of discipleship and mission training for your students.

Discipleship Team Leader Report
Christopher McRae

Discipleship is the ongoing process of leading followers of Jesus Christ on the journey of spiritual maturity such that they are becoming more like him: embracing his vision, reflecting his values, developing his gifts, modeling his behavior, and demonstrating his character.

There are certain principles of the discipleship process that help individuals become more fully devoted to Christ and his Kingdom, thus facilitating their transformation into Christlikeness. These include a focus on the following:

- A Biblical Maturity — Personal Growth in the Transformational Principle of developing the Vision, Actions, Character, and Skill of a Disciple of Jesus Christ.
- A Discipleship Ministry — Becoming an Intentional Leader of others by Identifying, Engaging and Training them to become Disciple Makers.
- A Personal Involvement — Engaging in a Relational Environment to pass along the heart and life of a follower of Jesus Christ to the person you are discipling.
- A Practical Process — Practicing a Reproducible Pattern of making replicating disciples.

One of the most significant ways that the BCI assists churches in their discipleship responsibility is in how these issues are addressed in the area of Small Group ministries. This includes everything from traditional Sunday School classes, to Cell ministries, to Affinity groups and Bible studies.

Whether the church is a church *with* small groups or *of* small groups, the Discipleship Team has worked with pastors and lay leaders to enhance their ability to engage church members in this process. It is done through initial assessments, ongoing training and individualized coaching.

In this past year the DTL has worked with nearly two dozen individual churches in evaluating their discipling ministries and working with them in some capacity to enhance their ability in using small groups to mature members as followers of Jesus Christ. Additionally, in cooperation with specific churches of the Convention, work has been accomplished to outline a schedule and a curriculum for groups to start or restart. The “pre-work” involved in this begins with initial meetings, followed by surveys of both the church leadership and members. A customized plan is then developed for implementing the needed vision, content and oversight.

We look forward broadening engagement and developing resources for BCI churches looking to transition group life into effective disciple-making ministries.

Friendship Baptist Center 2016 Jon & Mindy Jamison

The Friendship Baptist Center has a long history of more than 30 years of ministry engagement in poverty impacted communities in Des Moines. All of these years have come under the direction and financial support of the Baptist Convention of Iowa and the North American Mission Board. Recent strategy and funding changes have ushered the Center into a new era of ministry and partnership.

Effective January 1, 2017, the Friendship Baptist Center will be a stand-alone nonprofit entity and will no longer be fully supported by the Baptist Convention of Iowa. BCI will still continue to partner with the Center, but will no longer be the primary "owner" of the ministry. Additionally, the staff of the Center will no longer be employed by the Baptist Convention of Iowa. This means that the Center must generate its own budget for staff, ministry expenses and building and maintenance costs.

A Board of Directors, made up of Iowa Baptists, is already in place and will continue to lead and relate to Center staff. As the work and ministry of the Center moves forward, please continue to pray for the Center and for how God may lead you to invest in this ministry.

Due to these significant changes, the Center now relies on partners for financial investment like never before in its history. Partnerships with the Baptist Convention of Iowa, Metro Association, churches and individuals have already begun in an effort to ensure a lasting and fruitful impact through the Friendship Baptist Center. If you would consider financially partnering with the Center, on a monthly basis, that

would be most appreciated.

Below are a few highlights from 2016.

18 People received Jesus as Savior

5 Followed Jesus in Baptism

21 Mission Teams

35 Ongoing weekday volunteers

6000 people fed through ministries

4 weeks of Community Market

4 weeks of Summer Camp at the Center

Clothing Closet has closed and has been replaced with a Community Breakfast ministry

Thank you so much for your long history of investment and involvement in this ministry!

Pastor/Church Support Report 2016

John Shaull and Ed Gregory

The Church/Pastor Support Staff has been given the opportunity to work with the existing Baptist Convention of Iowa pastors and churches both individually and collectively. It is the purpose of this Staff to offer opportunities for encouragement and fellowship, and to be a resource for these congregations in several areas. As our BCI website indicates we serve in the following areas:

- Association Facilitation (fellowship and encouragement groups for pastors)
- Pastoral Support and Encouragement
- Church Staff, Interim, and Pulpit Supply Needs
- Church Evangelism Project Funds

With the vastness of the territory and diversity of the congregations John Shaull works the Western half of the State and Ed Gregory the Eastern half. They share in this work with Executive Director, Tim Lubinus and Discipleship Team Leader Chris McRae who work with numerous churches located throughout the State.

John Shaull relates that there are over 30 churches in Southwest, Northwest and the Metro Association of Iowa; where I serve as support staff for our churches and pastors as well as part time Director of Missions for Metro Baptist Association. I had the unenviable responsibility of helping to close Heartland Baptist Chapel in Ida Grove, Iowa this year. Currently, three churches in my area are searching for new pastors. We are grateful for our pastors and their families who serve faithfully and joyfully across our Convention. New pastors have been called to Calvary

Baptist Church in Clarinda (Ben McKim) and Calvary Baptist Church in Glenwood (Jamie Cheramie). Steve Rice is serving as interim pastor at Pioneer Baptist Church in Denison. I continue to visit pastors and churches for encouragement and pastoral care as well as keeping them connected to the Baptist Convention of Iowa and the various resources available to them through our Convention. I am grateful for the privilege of working alongside such dedicated men and women in God's kingdom.

Ed Gregory, states that in the eastern part of the state there are nearly 60 congregations including some of our oldest and some of our youngest churches each with their unique blessings and challenges. Some are dealing with "growing pains" and others with the struggle of how to

regroup so as to insure a healthy future. A good portion of this year has been spent engaging the pastors individually for support and encouragement and attempting to help the pastor association groups get organized and up and running. In an attempt to spend more time with pastors and churches, we have initiated the use of a small travel trailer as a "portable office" which allows for extended time in various regions for field visits.

We have been blessed to attend the building opening and dedication services for two congregations New Life in Dubuque, and Community Baptist in Marion. We also have had the privilege of joining First Baptist Church of Albia in welcoming their new pastor Matthew Risting. There are still several churches who are searching for their next pastor.

In southcentral and southeast Iowa the leaders have been working toward development of a strategy which, in partnership with some churches and associations in northern Missouri, would provide evangelism, ministries and potential church plants in the numerous rural small towns of that part of our state.

Jointly it is the privilege of the Pastor/ Church Support Staff to provide resources and consultation for churches as they search for pastors and for churches and pastors as they seek to fulfill their "Great Commission" in challenging times. What a wonderful time to be part of what God is doing in and through the churches and leaders He has planted, and is planting, in the rich "soil" of Iowa!

Iowa Baptist News Report 2016

Jon Olsen, Communications Coordinator

It is the goal of Iowa Baptist News to inform Iowans, our friends and supporters about the good news of the great things God is doing in Iowa and through Southern Baptist churches and ministries. We try to fulfill this goal by:

1. Publishing relevant news and information on the BCIowa.org website each week.
2. Sending a weekly email recap of the news and information each Friday.
3. Publishing a paper newsletter four times a year.
4. Using social media such as Facebook, Twitter and others to share news and information.

Each Friday the Iowa Baptist E-News is sent to nearly 700 subscribers. An average of ten articles are published to the News section of the BCI website weekly. Four times a year the Iowa Baptist Newsletter is mailed to about 400 subscribers.

Please help us spread the good news of what God is doing through your church or ministry by sending news articles and photos to IowaBaptistNews@gmail.com. We would love to let others know about the great things that are happening in your church or ministry.

If you use these social media platforms, please "like" our Facebook page at facebook.com/IowaBaptistNews and "follow" us on Twitter [@IowaBaptistNews](https://twitter.com/IowaBaptistNews).

We would like to encourage everyone to subscribe to the Iowa Baptist E-News and/or the Iowa

Baptist Newsletter. You may sign up for both services at bciowa.org/subscribe. Please see the Iowa Baptist News booth if you have any questions, or to sign up for these services in person.

Disaster Relief 2016

Dave and Jeanne Wedekind, Co-Directors

We have entered into a partnership with Baptist Convention of Iowa to lead in Disaster Relief. We are currently the co-directors for Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention and will continue in that position. This partnership is to begin January 1, 2017, however, due to the recent occurrence of disasters we have been trying to coordinate the responses inviting Iowa volunteers to join in.

- We met with Tim Lubinus and key D.R. leaders to discuss the proposed partnership with Iowa.
- In June we invited volunteers from Iowa to attend our regional training in Portage, WI.
- We invited four key leaders to the Region IV Disaster Relief Roundtable in Shepherdsville, KY in September. They attended breakout training sessions and we discussed future direction for D.R. Dave was elected as vice president of Region IV at this meeting.
- We discussed condition and location of units and equipment.
- We began credentialing and providing up to date badges for those recently trained.
- We have made available our MN-WI Online Recertification Training to Iowa volunteers.
- We have met and/or contacted pastors in the flooded areas in NE Iowa to determine needs for D.R. volunteers. No need was identified by them for volunteers to respond.
- We participated in the Iowa VOAD conference call during the recent flooding
- We are now on the contact list for Iowa VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).
- We have sent out response notices for disasters in Louisiana-Minnesota-Wisconsin-Iowa-Florida asking for volunteers to go with us.
- We authorized the completion of a shower unit and the signage/lettering of the recovery unit.
- We will be attending the Iowa Annual Meeting and having a display to encourage involvement in this ministry.
- We are using NAMB's Formstack software to track all the responding teams and their work.

We are looking forward to making our Disaster Relief teams stronger by working together.

History Report 2016

Joseph W. Needham, Ph.D. Chair

A cursory examination of Iowa Southern Baptists over the previous year indicates that the Lord Jesus Christ utilizes the Baptist Convention of Iowa to accomplish various objectives regarding our reaching the Hawkeye State for His glory. The quantity of churches continues to elevate as do the total number of individuals who join the houses of worship. Other statistics appear to

suggest that indeed we are by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit fulfilling the Great Commission. Clearly the message of salvation is being received by those without a personal relationship with the Savior. Yet much work remains to be done as the evil one implements his strategies to hinder the Lord's work. He prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour, yet we are empowered with a sober spirit to be on the alert. He attacks with flaming arrows but Christ provides the shield of faith with which to quench those very darts. Hence, the Lord's work continues unabated.

During the past year the state office continued to experience personnel changes. As our new system of state missions continued in place we have seen several new churches planted and at least one restarted. Hopefully we will see more churches planted around the state where few Baptist or evangelical places of worship exist. Indeed, some churches are located well over 50 miles to the nearest Southern Baptist congregation. Regrettably Iowa has far too many counties and county seats without an evangelical body of believers and that number actually increased this year. Let us pray earnestly that the Lord will use evangelistic strategies implemented over the past years to fulfill this growing need. How blessed we are to work and fellowship with believers who take seriously Jesus words as recorded in Mark 16:15, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

A brief statistical analysis illustrates a number of areas of continued growth and improvement for which we thank the Lord Jesus. Regrettably many specific figures regarding attendance, Vacation Bible School, mission offerings and other issues were unavailable so the annual report will not include as much information as normal. Nevertheless, the information that I do have is promising. Last year was the first time in five years that our membership grew, and that trend continued as the Lord added 475 members to 12,785. Unfortunately other comparative figures on VBS, baptism, church attendance and Sunday school are unavailable.

Complementing the increased membership is the subsequent growth in giving. Total receipts reached \$22,302,304 surpassing 2015 by nearly 5 million dollars. The total mission expenditures elevated from \$2,282,301 to \$2,435,284. Regrettably a paltry supply of financial figures precludes a comparison of other giving such as the Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and the Hyde State Missions offerings.

Please be aware of the fact that these figures are based on the Annual Church Profile. With incomplete or inaccurate information it is exceptionally challenging for the leadership to plan, budget, allocate resources and perform other tasks to reach the Hawkeye State for the Lord Jesus. Please respond accurately and promptly to the ACP request. The information it contains is more helpful than many realize.

We continue to have fewer pastoral changes than has been the case historically. This is particularly true in regard to those who left the state or resigned their ministry position. Three pastors either relocated to another state or retired; Bob Stout of Quimby, Paul Porter of Van Meter and David Williamson of Dunkerton. Incoming pastors include Noel Gandy who relocated to the restart at Christ Point Church in Shenandoah, Charles Cuffman moved to Quimby, Bruce Walters settled in Van Meter, Andrew McDonald relocated to Bedford and the Muscatine Baptist Chapel called Chris Beasley.

It is with great pleasure to announce several new starts this year. Cottage Grove, led by Andy Norris and Frontier Church shepherded by Cole Deike are both in the Hawkeye State's largest city. Paragon Church in Grinnell is led by Cody Hinton and Stan Hayek pastors Anthem Church in Columbia, Missouri. Nevertheless, two churches closed their doors, Heartland Baptist in Ida Grove and Fairfield's Central Baptist.

As we bring the report to a close there are several changes to note. A few of them include the selling of the office building in August. We are now mobile. In January Sandy Guthrie resigned her position as administrative assistant to pursue other opportunities. Her position was filled by Eric Seever who recently left. Mandy Stenberg now works in that capacity. Frank McCrary left his position as Disaster Relief director. David and Jeanne Wedekind now fulfill that responsibility. Bobby Thies resigned her position as business manager but she still works as a consultant regarding the cooperative program receipts.

What a blessing and privilege it is to prepare this annual report for the Baptist Convention of Iowa. Although we face untold opportunities and situations in which to trust Him alone, the Lord Jesus always proves faithful with daily mercies and sufficient grace. His Word remains the unchanging lamp unto our feet and light unto our path. In the mid-nineteenth century my maternal and paternal ancestors settled in this state and many of their descendants remain. God called us here, so let us with renewed vision and purpose continue to fulfill the Great Commission and share the message of salvation to Iowans, residents of "the beautiful land between the rivers."