

BCI2021AM

2021

BAPTIST CONVENTION OF IOWA		2021 ANNUAL MEETING • 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION	
LOCATION	DES MOINES • IOWA	DATE	NOV • 5 & 6 • 2021



BAPTIST
CONVENTION
OF IOWA

SCHEDULE

EVENT SCHEDULE

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Baptist Convention of Iowa. It's been another interesting year and there is again much to be thankful for as a network of churches.



9:00a

Annual Meeting Session 1
Family Life Center



10:30a

Break
Coffee, water, snack

11:15a

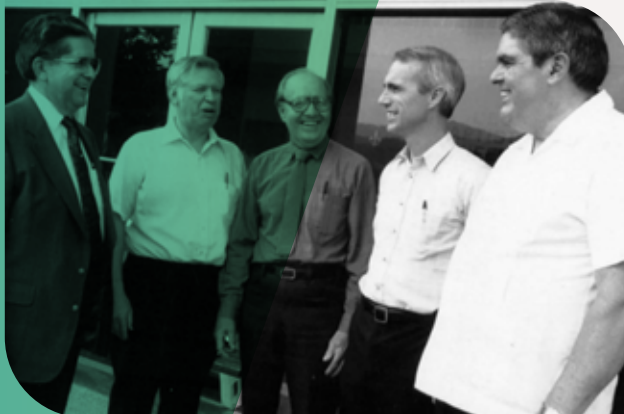
Annual Meeting Session 2
Family Life Center



12:15p

Lunch
Family Life Center

1:15p



Annual Meeting Session 3
Family Life Center

3:00p

End
See you at the next BCI event!

WELCOME

In 2020, the Baptist Convention of Iowa celebrated 25 years as a state convention. Unable to meet together in person last November, we are celebrating this anniversary during this year's Annual Meeting.

This year we remember and celebrate the hard work of the early pioneers who started the first Southern Baptist Church in Anamosa in 1954, and the faithful shepherds who led a fellowship of churches to ultimately join together and become a state convention in 1995.

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary, we recognized with the first "Legacy Awards" four pastors who played a significant role during those early years: Jack Owens, Tom Nesbitt, Max Carmichael, and Ed Gregory.

In addition, we are grateful beyond words to the two men who served as Executive Director / Treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Iowa for much of the 25 years of its history—Dr. Wyndell Jones and Jimmy Barrentine.

Together, the churches of the Baptist Convention of Iowa established a bright gospel light throughout the state of Iowa. It is on this foundation of hard work and faithful stewardship that we move forward.

The Lord is sending us a new generation of leaders who will carry on the faithful work God has called us to fulfill. Young men and women with a passion for the gospel and a calling on their lives to serve Jesus Christ and His Church. These young families stand on the foundation of the church built by apostles and saints throughout this age with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone.

Our mission has never been more urgent: to pursue the Great Commission as a state convention of churches throughout Iowa, across the nation, and around the world.

Our strategy has never been more clear: to multiply disciples, churches, and mission through the power of the Holy Spirit and for the glory of God.

So, it is with gratitude and appreciation that we celebrate the legacy of the past, and it is with hope and conviction that we look towards the future as Great Commission Baptists.



Tim Lubinus
Executive Director/Treasurer



BCI STAFF

TIM LUBINUS

- Executive Director/Treasurer

CHRIS ELLER

- Associate Executive Director

CHRIS MAVITY

- Leadership Coach

ED GREGORY

- Pastor & Church Support Staff

CHRIS McRAE

- Pastor & Church Support Staff

CHASE ABNER

- Lead Church Planting Catalyst

BEN BRADLEY

- Communications & Outreach Director

MANDY STENBERG

- Ministry Support

BOB ALLEN

- Pastor & Church Support Staff

JONI WILKINSON

- WMU Coordinator

SHANE KELLEY

- Leadership Development Coordinator

KARI MINTER

- Church Planter Spouse Support

2022 CALENDAR

Mark your calendars and make plans to attend these important events.

- January 18-20 Midwest Leadership Summit
- January 28 Lifeway Pastors Lunch
- January 28-29 Iowa Men's Conference (Ankeny)
- February 4-5 Iowa Men's Conference (Chariton)
- February 11-12 Iowa Men's Conference (Cedar Rapids)
- March 11-12 Ignite Youth Conference
- April 8 BCI Executive Board Meeting
- April 21-23 Ministry Life Retreat
- April 29-30 ONE Women's Equipping Conference
- June 12-13 Send Conference 2022 (Anaheim, CA)
- June 14-15 SBC Annual Meeting (Anaheim, CA)
- July 8 BCI Executive Board Meeting
- September 11-18 Iowa Ministry Fund Emphasis Weeks
- September 18 BCI Executive Board Meeting
- November 4-5 BCI Annual Meeting

1. CHURCH LIST & GIVING REPORT

The 2020 report on BCI partner churches and Cooperative Program giving report

2. BCI EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

A report of the compiled minutes from the 2021 BCI Executive Board Meetings

3. 2022CI CALENDAR

Official list of holidays, SBC national events, and BCI statewide events for 2021

4. SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The 2021 report from the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee on the state of the convention

5. INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD REPORT

The 2021 report from the International Mission Board on international ministry and church planting efforts

6. NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD REPORT

The 2021 report from the North American Mission Board on church planting ministry in America

7. ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMM. REPORT

The 2021 Report on Goals & Accomplishments from the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

8. GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

The 2021 Report on Goals & Accomplishments from GuideStone Financial Resources

9. LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES REPORT

The 2021 Report on Goals & Accomplishments from the Lifeway Christian Resources

REPORTS

BOOK OF REPORTS

You can find the 2021 Book of Reports online at the BCI website. Go to www.bciowa.org/reports to download and read individual reports on BCI initiatives and updates from national partners.



www.bciowa.org/reports

2022 BUDGET

Below is the summary of the 2022 Budget as approved by the BCI Executive Board after feedback from the convention.

BAPTIST CONVENTION OF IOWA 2022 Annual Budget

Income	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 (Proposed)	% Change
Cooperative Program	\$730,000	\$1,020,000	\$1,100,000	8%
Iowa Missions Offering	\$36,500	\$30,000	\$35,000	17%
Other Partners	\$132,750	\$60,000	\$10,000	-83%
Reserves	\$70,796	\$144,500	\$554,912	284%
Total	\$970,046	\$1,254,500	\$1,699,912	36%
Expenses	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 (Proposed)	% Change
Multiplying Churches (also NAMB funds, below)				
<i>Multiplying Churches Total</i>	\$19,000	\$24,500	\$100,000	308%
Multiplying Disciples--Supporting Pastors/Churches				
Events	\$81,500	\$60,000	\$62,000	3%
Other Ministry and Support	\$29,400	\$30,000	\$59,000	97%
<i>Multiplying Disciples Total</i>	<i>\$110,900</i>	<i>\$90,000</i>	<i>\$121,000</i>	
Multiplying Mission				
Cooperative Program	\$365,000	\$612,000	\$825,000	35%
Iowa Ministry Fund	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	-100%
BCI Expansion			\$137,500	
<i>Multiplying Mission Total</i>	<i>\$465,000</i>	<i>\$712,000</i>	<i>\$962,500</i>	
BCI Organization				
Staff salary benefits	\$386,566	\$396,420	\$418,832	6%
Office, admin, insurance, staff travel	\$88,580	\$81,580	\$97,580	20%
<i>BCI Organization Total</i>	<i>\$475,146</i>	<i>\$478,000</i>	<i>\$516,412</i>	
Total	\$1,070,046	\$1,304,500	\$1,699,912	30%
Balance			\$0	
NAMB				
Church Planting & Evangelism	\$236,000	\$236,000	\$346,000	
Admin	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$0	
Total	\$336,000	\$286,000	\$346,000	21%
NAMB also funding full-time church planting catalyst				

SBC NATIONAL ENTITIES

- ❑ SBC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE • sbcec.org
- ❑ IMB • imb.org
- ❑ NAMB • namb.net
- ❑ ERLC • erlc.com
- ❑ MBTS • mbts.edu
- ❑ GUIDESTONE • guidestone.org
- ❑ LIFEWAY • lifeway.com

STATE & NATIONAL PARTNERS

- ❑ AMERICAN CHURCH GROUP • americanchurchgroup.com
- ❑ BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION • billygraham.org
- ❑ CAMPERS ON MISSION • iowacampersonmission.com
- ❑ THE FAMILY LEADER • thefamilyleader.com
- ❑ WMU • wmu.com

PARTNERS

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

We have many statewide and national ministry partners that have supported BCI ministry throughout the year and contributed toward our Annual Meeting event in many ways. Please visit each ministry online to find out how they can partner with your church to support gospel ministry.



2022 IOWA MEN'S CONFERENCE

ANKENY • JANUARY 28-29

First Family Church, Ankeny

CHARITON • FEBRUARY 4-5

Cornerstone Community Church, Chariton

CEDAR RAPIDS • FEBRUARY 11-12

Community Baptist Church, Marion

ONE EVENT • THREE LOCATIONS

The Iowa Men's Conference is an annual gathering of men across the state of Iowa. Through this one event in multiple locations, we provide men the opportunity to engage together for growth and encouragement.

LET'S CHART THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES WITH THE COMPASS OF GOD'S WORD AND HIS LIGHT TO GUIDE US!



REGISTER NOW AT:

www.iowamensconference.com



2022 MINISTRY LIFE RETREAT

WHEN: Thursday, April 21 – Saturday, April 23

WHERE: Hotel Renovo, Des Moines, Iowa

COST: \$50 per couple (includes hotel room & 3 meals)

SPEAKER: Pastor Jake Each, Veritas Cedar Rapids

MORE RETREAT/LESS CONFERENCE:

The Ministry Life Retreat emphasizes retreating from the stress and busy-ness of ministry to be refreshed and encouraged. We have group worship and teaching times but we also leave plenty of time for sharing ministry joys and challenges and discussing what's going on in your church. Of course, there will still be dedicated times of sweet fellowship, delicious food, and free time to rest, relax, and reconnect with your spouse.



REGISTER NOW AT:

www.bciowa.org/events

PROMO

NEW LEARNING COHORTS



Help your church take its next step in multiplying disciples, churches, and mission by developing new skills and insights as part of a learning cohort.

EQUIPPING FOR PASTORS & CHURCH LEADERS

*Pastors develop their craft at the
2019 Preaching Workshop.*



Each cohort will last six months and include both in-person group meetings as well as online calls. You will also receive individual coaching to help apply the lessons learned to your unique setting.

1. EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP COHORT

Learn how to improve your leadership at the staff level. Topics include assessing your staff strengths and weaknesses, staffing for your strategy, effective delegation, and empowering your staff to work effectively as a team. This cohort is limited to senior staff leaders (lead pastors or executive pastors) with six or more full-time staff members.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COHORT

Is your church making a difference in your community? How do you know? Learning to assess your community's needs and develop an effective strategy to reach your community takes careful analysis and planning. Topics addressed in this cohort include calling, passion, assessing your community, and developing strategies to reach your community.

3. EMPOWERING VOLUNTEERS COHORT

Many churches have serving as a core value, but struggle to engage volunteers into meaningful ministry opportunities. Topics in this cohort include developing a volunteer-to-leader game plan, how to find volunteers, and how to develop volunteers. Most important, you will learn the one simple strategy that will solve 50% of your volunteer needs.

“Experience expert coaching while building your connection with other BCI churches and leaders.”

Cohorts are limited to a maximum of six participants. All Cohorts will begin in January 2022. (You can anticipate 3-4 six-hour, in-person meetings and 3-4 one-hour zoom meetings. The schedule will be finalized once each cohort is filled, and participants provide feedback on dates and times. All in-person meetings will be held in Ankeny. All meals and materials will be provided.)

For more information, contact Chris Eller at celler@bciowa.org.

IN 2020, THE BAPTIST CONVENTION OF IOWA CELEBRATED 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY AS A CONVENTION IN IOWA.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY TOGETHER

THE HISTORY OF BCI

Some of the state staff involved when Dr. Jones arrived were State Missions Director Richard Lamborn, East Iowa Director of Missions Ross Harmonson, South Iowa Director of Missions Phil Hall, and Church Development Director Bill Spencer.

The gospel of Christ is evident in the legacy of partnership and faithful ministry that characterized each phase of the establishment of the convention. One thing that shines through is how much the local churches worked together to form ministry partnerships fueled by faith and cooperation.

MORE THAN 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Before becoming a convention, the first SBC churches in Iowa were organized as the “Iowa Association” of the Missouri Baptist Convention. After a season of growth and development,

the organization eventually became the “Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship” and was still under the leadership of the Missouri Convention. Eventually, when the time was deemed right, the Iowa Fellowship was “constituted” as convention in 1995. “Our Time Has Come” was the theme of the constituting event and leaders from more than 90 churches and “missions” (new potential churches) were part of the process.

“The ministry of BCI is built on history that goes way beyond the last 25 years,” said Ed Gregory, BCI Pastor

Church Support Staff for Eastern Iowa. Before serving on staff at BCI, Ed served as pastor at Immanuel Baptist in Cedar Rapids between 1982-1999. Ed was involved with the organization even prior to the establishment of the convention and has served under all three of the full time executive directors, starting with Dr. Wyndell Jones.

MISSIONARY CHURCH PLANTING IN IOWA – MISSOURI ASSOCIATION

The history of Southern Baptist work in Iowa goes back to the mid 1800s. There were a couple churches in Iowa that participated in the Wakonda Association in Northern Missouri. Ed Gregory explains, “These remote church plants were seen as the outflow of vision that the Missouri Baptist Convention had to expand the Kingdom of God in the Midwest. They always respected the differences between the states but they didn’t see the state border as a barrier to gospel ministry.” When it was determined that there was a need for more work in Iowa, they began to intentionally send pastors and missionaries. The first SBC church was established in Anamosa, Iowa in 1954. After the success of establishing the first few churches, the North Grand River Association in North Missouri assigned their mission director one weekend per month to plant new churches in Iowa.

IOWA SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

In 1960, Avery Wooderson became the Superintendent of Mission to serve exclusively in Iowa. Many of the early SBC churches were started during this period. By 1965, there were a significant number of thriving churches in the region and the decision was made to establish the “Iowa Southern Baptist Association.” The Iowa Association was formed with 25 churches and over 2,000 members by that time and the Association continued until 1972.

Pastor Jerry McFerron remembers those years of the Iowa Association. Pastor Jerry served overseas with the IMB for many years before serving as pastor at Calvary Baptist Church in Leon until his retirement in May, 2021. Pastor McFerron is also the

1. Dr. O. Wyndell Jones – First Executive Director

“God has led us to the man who can lead Iowa Baptists to the point of becoming a convention and beyond.”



2. Honoring Dr. Jones for 10 Years of Service

Ed Gregory presents a plaque to Dr. Wyndell Jones and his wife Audie for 10 years of service in Iowa.



son of Pastor Claude McFerron, one of the most influential pastors in the convention for many decades. “My dad intended to go overseas but God called him to pastor in Waterloo. So our family moved to Iowa from Missouri in the early 1960s.” Pastor Claude became the pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Waterloo, before planting Calvary Baptist in Indianola, and then Calvary Baptist in Marshalltown. Pastor Jerry remembers going to summer camp at the Eldora Quaker Camp with all the youth from around the Association. “That was a big spiritual marker for me as I heard many gospel testimonies.

But the summer camp was also a big highlight for the pastors too. They were all so far apart and they didn’t have the same opportunities to connect that we have now with the internet. Every church leader really looked forward to the Annual Meeting and the Evangelism Meeting each year.”

“When I first came to Iowa, we were just one big association across the state before we eventually divided into four regional associations,” said Pastor Tom Nesbitt. Pastor Nesbitt was pastor at Grand Avenue Baptist

Church in Ames, served overseas with the IMB, and is now Pastor Emeritus at Cornerstone Church of Ames. “I had the privilege to serve a term as president under Wyndell Jones, and Bill Spencer was his right hand man. God gave us some great leaders, that’s for sure, but our secret was just taking it one day at a time trying to walk in obedience to the Lord. Looking back, I realize we hadn’t done anything special but try to be faithful. I’m just grateful that He chooses to use us.”

IOWA SOUTHERN BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

In 1972, it was decided that it was time for the work to move into a new phase and become more independent. There were 40 churches and over 5,000 members represented by the organization. There was enough stability and strength to make the transition from “association” to “fellowship.” The process in the SBC at the time was for organizations to begin as an association, then transition to a fellowship, before ultimately constituting as a convention. It was always understood that eventually the work in Iowa would result in a standalone convention. It was just a matter of determining the right time. By the early 1970s, it was felt that the work was ready to progress to the next phase. The ministry transitioned into

the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship. The Iowa Fellowship was more autonomous than the Association although it was still strongly connected to the Missouri Baptist Convention.

“This was considered to be the natural progression,” said Pastor John Shaull. Pastor John was pastor at First Baptist Church in Winterset (now called New Bridge Church) for 18 years and served with BCI as an Associational Missionary for the Metro and South Central regions and Church Starter Strategist. “There was no stated

However, an in depth evaluation ultimately led to delaying the process as it was not felt that it was the right time. Everything was put on hold and leaders went back to work starting new churches and strengthening existing ones.

Another significant piece of the puzzle fell into place in 1985. Dr. Wyndell Jones began serving as the Executive Director of the Iowa Fellowship in 1985 and began to lead the process toward becoming a convention. “Dr. Jones really wanted us to become

“Looking back, I realize we hadn’t done anything special but try to be faithful.”

timeline but the SBC had certain benchmarks of financial stability, number of churches, and number of members before a convention would be recognized by the SBC.” There was a time in the 1980s that looked like the convention might be launched and some plans were put into motion.

our own convention,” said Pastor Shaull. “He wanted us to move to the next level and urged us to make that commitment together. He found listening ears because many of us who had been serving in the convention felt the same way.”





1. Excitement for New Pastors

Introducing new Pastors and Wives at an early Annual Meeting was always exciting.

2. A Place for Ministry

The state office building in Des Moines was a hub of ministry activity for decades.

THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB – DR. WYNDELL JONES

Dr. O. Wyndell Jones provided leadership through the transition into becoming a state convention. Dr. Jones became the Executive Director-Treasurer in June of 1985. He came to Iowa from a state convention staff position in Alabama. Ed Gregory remembers, “Dr. Jones was called to the Fellowship with the view that he could lead the organization to becoming a Convention. He came with a vision to make that happen and he and his wife Audie really tried hard to become Iowans. He had been a pastor in a number of churches in his home state of Alabama so he understood what it meant to pastor. He also had an understanding of convention life from serving at the Alabama Convention. We didn’t have any experience partnering together as a convention so he brought a lot of the tools we needed, especially financial and strategic planning. He also had essential experience with how to partner with the International Mission Board (IMB) and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) in those days.”

“Dr. Jones provided strong and decisive leadership in a time when we really needed it,” said Pastor Shaull.



1. Dr. Jones Preaching in Waterloo

Dr. Jones delivered an address each year at the gathering for African American pastors.

2. Annual Staff Planning Retreat

President Ed Gregory, Business Manager Chris Caywood, and Dr. Jones review program budgets and present strategic plans for the year.



“One thing we did during Dr. Jones’ tenure was to create partnerships with other states,” said Pastor Mike Carlson, pastor at New Bridge Church in Winterset. “We had partnerships with Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, and more. We needed a lot of help then because we had a bold thrust to start new churches. We set really big goals. We were still figuring out the best way to start churches but we were making a difference in terms of evangelism and these partnerships were critical.”

The convention continued to grow slowly, continuing the work that had begun decades earlier. The Lord continued to bring many great pastors and leaders into the state. “We had a close partnership with each other back then because we needed each other to survive,” said Pastor Carlson. “We were small and we knew everybody that was involved. Every time a pastor started their ministry in the state, it was a huge celebration. Especially if they were a native Iowan because they already knew how cold the winters were in this mission field we call Iowa. It’s not the easiest place to start a ministry so we banded together for support.” A decade passed and in 1995, the leaders finally came to a place where they discerned the time had come.

**OUR TIME HAS COME
— BECOMING A CONVENTION**

The decision was made to constitute as a state convention in 1995. Once the decision was made, the process was pretty straightforward. A constitution, bylaws, and articles of incorporation were prepared by a committee and approved by the board of directors. Finally, a formal motion was approved at the 1995 Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship meeting at First Baptist (New Bridge) in Winterset. This was the same location that the Iowa Southern Baptist Association was constituted. At the conclusion of that meeting, the existing organization was dissolved and a new entity called the Baptist Convention of Iowa (BCI) was born. Representatives from Missouri and the SBC came together to celebrate the milestone of moving forward in this new venture.



1. Working to Reach Iowa

Rolling up their sleeves, the staff work together to reach Iowa for Christ.

“He had an authoritative leadership style that helped us get where we needed to go. He also had a lot of connections in other states, such as his home state of Alabama, which was really helpful as we were growing.”

2. Drafting Documents for the Convention

Plans for Constitution of the Convention and the other necessary documents required many long days of work.

There had always been a strong drive toward cooperation but there was now an increasing desire among all the church leaders to move forward as a state convention. Pastor Shaull remembers the process, “The process involved having to be approved by two state conventions. The discussions were so affirming and uplifting that I can’t remember any disagreement or frustration by anyone involved.”

“The theme of the constituting event was, ‘Our Time Has Come,’ and we felt it captured the spirit of what God had been doing,” said Ed Gregory, who served during the transition as the last president of the Iowa Fellowship and as the first president of BCI. “There was a recognition that the Lord had brought us to this opportunity and that it was a continuation of what He had been doing for decades. The ‘fullness of time’ had come for the work in Iowa and we wanted to embrace and celebrate it. There was a great sense of gratitude, first toward God, then toward Missouri, the other convention partners, and the fellowship of pastors and church leaders. It was a true and happy celebration.”

“It was a huge milestone and growth opportunity,” said Pastor Carlson. “It represented that the work in Iowa was growing and maturing. We were responding to that growth and also planning for further expansion. We were still heavily supported by NAMB but it gave us some recognition that we were ‘grown up’ now. Though we received generous funds from NAMB, we are no longer totally dependent.”

“I remember there was a lot of excitement,” said Pastor Shaull. “We had always been considered part of the Missouri Convention, like an adopted child. We were really looking forward to the opportunity of standing on our own feet. We were grateful for everything that Missouri did for us and we always had a great relationship. They started a lot of churches, especially in the southern part of the state. But we were also eager to launch out on our own.

“Taking that step changed our mindset and created a high level of ownership,” said Pastor Carlson. “It was time to step up and take ownership of the ministry ourselves. This in turn shaped the mindset of the pastors and church leaders in Iowa. We had typically had volunteers come in from other states to run our VBS and building projects. We had to change our mindset to start doing this stuff on our own and taking

more ownership for our own ministry needs. There were a lot of amazing ministry opportunities that came as a result of taking ownership.”

Along with the gratitude there was a feeling of hope and optimism. Ed Gregory said, “There was no drastic change immediately after becoming a convention. It was a continual development. But we came out of that meeting with a sense that there was something great in the future. We had a sense that this wasn’t the end but rather that ”

1. Early Executive Board Meeting

Board Meetings provided the forum for policy and program development.

2. Honoring Pastors & Staff

Church Development Director Richard and Rachel Nations receive recognition for 10 years of service.





“Becoming a convention was just the beginning of a whole new era of what we believed God wanted to do.”

BECOMING A CONVENTION

October 22nd, 1995 • WINTERSET, IOWA

With the theme, "Our Time Has Come," the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship called a meeting and voted to become the Baptist Convention of Iowa.



FROM MISSION FIELD TO MISSION AGENCY

It is encouraging to remember that Iowa was once a "mission field" for the Missouri Convention. They were coming up to plant churches and strengthen the churches that were here. "Until we became a convention, we were perceived as a mission project from Missouri," said Pastor Carlson. "Becoming a convention changed the way we saw ourselves and the way other conventions saw us. We used to be a mission field, now we are a

mission agency, we are still on mission in Iowa but we are also a sending group. We were growing up and we were starting to give back."

In many ways, viewing Iowa as a mission field has not changed. We still see our state as a mission field and we still work together to make disciples, plant new churches, and reach our communities with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

LEADING THROUGH CHANGE

The first and second decades of the Baptist Convention of Iowa were characterized by growth, both in numbers of participants and in depth of cooperation.



This steady growth led to the need to respond and adapt to significant changes to maintain the unity of the fellowship while pursuing the Great Commission together. BCI staff and board members were called upon to lead through the changes that were happening in the local churches, in the fellowship of the convention, and in our culture at large. And they were also called upon to lead through instituting needed changes at the right time.

IMPORTANCE OF FELLOWSHIP IN A GROWING CONVENTION

The convention grew as more churches were planted throughout Iowa under the leadership of Dr. Wyndell Jones, who served as the Executive Director from 1985 to 2001. Many of these new churches were in isolated parts of the state. For new pastors, especially the many who had moved to Iowa from the south or other parts of the country, the fellowship with other church leaders was cherished. “When I look back, I have fond memories of the camaraderie amongst the churches and leadership in the state,” said Pastor John Shaull. “There wasn’t a feeling that there were ‘big wigs’ in the room. There was an equality and value for every leader and pastor in the room. There were common values and a common desire to achieve the mission of the church.”

When it became clear that Dr. Jones was moving toward retirement, he intentionally set about the process of finding his replacement. He was intent that the convention not be left



1. Women’s Gathering

Each year at the Annual Meeting, women leaders such as Audie Jones held a women’s gathering.

2. Fellowship Was Essential

Ted Keys, Pastor of Community Southern Baptist in Waterloo fellowships with a messenger, an essential part of state gatherings.

without leadership when his tenure was over. Through the search process, one candidate rose above the others because of his history of working with and serving BCI in previous years. BCI had a close partnership with the Arkansas convention during that time and had a lot of interaction with one of their staff members.

“Jimmy Barrentine was on staff with the Arkansas convention,” said Pastor Shaull. “Through that partnership, the Iowa staff had gotten to know Jimmy really well and his name was on many people’s minds a long time before the official search process began. As we grew, we needed someone to unify and strengthen our fellowship and Jimmy valued cooperative leadership.”

“We were a diverse fellowship when I served in Iowa,” says Former Executive Director Jimmy Barrentine. “I believe that openness of fellowship made it easier for pastors of all kinds to participate. It was not age dominated. There wasn’t a ‘young pastor group’ or an ‘old pastor group.’ The generations were sitting down together and there seemed to be no barrier between them. A lot of that may have to do with one pastor, Max Carmichael, who was always reaching out to younger pastors. There was a time early in the convention when every pastor in southern Iowa had been won to the Lord by Max. He was truly one of the unsung heroes of our convention.”



1. Development of First Staff Team

The staff team had grown by the time the state organization was constituted as a convention.

2. The Expanding BCI Staff Team

The extended staff team in 2001 during the transition from Dr. Jones to Jimmy Barrentine.

3. Partnering with State Conventions

Partnership with other conventions. Terry Sharp was representative of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.



Serving Churches & Families

John and Sharon Shaul talk with Greg Baker about the Family Leader organization at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

LEADING THROUGH COOPERATION & UNITY — JIMMY BARRENTINE

After a thorough search process, Jimmy Barrentine was hired as the second full-time BCI Executive Director/Treasurer from 2001 to 2011. Barrentine had pastored a church in Texas before he and Joan went into missions work full-time. They served with the IMB in the South American country of Paraguay, where their daughter Jenifer was born. “Although my title was ‘Executive Director/Treasurer,’ my understanding of God’s call on my life is that I was a missionary to the people of Iowa,” said Barrentine. “That call to mission was the reason I decided to leave the Arkansas convention, which, to be honest, provided more advantages to our family.”

By all accounts, Barrentine’s leadership exemplified cooperation and servant leadership. He demonstrated this personally by his willingness to get down in the trenches and do the hard work of ministry next to pastors and other leaders. “There was no task that was ‘below’ Jimmy,” said Pastor Mike Carlson. “He would help out doing the grunt work of Disaster Relief. I was president of the convention when Dr. Jones retired and Jimmy came in and they were both great leaders who provided the kind of leadership that was needed at that time. Prior to coming to Iowa, Jimmy had declined several executive director positions at

other state conventions. He said that the only place he considered going to was Iowa.”

“He was people and connection oriented,” said Pastor Shaul. “Whether you pastored a church of 50 or 500, you were equally valuable. Jimmy’s leadership style was integrative, and he was quick to entrust responsibility to others. He would often say, ‘If you need my help, let me know.’ As we developed more mature leadership across the state, we needed to develop cooperation to achieve our goals.”

“Jimmy was a strong leader who led through consensus,” said Pastor Carlson. “He helped bring a lot of people together. He was quiet and introverted but invited a lot of people to get to know him. He was a very gracious guy and had a tender heart.”

“When I arrived, I found a warm fellowship among the churches. Good, kind people,” said Barrentine. “They had a firm commitment to keep the churches strong. What we did not have was a real drive to start new churches where they are needed. We needed to learn to work with other churches that are preaching the gospel in Iowa communities, even if they were not SBC. There was at all times among the convention an intense desire to see more people in heaven and fewer people in hell and an understanding that evangelism was central to the mission.”

MISSIONS, BOTH LOCAL & GLOBAL

Thanks to his background serving as both a pastor and a missionary, Barrentine was able to help the convention grow in missions, both local and international. One key area of mission that Barrentine was instrumental in developing was the BCI Foundation. The Foundation was developed to facilitate cooperation in funding various missions programs and processes. The Iowa Missions Offering and the Iowa Ministry Fund are current processes that leverage the BCI Foundation to accelerate community transformation ministries.

“Whether you led a church of 50 or 500, you were equally valuable.”

Another key area of development were ministries serving in vulnerable communities in Iowa, such as The Baptist Friendship Center, now called the Friendship Center, in the MLK neighborhood in Des Moines.

1. The Friendship Baptist Center

The Friendship Baptist Center was started by BCI in 1982 to meet needs with the gospel in the inner city of Des Moines.

2. Open for Ministry in Central Des Moines

Dr. Jones receives documents for the Friendship Baptist Center. The Friendship Center became a private non-profit in 2017.



3. A New Dimension in Missions

Leaders present a new strategic initiative at an Iowa Southern Baptist Association Executive Board Meeting.

4. & 5. Iowa Disaster Relief Gets Rolling

Iowa Disaster Relief surged with activity after the floods of 1993. Norm Appleton and Richard Lamborn operate a "Water Station."



"I remember lots of churches partnering together in 1982 to start the Friendship Center in Des Moines," said Pastor Shaull. "The idea originated with Dan Cookson who had a desire for ministry in the inner city. Dan had established relationships all over the state, and even out of state, where he could get food and supplies to distribute to people in need."

"As the churches were strengthened, there was a growing awareness of the need to invest in transformational ministries that genuinely helped people grow in the Lord," said Barrentine. "The measure of the ministry is whether those who are in a church are transformed in their lives. We wanted to see tangible results that demonstrated that Jesus changes hearts, minds, and lives."

Jon and Mindy Jamison served as directors of the Friendship Center from 1991 to 2017. During their

tenure, the ministry broadened its scope and transitioned to not just meeting needs but also helping families meet their own needs through training, classes, and other kinds of support. Their goal was to go beyond meeting immediate needs to seeing transformation in the community," said Barrentine. "And the Friendship Center was just a piece of what the churches were doing in Iowa in community transformation. Individual churches began to develop vital ministries to impoverished communities and to see lives changed. For example, Carter Lake Baptist Church would give away cars, help people find jobs, and help them find housing. Churches were interested in changing whole lives with the gospel alongside practical help. By and large, this was not a top-down, centralized effort. It happened quietly around the state in each church.

1. BCI Staff & Wives Party

The annual Staff Party hosted at Wyndell and Audie's house was a treasured time.

2. Jimmy Barrentine – Second Executive Director

BCI Executive Director Emeritus Jimmy Barrentine returned to deliver the annual sermon at the 2014 Annual Meeting.



RELIEF IN TIMES OF DISASTER

After Iowa suffered a major flooding disaster in 1993, there was a desire to start a disaster relief ministry. Thus, the Iowa Disaster Relief (Iowa DR) ministry was launched in the late 1990s with the aid of several other state conventions, especially Tennessee. Over the next 10 years, Iowa DR served after many hurricanes in the south. Iowa DR leaders like Ty Berry and Frank McCrary launched new training events and rallied volunteers to respond to various disasters. For many years, BCI operated a 'feeding unit' to provide meals to disaster victims and relief volunteers, which was hosted by New Bridge Church in Winterset.

"When Jimmy was in Arkansas, he led their Disaster Relief department and that was one primary way we got to know him," said Pastor Carlson. "Iowa DR really got going under his tenure. Not only was he very supportive of Iowa DR, but he was also very involved with it personally." Pastor Mike Carlson and his wife Shari were involved in Disaster Relief since the beginning and served together as Disaster Relief Directors for 3 years. Pastor Carlson was the first Iowa DR chaplain and his first service as chaplain was during hurricane Charlie (2004). "Hurricane Katrina (2005) was the biggest disaster where Iowa DR served. We also helped with the tornadoes in Parkersburg (2008) and Joplin (2011). There were about 10 years that Iowa DR was extremely



active, and we partnered with about every other state convention." For the last 5 or 10 years, Iowa DR activity has declined as many of the most involved volunteers and leaders have begun aging out. Currently, our Iowa DR focus is on partnering with larger conventions around us who have greater capacity, like Illinois and Missouri.

EVER INCREASING CHANGE

Although we had strong leadership to respond to the changes that had occurred, still more change was needed. As our culture changes at an exponential rate, the level of change that was required was stretching the cooperation of church leaders. "Those who served before me weren't always able to do what they really wanted to

do because of how the convention was structured, first as an association of Missouri, then as a fellowship in Iowa," said Barrentine. "What was needed was the development of a uniquely Iowan way of doing ministry and that wasn't always open to us due to our reliance on other organizations. The transition to full autonomy was ongoing when I arrived on the scene. Eventually, we were able to take some steps forward to change the way that the convention related to churches. For example, church planting had always been done by the convention. This changed dramatically when NAMB underwent a major restructuring and many of the previous funding channels were cut off. There was a growing realization that the churches are the ones who should be starting churches.



3. Servant Leadership

Known by all as real-life examples of Christ-like servant leadership, Jimmy and Joan Barrentine serve in a local school tutoring young students.

Tim Lubinus in his role at Cornerstone Church of Ames was one of the leaders that was voicing this concern, which also coincided with my own view of ministry that the state convention should serve from the back of the room, with the pastors and churches up front.”

In addition to changing how BCI approached church planting, eventually leaders made other critical decisions to fundamentally change how BCI operated. They voted to sell the building and to restructure the BCI staff team. These were not easy things to do but innovative solutions were needed as the strategies that worked 20 or even 10 years before were no longer effective. Indeed, the time has come when no two churches are the same. Even in our relatively small convention, in a relatively homogeneous culture, each church is fully autonomous and leaders desire to pursue the Great Commission in a unique way that works for them.

The challenge that lay ahead is one of maintaining the gospel-centered brotherhood of fellowship while striving to fulfill the Great Commission with as much fruitful ministry as possible. These two values often exist in tension, but the opportunity now is to elevate both values simultaneously through innovative ministry and humble cooperation with those God has called to minister in our churches.

THE CARE AND CONCERN OF THE FELLOWSHIP

During much of the nine years they lived in Iowa, Jimmy and Joan Barrentine’s daughter Jenifer was stricken with a debilitating disease. Jenifer spent much of the time in a paraplegic state with Joan as her full-time nurse. “Jenifer had been

were touched by the spirit of the people of Iowa. They laughed with us, they cried with us, and they allowed us to participate in their lives and for that, we will always be grateful.”

“I am most grateful that, as our time in Iowa came to a close, we were seeing more churches growing and

“Iowa is not the place to go if you are seeking the spotlight. It is the place to go if you want to give yourself daily in ministry.”

diagnosed as terminally ill and was confined to a wheelchair and unable to speak,” said Barrentine. “The pastors were so understanding. They allowed us to spend a lot of time with her and were very gracious in regard to our need of taking care of Jenifer before they eventually diagnosed the exotic virus and began effective treatment. Mayo Clinic rarely uses the term ‘miracle’ but that’s how they described her recovery. She still has residual pain, but she now enjoys outdoor activities, hiking, and ziplining. We

more church plants surviving,” said Barrentine. “Iowa is not the place to go if you are seeking the spotlight. But it is the place to go if you want to give yourself daily in ministry. It’s a place for someone with a servant’s heart who will think less of himself and more of His God. And if they do so, by God’s grace, people will listen to the gospel message.”

FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Change is a part of life. However, the pace at which things change continues to increase. The last 10 years have been a time of radical change in BCI.



“Much of the change we have experienced has been positive,” said Ed Gregory, BCI Pastor Church Support Staff for Eastern Iowa. “The growth in BCI has increased in recent years and we’ve seen God doing new things across our state. This is a new day for our partnership of churches.” At the same time, not all the changes have been easy. There have been many difficult transitions in the convention in the last decade.

TIMES OF RADICAL CHANGE

Some of the most significant changes were prompted by a major reorganization effort in the mission emphasis of the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Rather than funding missionaries serving as state convention staff, NAMB was reorganized to put most of their support toward church plants and church planters. One of the areas most impacted by this reorganization were the various local Baptist Associations. At one time, there were up to eight “Associational Missionaries,” or “Directors of Mission” serving the Associations and as extended staff at BCI. Suddenly, each association had to decide what they intended to do with their Associational Missionary position. Any Associational Missionary who remained under NAMB appointment needed to transition into a full-time church planting strategist. Along with this organizational restructuring, the funding structure for the Associational Missionaries changed. For most associations it was primarily a consideration of whether

1. Tim Lubinus – Executive Director

Tim Lubinus first address as BCI Executive Director/Treasurer at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

2. Lessons & Memories from Iowa

Jack Owens sharing his personal memories and ministry experiences at the 2018 Annual Meeting

they would be able to financially support the role on their own moving forward. Without a dedicated leader, a number of associations decided to dissolve, some decided to continue without any staff leader, and 2 or 3 decided to continue supporting their Associational Missionary.

Over the years, the churches had been blessed by and had grown to depend upon lots of interaction at both the association and state level. Without associational leaders in place, the churches soon began to feel more scattered than they had been in past years. For the convention, there was a huge need to figure out how to best support the churches with fewer personnel.

“Most didn’t really want that change but, looking back, we needed it,” said Mike Carlson, pastor at New Bridge Church in Winterset. “As an old pastor myself, I can feel the pain of other pastors. In the past, we all felt like we were all in the same boat. We felt like we were the same. But now all our churches are different. Some are traditional. Some are contemporary. We’ve seen the most radical change in the convention in the last 10 years. But that’s also what we’ve seen in our entire nation. If we are going to reach the people of Iowa, our methodology must change, even while our gospel message never changes.”



1. Executive Director’s Report

Tim Lubinus delivers a report on the year in ministry at the Annual Meeting alongside the BCI Officers.

2. The Participation of Messengers

Messengers and guests hear ministry reports at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

3. Unified in Prayer and Service

Staff from First Family Church and Keystone Church, both in Ankeny, join together in prayer for their city.

4. Welcoming New Pastors

Pastor Robert Knight introduces new pastors in Iowa at the 2017 Annual Meeting.





Women Gather to Worship & Grow

Women from around Iowa gather for teaching and worship at a women's conference at New Bridge Church in Winterset.

INTERIM PERIOD

After the 2nd full-time Executive Director Jimmy Barrentine resigned from the role, there was an interim season. “We needed a totally different approach to associations,” said Pastor Carlson. “One approach that was attempted was to generate interaction between pastors based on affinity groups. There was a group for ‘large town churches’ and ‘small town churches,’ and others. This shuffling around was disruptive for many associations and some didn’t survive the transition.”

“When I returned to serve in Iowa, I recognized that there were many challenges that we were facing as a convention,” said Gregory. “It was an environment where many changes had taken place and yet more changes were needed. The convention had gone through an extended period of reevaluation in this interim period, and we had developed a new strategy and a new plan.”

The challenge for the next Executive Director would be to put the pieces back together. The first task would be to determine which pieces would be part of the future and which would not, and then to discover new pieces to fill the gaps. “When Tim Lubinus arrived at BCI, it was like opening the garage to see all the parts of a disassembled car,” said Gregory.

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER — TIM LUBINUS

In March of 2014, Dr. Tim Lubinus was hired as the third full-time Executive Director/Treasurer of BCI. One distinctive characteristic of Dr. Lubinus is that he was a native Iowan. Tim grew up in small town Iowa and went to college at Iowa State in Ames where he was a member at Grand Avenue Baptist Church. After college, he and his wife Darlene served overseas with the International Mission Board (IMB) in Korea and Turkey for many years. Prior to his role at BCI, Lubinus was the Director of Regional and Global Ministry at Cornerstone Church in Ames.

“Each of the three directors has been very different and they were here at the right time,” said Pastor Carlson. “Dr. Jones and Jimmy Barrentine were both from the south, although they grew to know and love Iowa. Tim being an Iowa native was a plus. Additionally, Tim brought a new paradigm for convention life. A lot of positive things have come out of it. Cornerstone, where Tim came from, and all the church plants that have come out of the Salt Network have been a great blessing. But there was a lot of change, and for many pastors who had been part of things for a long time, it was beyond their change tolerance. I believe our convention and our churches need to change because Iowa has changed dramatically in the

last few decades. Overall, we have more churches, more attendees, and we are more mission-minded.”

“God has blessed us with the leader that was equipped to meet the needs of the convention on that day,” said Gregory. “In this current season, we are expanding our horizons in new and unprecedented ways, and I think the future is bright if we embrace it.”

“God has blessed us with the right leaders for the needs of the day.”

NEED TO SIMPLIFY

There were many strengths in the convention but further change was needed. The convention needed to simplify and focus on the most essential aspects of mission and ministry. Streamlining the programs and processes and simplifying staff, budget, and office facilities were difficult but necessary changes. “Internally, there was a reevaluation of what was truly effective,” said Gregory. “The other factor was the external forces of what was happening at NAMB that affected the funding structures.” Moving toward

“leaner” form of ministry was also part of a natural progression. The nature of the work changed when digital technology allowed staff to communicate effectively on the field. The number of people and man hours needed for administration dropped. Even with fewer staff they were able to cover a lot more ground through the use of technology. As the value of working remotely grew, the office building became much less necessary to the work. Closing the convention office in August of 2016 was a major change but a natural development with a unanimous vote from the BCI Executive Board.

FOCUS ON DOING FEWER THINGS BETTER

Although it is often difficult, simplifying to focus on the main mission is generally a healthy strategy. “One tendency I’ve experienced in Southern Baptist life is to keep adding programs on top of programs,” said Gregory. “It becomes hard to do any of them well. We need to focus on those core things that grow out of our purpose, our calling, and to make efforts to strengthen the things that carry us into the future. Change is always a challenge. Period. In the process of doing fewer things better, there is natural fallout. Inevitably there will be those who have sincerely invested themselves in things that are not producing the most fruit. This is always true with change. We have to take a step back and ask what will produce the greatest fruit. Pruning is a natural process to keep an organism healthy.”

One of the most prominent difficulties from the changes that have occurred is how remote churches fit in the new paradigm. “Rebuilding a new sense of trust and understanding has been really difficult,” said Gregory. “In the early days there wasn’t a ‘large church/ small church’ mentality. From a convention level we need to be careful that we are not fostering that. But at the church level, we need to realize that we are all in this together. We can do more if we focus on reaching Iowa together than if we focus on

“We have to take a step back and ask what will produce the greatest fruit.”



1. Ministry Life Retreat

Tim Lubinus encourages ministry leaders at the annual Ministry Life Retreat event.



2. Reaching Iowa for Christ Together

Encouraging leaders to focus on “Reaching Iowa” for Christ at the 2018 Annual Meeting.



ensuring every church, near and far, has someone who is reaching out to them. Pastor and Church Support involves both personal contact as well as providing resources and tools to meet the specific needs of the churches. Whatever a pastor or church is going through, we want them to know someone they can go to who can connect them with all the resources BCI has to offer. “We need to make sure that we’re taking care of the pastors and churches that were planted long ago, some of them as many as 50 to nearly 70 years ago.” said Gregory.

AN EMPHASIS ON CHURCH PLANTING

In recent years, we have seen a lot of new work in church planting in BCI. The movement toward church planting has really come alive and we’ve seen a renewed sense of focus. “I think there are three primary reasons for this resurgence of church planting in BCI,” said Gregory. “First, all our thriving churches have captured the vision for church planting and value it, even if they don’t know how to do it yet themselves. Second, church planting networks developed by the churches, such as the Salt Network and the 435 Network, have provided major momentum that has resulted in planting many new churches. Third, we’ve been blessed to have a NAMB Church Planting Catalyst that works with and for BCI. Chase Abner is a huge asset for BCI. Through this partnership with NAMB, Iowa can be a base for church planting with access to the best that NAMB has to offer in terms of assessing, training, and support.”

Tim Lubinus also arrived at BCI with passion and experience for church planting due to his involvement with initiating church planting efforts at Cornerstone Church in Ames. This new emphasis for the state convention coincided with the refocus that occurred at NAMB which, over time, has resulted in strong relationships with the SBC national entities.

PURSuing COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

God has blessed BCI with leaders that have been deeply connected to Southern Baptist life and have



1. Iowa Men’s Conference

Grandfathers, fathers, and sons, gather for challenging instruction and worship at the Iowa Men’s Conference in Ankeny, Chariton, and Cedar Rapids.

2. Focus on Evangelism

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, former SBC Executive Director Ronnie Floyd reminds leaders that “Evangelism is urgent.”

our separate things. This builds that sense of fellowship and unity. In our culture, we’ve seen individualism and the importance of self rise to the top. This attitude can lead us to neglect the value of every individual, even in the church and among the churches. It’s important that the world sees us exhibit the supernatural unity found only in Christ.”

SUPPORTING PASTORS & CHURCHES

After the staff and association restructuring, Lubinus immediately recognized the need to fill the role of providing support to the pastors and churches. The Pastor and Church Support Team was tasked with



Church Planting Emphasis

Church planting events throughout the year keep the mission front and center.

convention? Some issues are with perception, but these perceptions reflect real challenges.

“Given the challenges before us, we need to respond by trusting God’s sovereignty in every development, doubling down on unity, and recapturing a sense of togetherness,” said Gregory. “We want to embrace what God has done in 25 years of ministry, but also to embrace what needs to be done to reach the next generation in the next 25 years. Let’s run with the idea that we can do more together than we can individually. Let’s regroup around the Cooperative Program to see the Kingdom advance and keep our eyes on the Lord.”

FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

We have many reasons to be excited about what God might do in our partnership of churches in the next 25 years. We pray that we will continue to see the birth of new churches, growth

endeavored to stay invested with what is new in the convention at large. “One strength that Lubinus brought to his role is thinking beyond our state of Iowa,” said Pastor Carlson. “We are thinking more broadly about our mission and our calling.”

At a time when some conventions have struggled with their relationships with the national entities, Iowa has embraced these changes and adapted to the new realities. Both Dr. Jones and Jimmy Barrentine had deep ties with conventions in multiple states and our national convention partnerships have flourished under Lubinus’ leadership. BCI has embraced the value of effective partnerships, especially with NAMB, and President Kevin Ezell, because of their church planting emphasis. These partnerships are viewed as a two-way street and BCI has cultivated a positive relationship in a fresh new way.

Another aspect of the strength of our partnership with the SBC is our innovative approach to Cooperative Program contributions. Of all funds that are given by BCI churches, we currently pass on 60% to the national SBC Cooperative Program. There is currently a proposal to increase CP contribution to 75% in 2022. The SBC national leaders have seen our commitment to give all that we can through the Cooperative Program to support the missions and education ministries in the SBC.

“We are a small convention, relatively speaking,” said Gregory. “Our whole convention is smaller than some associations in other states. But the willingness of Iowa Baptists, the churches, and the BCI Executive Board to give 50%, 60%, and even more to the Cooperative Program speaks volumes to SBC leaders. It’s also an encouragement and a challenge to other conventions and churches. We enjoy a lot of respect because of our attitude and our love for the work of

“It has truly been a joy to be part of what God has done through all these years.”

partnering. In spite of our relatively small size, we have a meaningful contribution to make and can even be a catalyst for change.”

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY

In restructuring BCI, for some there was a sense of losing an identity that had become comfortable. With no building, where should a church leader go to connect with the convention? With no association, how can we participate in a personal and relational way? Beyond pooling funds, what can we “do” together to reach our individual communities? What is the “Iowa” part of the identity of our

in healthy churches, and revitalization in declining churches.

“At the 2019 BCI Annual Meeting, I said in my address that there were two words that typified our convention: gratitude and optimism,” said Gregory. “It has truly been a joy to be part of what God has done through all these years.”

As we consider the 25th Anniversary of the Baptist Convention of Iowa, we don’t want to only reflect on the past with gratitude, but to look forward to the future with hope and optimism about what God will do in the future. To God be the glory!

2021AM

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY



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