

# Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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## Endel authors book on planning for smaller churches

By David Williams  
*Editor*

ROCHESTER, Minn. — One pastor's fruitless search for a simple planning process he could use in his church led him to develop a plan of his own which is now available in the new book, "Where Do We Go from Here? Strategic Planning for the Smaller Church."

Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, was serving as pastor of Southern Hills Baptist church in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1994 when he began looking for a way to help his growing church plan for the future.

"What I discovered

frustrated me," he said. "There were very few processes available. The ones I found were so detailed and tedious that they would have baffled a Fortune 500 company. Fifty pages into one book I wrote in the margin: 'I don't know a single pastor who would do this.'"



Endel borrowed the Acts 2 principles from Rick Warren's "Purpose Driven Church" and the planning arrow concept from Bob Biel's "Masterplanning," mixed them with his own observations and experiences and came up with a simple, Bible-based approach that encourages and challenges church members without intimidating and overwhelm-

ing them.

"Most church strategic planning processes are too intense to be practical for the smaller church," he said. "We make it harder and longer than it needs to be. People get bored and tired. By the time the planning process is complete no one has any enthusiasm for the work that needs to be done."

By contrast, Endel's plan calls for the planning to be completed in one or two three-hour meetings with the church leadership. This enables the church to quickly move on toward implementing the plan while interest is still high.

The plan described in Endel's book worked well at the Sioux City church and he has also used it in his role as state convention executive and in intentional interim pastorates. In addition, MWBC launched a two-year initiative on revitalization and Endel taught the process to pastors in the convention. He is also using the process in his bivocational pastorate at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn.

"For decades my friend, Leo Endel, has been helping churches to plan well," said Ed

See **BOOK** page 5

## How will you vote?

Individual leaders come and go, but changes made by the executive, legislative and judicial branches of our government have long-lasting implications.

On [page 2](#) you will find two articles written by David Roach of the Baptist Press in which he

compares the stances of the two major political parties with stands that Southern Baptists have made through resolutions approved at their annual meetings. You will see that both parties are in full or partial agreement with some SBC resolutions.

SBC resolutions are

certainly not the only factor that will determine your decision. There are many complex issues that each of us must pray about. These articles are presented as simply one more tool for you to use as you consider how you will cast your vote.

However you decide, please be sure to vote.

## MWBC Annual Meeting October 23-24?

The MWBC Executive Board will evaluate and decide how to proceed with this year's annual meeting at their September 19 Board Meeting

### Option #1

Meet at Ebenezer Community Church in Brooklyn Park, MN as scheduled for Oct 23-24 but with no meals or child care

### Option #2

Meet Online, by Zoom Friday night, October 23

THE DECISION WILL BE ANNOUNCED SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19



# How Democrats' platform compares with SBC resolutions

By David Roach

MILWAUKEE (BP) — The 2020 Democratic Party Platform draws mixed reviews when compared with resolutions passed by messengers at recent SBC annual meetings.

Adopted Tuesday, Aug. 18, by Democratic National Convention delegates, the 92-page platform runs contrary to many SBC resolutions, including convention statements on abortion and LGBT issues. But it aligns with many facets of SBC resolutions on racism, sexual abuse and mental health among other issues.

On yet other topics, the Democratic platform and SBC resolutions share common ground without aligning fully.

Perhaps most notably, both groups endorse religious liberty, but the Democratic platform departs from the SBC by claiming religious liberty is not a valid reason for organizations to deny their employees LGBT protections or abortion services.

## Points of Disagreement

### Abortion

“Every woman should be able to access high-quality reproductive health care services, including safe and legal abortion,” according to the Democratic platform. Democrats stated their support for federal funding of Planned Parenthood, repeal of the Hyde Amendment (which bars federal funding for most abortions), overturning of the Mexico City Poli-

cy (which blocks federal funding for international abortions) and lifting restrictions on “medication abortion care.” Additionally, Democrats pledged to appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices who “enforce foundational precedents,” including the Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

SBC resolutions have opposed abortion at least 25 times since 1976, including a 2015 “repudiation of the genocide of legalized abortion in the United States.” The SBC has called for defunding Planned Parenthood, repealing Roe v. Wade and halting use of the abortion drug RU 486. The convention has endorsed the Hyde Amendment, and the ERLC has applauded the Mexico City Policy.

### LGBT Issues

The Democratic platform employs the acronym LGBTQ+ 32 times, an average of about once every three pages. Democrats advocate requiring federal health plans to cover “gender confirmation surgery” and “hormone therapy.” They also claim LGBT couples should not face discrimination in adoption and foster care services, say transgender students should be guaranteed access to school facilities based on their gender identity and call for a ban on “conversion therapy” for LGBT youth and adults.

The SBC has addressed homosexuality at least 19 times since 1976, including 2012 opposition to framing homosexuality as a civil

rights issue. In 2014, the convention “oppose[d] steadfastly all efforts by any governing official or body to validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy.” ERLC President Russell Moore has said conversion therapy bans may threaten religious freedom.

### Climate Change

“Climate change is a global emergency,” according to the Democratic platform. It calls for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and the elimination of carbon pollution from power plants.

A 2007 SBC resolution called for wise stewardship of the earth’s natural resources but “urge[d] Congress

See **DEMOCRATS** page 10

# How Republicans' stances compare with SBC resolutions

By David Roach

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — This year’s Republican National Convention was shorter than usual on official policy statements that align with Southern Baptist Convention resolutions.

In lieu of a party platform, the RNC declared in a resolution its support for President Trump’s agenda, which aligns with several SBC resolutions and agrees partially with others. The Trump campaign agenda, comprising 50 bullet points, makes no mention of some traditional SBC priorities, including abortion, religious liberty and human sexuality.

But the Republican Party said it continues to stand on its 2016 platform — which does address those priorities.

R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said he was “thankful that the very clear commitments of the 2016 Republican platform continue,” and added there is “still going to be (a) radical distinction between” Republicans and Democrats on those issues. But he said failing to adopt a 2020 platform was “a glaring omission” and “a tragic mistake,” adding that Republicans have “missed an enormous opportunity to make clear”

the “major ideological differences and policy differences between the Republicans and the Democrats.”

He added, however, that Trump has made clear his staunch personal commitment to pro-life policies. And the convention agenda has highlighted that commitment, with speakers including prolife activist Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood clinic director who described abortion in detail — including the assertion that “for me, abortion is real. I know what it sounds like; I know what abortion smells like. Did you know that abortion even had a smell?”

The Republican Party’s

2016 platform is long on points of agreement with SBC resolutions. With COVID-19 limiting the number of RNC delegates who could convene in person, the GOP “did not want a small contingent of delegates formulating a new platform without the breadth of perspectives within the ever-growing Republican movement,” according to the resolution.

The 66-page 2016 platform references God 15 times, marriage 19, abortion 35 and contains no clear disagreements with SBC stances.

## Points of Agreement (2020 Campaign Agenda)

### School Choice

Trump’s campaign

agenda declared the president’s intention to “provide school choice to every child in America.” A 2014 SBC resolution “encourage[d] lawmakers to enact policies and legislation that maximize parental choice and best serve the educational needs and desires of families.”

### Human Trafficking

Trump will seek to “dismantle human trafficking networks,” according to the campaign agenda. SBC resolutions have condemned trafficking at least twice, including a 2013 call to support “public policies at the local, state, nation-

See **REPUBLICANS** page 8

# Some things never change – like our purpose

I pray you, your family, and your church are well during these unusual days. So much has been disturbed, rearranged, and re-prioritized. Change is everywhere, but our purpose has not changed.

Let me catch you up on some changes that are impacting the Minnesota-Wisconsin



**Perspectives**  
Leo Endel

Baptist Convention. First, here are a few of the things that have happened since early March as a result of the pandemic:

- Most of our churches stopped meeting in person and MWBC leadership scrambled

to help them set up on-line worship and giving.

- MWBC leaders put together information to help our churches explore the Paycheck Protection Program offered by the Federal Government.

- MWBC offered COVID-19 grants from our reserves. Twenty-three churches received \$1250 each to help them during the crisis.

Meanwhile, our part-

ners have made major cuts to their support of our state convention budget and projects:

- In October 2019, the North American Mission Board (NAMB) reduced our evangelism funding by \$45,000.

- In March NAMB froze all mission support except direct support to church planters.

- In April, LifeWay discontinued their Ministry Investment Plan in state convention work at a loss of \$68,700/year to each state convention.

- On October 1, 2020 NAMB will reduce administrative funding to the new work conventions by \$50,000.

On October 1, 2021 the final NAMB support of \$50,000 per year will be eliminated.

These reductions result in a total loss of \$213,700/year or 24% of the MWBC budget.

In response to these

cuts the MWBC Executive Board recommended the following in our April Executive Board meeting:

- That we continue to pay our LifeWay contract workers from our reserves through August 31 to help them make it through the transition.

- That we reduce Bob Smith's support to \$500/month effective August 31 and all program funding be discontinued.

- That we pay our NAMB contract workers from our reserves through September 30 at 75% until we know if NAMB will continue to fund them (since then NAMB has decided not to reinstate these positions in any convention).

- That we use our 2019 excess giving to help pay for these additional expenses.

Also in April, the

MWBC Executive Board received the challenge that if we can double our State Missions Offering from last year's \$37,000 to \$74,000 we could reinstate some of these ministries at a reduced level. Each selected ministry would be funded at a percentage of what is received of the State Missions Offering goal. It would look like this:

- 25% Disaster Relief (this ministry is currently funded at only a \$13,000 annual stipend to Ben Seamans)

- 20% Urban Ministry (funding to be used for African American work and the Kingdom Growth Conference)

- 15% Cross-cultural missions (Southeast Asia project and Hmong missions)

- 10% Hands of Hope (convention wide)

See **PURPOSE** page 7

## The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist:

- The state paper and official publication of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

- A Christian newsjournal with a focus on Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists – their interests, churches, and partners.

- A digital only publication, the PDF emailed free to all who subscribe and posted on MWBC's website and Facebook page.

- Formatted for letter size paper for those who want to print a copy.

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## Honesty and authenticity

I stepped up to the counter and handed the cashier my \$20 bill. She glanced at me, lifted the bill up to the light, squinted and examined it, then laid it on the counter. She whipped out what looked

like a felt tip marker and marked it. After a long second, she placed it in the cash register and gave me my change. It seemed simple enough.

But it made me wonder.

What made her think my twenty might be fake? Did I look dishonest? I reminded myself that it was standard procedure. She had been taught to check

every twenty because you never know who might pass a counterfeit. You can't recognize honesty or dishonesty by a person's looks, with or

without a mask.

Wouldn't it be nice if it was just as easy to discern fake people as it is to recognize a fake twenty? What if we could hold people up to a light, squint and examine them for watermarks, or just swipe them with a pen and watch for discoloration?

Unfortunately, it isn't that simple. Sometimes the people we trust the most disappoint us.

We all know that no one is perfect. We are all human. We are all sinners and we all make mistakes. We are not

looking for perfection. But we are desperate for authenticity and honesty. We are desperate for authentic parents, teachers, employers, employees, preachers and politicians.

Jesus ranked authenticity among the highest of virtues. His harshest words were leveled at those who pretended to be what they were not. Speaking to people of his day, Jesus said, "You're like manicured grave plots, grass clipped and the flowers

See **HONESTY** page 9



**Reflections**  
Bill Tinsley

## MWBC assists churches without pastors

Occasionally in the life of a church the church is without a pastor.

During these times churches turn to nearby churches, local associations, and the state convention for assistance. To serve churches without pastors, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention offers Turning Point Pastors.

Turning Point Pastors recruits and supports interim pastors with on-the-job training. MWBC provides training and coaching to interim pastors as they serve churches without pastors. Training available to interim pastors includes access to education for seminary credit via Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's EQUIP

Center, the opportunity to complete a unit of CPE through Clinical Pastoral Education International, along with non-formal training specific to pastoral ministry.



**Leadership**  
Clint Calvert

MWBC churches in need of an interim pastor agree that the MWBC will address the church's needs with both a MWBC staff member and a Turning Point Pastor. A MWBC staff member will preach and meet with the church leadership team monthly. The Turning Point Pastor will preach and meet the church's pastoral needs on a weekly basis. The church and the MWBC will negotiate a financial arrangement to cover related expenses.

The initial duration of the relationship will be

nine months. If additional time is required, the relationship may be extended. For the duration of the relationship, the MWBC staff member will meet weekly with the Turning Point Pastor to provide support and to review the progress of the transition. The ministry of the Turning Point Pastor is complete when the church calls her next pastor.

Turning Point Pastors will utilize the planning approach described in Dr. Leo Endel's book, "Where Do We Go From Here? Strategic Planning for the Smaller Church." Endel's approach can be adapted to a variety of church sizes and circumstances.

For more information about Turning Point Pastors, contact Clint Calvert at 507-254-0237 or [calvert@mwbc.org](mailto:calvert@mwbc.org).

*Clint Calvert is church leadership catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## MWBC Disaster Relief Update

COVID-19 has thrown quite a wrench into our transition into disaster relief leadership. It is hard to be mentored under the instruction of Dave and Jeanne Wedekind while being separated and quarantined.

We finally have the files transferred and are trying to learn as much

as we can as quickly as possible.

In May, the call came up suddenly to respond to needs in Minneapolis. Our chaplains helped law enforcement deal with the extreme pressures



**Disaster Relief**  
Ben Seamans

in responding to the protests turned riots. We are grateful to those who were and are still on the front lines leading

toward a peaceful end.

In August, we had two teams respond to the flash flood recovery efforts in St Joseph, Mo. Currently we are trying to organize a team to assist in the wind-damaged area around Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and have been invited to prepare to serve in the recovery efforts in Louisiana following the fallout from Hurricane Laura.

Kayla and I thank Dave and Jeanne for their assistance in these efforts and for those serving and praying for

## Bless every home

BlessEveryHome is an app that provides a list of your neighbors for whom you are encouraged to pray. The information comes from the U.S. Government Census data, as well as from other publicly accessible data sources.



**Partnership and Prayer**  
Steve Melvin

The app provides a base for individuals in a local church to develop a prayer focus for each family in their immediate neighborhood. This can be used by a

church to create a network of prayer for their community.

Visit the website at [blesseveryhome.com](http://blesseveryhome.com).

Some features of the BlessEveryHome app include:

- A free personalized and customizable list of your own neighbors so that you can begin to know your neighbors like never before.
- Color-coded tracking tools to record your Pray, Care, Share journey with each neighbor home.
- Daily reminder emails featuring a prayer prompt and the next five neighbors to pray for each day.
- A private prayer journal to keep track of prayer requests or notable life events for each neighbor.
- Access to a collection of resources to help you grow in your ability to bring others to Christ.
- Ability to connect with your church and share progress.

I have been using BlessEveryHome for a few years, and it is a good way to become familiar with your neighborhood and to be intentional in praying for your neighbors.

My prayer is that many people in our churches will be intentional and faithful to pray for our communities. This is a good place to start.

*Steve Melvin is partnership and prayer catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

our teams. Please pray and consider encouraging your church in giving to the state missions offering to help support disaster relief and other ministries affected by the North American Mission Board's decision to defund these

vital ministries.

Visit [mwbc.org/disaster-relief](http://mwbc.org/disaster-relief) to see other ways to support disaster relief.

*Ben Seamans is co-director of disaster relief for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## Density in geography

**D**ensity in geography, a core principle in our church starting strategy, is the idea of starting churches with a group of Christians who live near the church's primary meeting place.



### Church Planting

*Joshua Whetstine*

For example, Cities Church's primary meeting place is in St. Paul, but they have community groups that meet all over the metro area. Those community groups are made up of people who live near the

group's meeting place. When Cities looks to start new churches, those community groups are the seed bed, having already gathered people who live near the location of the new church.

In another case, a very large church chose to identify those living in a particular geography and gathered them into some of our healthiest new churches in the Twin Cities.

Nearly all our new church starts function off this principle at some level. Why is this important? Because when people attend a church near where they live, it is easier for them to serve and invite their neighbors into a local relationship with Jesus and the church.

Think about it like this: if a family drives 30-60 minutes to church, their impact in the area around the church is very limited Monday through Saturday; but if a family drives 5-10 minutes to church, they have a much greater impact and investment in their church and community throughout the entire week. This creates a greater seed bed for the gospel, healthier relationships, more sustainable churches and a greater community impact.

*Joshua Whetstine is church planting field director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## BOOK

*continued from page one*

Stetzer, executive director of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center, as he endorsed the book. "Now through 'Where Do We Go from Here?' you can benefit from his years of wisdom and experience.

Walk through this book with your team, and you and your church will be better for it."

Endel's predecessor at MWBC, Bill Tinsley, called the book "terrific, inspirational, personal, and practical."

Mark Elliott, director of missions for Heartland Baptist Network

## How should we respond to racism?

**By Roy Hopgood Jr.**  
*Pastor of Mount Horeb Baptist Church, Milwaukee*

**I**n recent days my heart has been so troubled over the hostility and divisiveness across this country over racial hatred and prejudices.

My heart aches, angry at times and tired over the unjustified shootings by law enforcement in our black communities throughout our cities.

Having worked as a Wisconsin State Patrol trooper, I fully support law enforcement and good police officers. My son retired as a police officer after 25 years of service. I support black lives matter. I support all lives matter.

I do not support rioting or looting. I do support the right to protest in a lawful peaceful manner.

I still believe that what the world needs now is love, the Love of Christ

in Omaha, Neb., said, "Too much is published today that is theoretical, unproven, or reflective of a single church's experience." Endel's plan, however, he said, "lays out a simple template for strategic planning" and "can be easily transferred into almost any church setting."

The book is available from Amazon. A copy was included in the state

in our hearts. Scripture teaches that God created all human beings in His image. There is no exception to that and being made in God's image makes each person valuable and precious.



### First Person *Roy Hopgood Jr.*

There is no hierarchy of human beings demonstrated throughout Scripture. Jesus came so that they

all may be saved.

The Bible makes it clear that racism is wrong and entirely contradictory to God's command to love our neighbors, his unconditional love, and the teachings of Jesus. Racism is defined as prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior. Racism results in fear and inhumane treatment for someone because of the nation they are from or the color of their skin.

The Israelites were

missions offering materials sent to each MWBC pastor. Each MWBC executive board member will receive a copy. Copies have also been sent to the executive director of each Southern Baptist Convention entity, and to the directors of missions involved in MWBC's partnership with Missouri.

**Back to the beginning**

God's chosen people, but God's love and care was extended to every nation. God does not prefer one ethnicity or nation over another. For instance, God instructed Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach repentance so that the people there would be saved from destruction.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

There is no passage that specifically answers the question of how God feels about racism, but Scripture gives us plenty of guidance about God's love for all people, God's hand in creation and what the Lord does hate is pride. Pride and dishonesty are found at the root of racism, or evil that God hates. Racism leads to injustice as discrimination and the point of evil towards fellow human beings.

The Book of Revelation does give us a glimpse into how God will wrap up history and usher humankind into eternity. What a glorious picture painted in Revelation 7:9 of people from every nation in heaven, worshipping God, standing together as brothers and sisters in Christ. God loves every nation, every person, and it is made abundantly clear in Scripture that racism is not compatible with Christianity.

As Jesus spoke against racism so should we. May we model the Love of Christ! Let the church be the church!

# Good news from the associations

## BAY LAKES

Pastor Wilkie Richmond reports that the Eagles Wings Fellowship in Ashland, Wis., is assisting with food distribution on the Bad River Reservation. Also, Wilkie is continuing to disciple a leader from the reservation. A Bible study is continuing in a home on the Red Cliff Reservation. A baptismal service in Lake Superior is being planned.

## NORTHWOODS

Grace Connection in Wadena is making good progress in raising funds for building next summer. One church in Missouri is giving them \$18,000 and another sent \$1,000. A church in Tyler has contributed \$5,000. Northland Missions donated \$1,000 and the church itself raised \$2,000 in July. Jeff Heisler is pastor.

Eagles Nest Church in Breezy Point had a celebration and baptismal service this summer. In addition to experiencing growth, the church has been making improvements to the facilities including staining the building, upgrading the sound system and building new bookshelves for the office of Pastor Zach Broom.

Dwight and Roberta Streblov celebrated their 50th anniversary in June. He is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids church had major snow damage last winter but the good



*In early August a team of six people came from Bell Baptist Association in Texas to deliver four cars for Eagles Wings Fellowship in Ashland, Wis. These cars will help the church's ministry to Native Americans living in the Bad River and Red Cliff reservations. Pictured here are, left to right, Wilkie Richmond, pastor of Eagles Wings; Rick Spencer, Native American lay pastor, Bad River Reservation; Tom Henderson, Bell Baptist Association team leader; and Richard Worden, pastor, First Baptist Church of Val Verde, Texas.*

news is that repairs are nearly complete and are being paid for by insurance, replacing the church's sheetrock, insulation and roof. Chris Reed is pastor.

## SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Dale Stinson is the new pastor of Christ Fellowship Church in Sun Prairie. Dale, his wife, and their four children have relocated from Minnesota.

## TWIN CITIES

Pastor Ephraim Ankiabom of Living Water Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minn., says the church's online worship services are going well and the core members are growing spiritually. The Cameroonian church continues to look for a meeting place in the Twin Cities.

Pastor Philip Nache says God has answered many prayers for Hope of Nations Gospel Church in Minneapolis and Hope of Nations Fellowship in St. Paul, including protection for health care workers during the pandemic (specifically his wife

Jummai), growing attendance of Zoom services, and the beginning of a youth ministry with 12 regularly attending, one of them coming to Christ through the ministry.

Westview Church in Crystal, Minn., had their first public worship service July 12. The church meets in an elementary school and has a core group of about 50 people from their sending church, Cities Church of Minneapolis. Brett Toney is pastor.

Grace Bible Church in Monticello, Minn., launched on Aug. 16 with 130 people in attendance. Jacob and Tiffany Hatfield are the church planters. Northwest Bible Church in St. Michael is the partnering congregation.

## LAKELAND

Ethnos Church in Milwaukee held a "Kingdom Come" Outreach during the Aug. 16-19 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. Pastor Elie Hasbani says the church gathered for six evenings of outreach, worship, prayer and gospel presentations

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWBC events are in bold print.

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association

SWBA: Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association

LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association

NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association

SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association

TCMBA: Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association

To have your events included, email them to [davidwilliams@compuserve.com](mailto:davidwilliams@compuserve.com).

### SEPTEMBER

**1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions**

7 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

11-12 LBA Annual Fall Training Conference, Layton Avenue Baptist Church, Greenfield, Wis.

**12 M-W WMU Annual Training Conference** (an online event, register at [www.mnwi.org](http://www.mnwi.org))

**18-19 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.**

### OCTOBER

**23-24 MWBC Annual Meeting, Ebenezer Community Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn.**

### NOVEMBER

26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday - **MWBC Office Closed**

29-12/6 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

### DECEMBER

24-1/1 Christmas/New Year's Holiday - **MWBC Office Closed**

and experienced sweet unity, peace and blessings as an ethnically diverse group of pastors presented each evening. Many people were drawn into the light of Christ for the first time, he said, with 15 people receiving Christ and many believers strengthened, encouraged and

their fires rekindled by the Holy Spirit.

## SOUTHERN MINNESOTA

Redemption City Church in Rochester baptized two adults in the Zumbro River this summer. Jake Tonak and Adam Pohlman are co-pastors.



*Cornerstone Baptist Church, a four-year-old church plant in Thief River Falls, is making plans to constitute as a church in the near future. On July 26, the church ordained their church planter and pastor, Nathan Satchwill. Pictured here are, left to right, Cassie and Nathan Satchwill; his parents, Allen and Linda Satchwill; and his brother and sister-in-law, Aaron and Naomi Satchwill. Aaron is director of missions for Northwood Baptist Association and also pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Roseau, Minn.*

# Central Asian rejects fortune telling, chooses faith

By **Eva Carmichael\***  
*International Mission Board*

Anim\* remembers the day when an old fortune teller told her mother that Anim had the gift of sight.

"My mother and my grandmother were both fortune tellers," she said, "so my mom wasn't surprised when the gypsy confirmed it."

What did surprise her was the old woman's declaration that Anim would pay a high price for this gift if she wanted it. The fortune teller said that if she continued to use this gift, it would cost Anim the life of someone she loved. Her mother decided it was worth the price.

Not long after, when Anim was 12, her father disappeared under very strange circumstances.

"I decided right then that I didn't want to follow in my mother's and grandmother's footsteps. I would not try to speak to the spirits if they would demand the life of a member of my family in exchange for their help," she said.

Later, Anim studied law and found a job she enjoyed. However, after working for a while, she met a young man who wanted to marry her and, in Central Asian tradition, he kidnapped her to make her his bride.

"My grandfather was against the match, but my mother was for it, so I decided to submit and become his wife," Anim explained. To refuse the arrangement after being kidnapped would have

been seen as shameful in her culture. Anim instead became a part of a new family which was more committed to practicing Islam than her own family had been.

She began praying five times a day. "I knew God was real, and I wanted to please Him. I tried to do what was right."

Soon she became pregnant, and as children came along, Anim's husband decided she should no longer work outside the home.

After her fourth child was born, when she was bedridden with complications from the birth, Anim first met Southern Baptist workers who were visiting her town. Seeing that she couldn't afford medicine, the workers helped provide what she needed. Her condition slowly improved, and the workers continued to visit her every few months.

Recovering physically, Anim began to talk with the workers about spiritual things. She shared her history and confessed feelings of confusion and hopelessness. As IMB representatives shared the gospel with her, Anim listened eagerly. She accepted the gift of a Bible and began reading it.

Later the representatives visited again and listened as Anim explained the difficulties of her life. She wanted to divorce her husband because he regularly beat her. Her children were losing weight because the family couldn't afford food. She wanted to help provide for her

family, but her husband wouldn't let her.

The workers listened. They offered help with food, which she reluctantly accepted. When they told her more about how to find peace with God, she was ready to confess her need and put her faith in Jesus. She wanted to know someone who loved her unconditionally. After praying and asking Jesus to be her Lord and Savior, Anim couldn't stop smiling.

"I feel so much lighter!" she said to one of the workers. "It's like I'm a new person... and like you're my true sister!"

IMB representatives are grateful to Southern Baptists for the role they have played in Anim's journey, and they ask for prayer for Anim and her family. Not long after Anim became a follower of Jesus, she began reading Scripture with her mother-in-law and children. When IMB workers recently visited Anim, they were able to help Anim lead her mother-in-law to Christ.

Anim and her family are part of a minority



*In 2019, IMB workers identified 16 Indigenous Central Asian people groups sharing the gospel with other people groups in their countries. Pray that more Central Asian believers will be bold in proclaiming the truth of Christ.*

ethnic group among whom there are very few believers. Please pray that God would protect this family and bless the witness of Anim and her mother-in-law. Ask God to plant His church firmly among this unreached minority group in Central Asia.

\*Names changed for security

Eva Carmichael works among Central Asians.

Last year, five Indige-

nous people groups in Central Asia reverted to unengaged status due to loss of engagement by IMB personnel or their partners. This sad statistic reveals the urgency in the task to reach the nations. The time to give to send more workers to the fields is now. Will you consider a sacrificial gift today so that people groups can remain engaged with the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Visit [imb.org/give-now](http://imb.org/give-now).

## PURPOSE

*continued from page three*

missions project within Minnesota-Wisconsin)

- 10% Internships
- 5% Children's Evangelism and VBS
- 5% Called Out Youth Camp
- 5% WMU missions support and projects
- 5% Pastoral emergencies

Please consider collecting a special offering this September/October to allow your church the opportunity to support ministries that are making a difference here in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Thank you for giving to the State Missions Offering!

Please know we are praying for you. God

is at work all around us in the midst of fear and social tensions. Your church has the message of hope. Thank you for faithfully sharing the gospel and living it out in your community!

*Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

**Back to the beginning**

# Missionaries seeking support

ROCHESTER, Minn.

— A Minnesota-Wisconsin family is seeking support to serve as missionaries in South Asia.

Jack and Amanda Foster (not their real names) and their three young children will be International Mission Board team associates and will join an ongoing work reaching out to 276 million Urdu speakers.

The team associate position is one of the three primary missionary roles available with the IMB. The other two are team member and field support, both of which are fully

funded by the IMB.

As team associates, the Fosters will not be funded by the IMB but must raise their own support. They are still part of the IMB team and receive training and ongoing guidance from the IMB. After six months of training in the U.S., they are committed to spend three years on the field during their first term.

Their goals for the first term include learning the language and culture, being apprenticed by missionaries already on the field, and forming long-term relationships

with local people to better train and share the gospel.

Both the husband and wife are called to missions, have masters degrees from Southern Baptist seminaries and have spent time abroad on the mission field.

The family has already secured some support from churches and individuals in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. If you would like more information about how you can partner with them, contact Leo Endel, MWBC executive director, at [endel@mwbc.org](mailto:endel@mwbc.org).



Pastor Larry Creamer and Tom Wokosin of Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis., install a door frame in the new addition at Journey Church of Amery, Wis. Charles Dunning led the Builders for Christ volunteer building team of Valley Baptist Church in the project as 17 volunteers participated Aug. 16-21 and 16 volunteers participated Aug. 23-28. The 2,300 square foot addition increased Journey Church's worship seating by 50 percent to 250, increased their greeting space, and added two classrooms, large restrooms and a nursery. "We were primarily completing the interior finishing work," Dunning said, adding that one couple worked outside completing the exterior fascia and soffits. "Inside we installed eight suspended ceilings, 17 doors and door frames, all of the main level floor covering, partitions in the restrooms and trim on the windows." Derek Downs is pastor of Journey Church.



This team of Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention disaster relief volunteers served Aug. 23-29 in St. Joseph, Mo., an area hit by heavy downpours and flooding on July 20. Pictured here, left to right, are Joe Kovars of Blue River Valley Church in Muscoda, Wis., unit director; Todd and Linda Jones of Crossway Church in LaCrosse, Wis.; Pat Karnick of Cornerstone Community in Goodview, Minn.; Nick, a volunteer from Kansas; and Ed Olson of Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn., unit director.

## REPUBLICANS

*continued from page two*

al, and international level which combat human trafficking."

### Terrorism

A priority of Trump's second term will be to "wipe out global terrorists who threaten to harm Americans," the campaign agenda stated. The SBC has denounced terrorism at least five times since 1978, includ-

ing a statement of support in 2002 for "the just war against the terrorist networks and their state sponsors."

### Points of Partial Agreement (2020 Campaign Agenda)

#### Environment

America should "continue to lead the world in access to the cleanest drinking water and cleanest air," the agenda stated, and "partner with other nations to clean up our planet's oceans."

The SBC has urged wise stewardship of natural resources at least six times since 1970, but the convention has endorsed more specific policies than the campaign agenda. A 2007 SBC resolution "urge[d] Congress and the president to only support cost-effective measures to reduce CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions and to reject government-mandated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions." The convention cited "conflict-

ing scientific research" and said carbon emission reductions based on a maximum acceptable global temperature "may have no appreciable effect if humans are not the principal cause of global warming, and could lead to major economic hardships on a worldwide scale."

The SBC resolution seems to align with the 2016 GOP platform, which urged "dispassionate analysis of hard data" on climate change. It warned that the cost of undue reliance on renewable energy sources could cause disproportionate harm to low-income Americans.

### Immigration

The Trump campaign

pledged to "end illegal immigration and protect American workers." The president's specific policy suggestions included blocking illegal immigrants from receiving government benefits and ending sanctuary cities.

Three times since 2006, the SBC has called for government officials to secure America's borders against illegal immigration. In all three resolutions, the convention underscored the need for compassionate treatment of immigrants regardless of their legal status. In 2011, messengers asked elected officials to "hold businesses accountable for hiring practices as they relate to immigration

See **REPUBLICANS** page 11



## Kenosha churches pray for justice, mercy amid downtown rioting

KENOSHA, Wis. (BP) — Wrecked by rioting and unrest following the shooting of Jacob Blake by police, the city of Kenosha is in desperate need of rebuilding, said Rich Villarreal, discipleship and teaching pastor of Redeemer Parkside church, located near downtown Kenosha.

Villarreal said members and leaders of Redeemer Parkside are working to engage and rebuild the community in both practical and spiritual ways.

“There’s a big financial need now,” Villarreal said. “There’s a lot of people downtown whose livelihoods were wrapped up in those businesses [affected by the riots], and so I’ve been encouraging for our people to find one of these GoFundMes and support these local businesses and help build them up.”

A group of 17 churches, including Redeemer Parkside, met Thursday,

Aug. 27, at Harbor Park in Kenosha to pray for the city and cry out to God for restoration, as well as to pray for Blake’s family and those directly affected by the violence. Villarreal estimated 800 people gathered from multiple denominations and surrounding areas.

“Pray for the city,” he said. “We can absolutely do our best efforts to rebuild the buildings, but if God isn’t rebuilding hearts and changing hearts then it’s sort of in vain. My heart and my concern is for the people of Kenosha to see this radical movement of the church being able to display the Gospel and what it looks like to be rebuilt, that God speaks into their hearts and shows the picture of the Gospel and how we’re rebuilt and reformed and reshaped by God’s Word, Himself and His Spirit.”

Matthew Henry, pastor of Missio Dei Fellowship

another?

Someday, of course, there will be a test. God will hold each of us up to the light. He will examine us for authenticity. Are we people of authentic faith living honest and authentic lives?

*Bill Tinsley is a former executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Appearing in various local newspapers around the country, his column “reflects” on current events and life experiences from a faith perspective.*

**Back to the beginning**



Church in Kenosha, said hope is not lost if people come together in love.

“The God who made the heavens and the earth is the faithful God who cannot deny His name nor His people, so we are at rest,” Henry said. “We grieve as we watch our literal neighborhood burn. We grieve with those who suffer much loss. But we mostly grieve at the number of people who are longing for peace and wholeness but also who reject Christ as the only hope, and so we continue to preach and serve and love.”

Henry said the need for the Gospel has not changed, even in the midst of such upheaval.

“We live in a city

slowly being given over to its love of darkness and the covering is being ripped off before our eyes to show how dark it is,” Henry said. “So, the answer is the same as always: rich, deep, full declaration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Lenard Tavernelli, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church on the city’s south side, said one of the biggest needs is for churches simply to engage their neighbors.

“Pray for me and the people of Kenosha to have Gospel conversations with others as a result of the unrest,” Tavernelli said. “And, certainly pray for true justice and that the church

would serve as ministers of reconciliation and peacemakers. Even as the unrest dies down, it will continue to be there right below the surface.”

Villarreal said the city is in need of a community perspective that takes into account how each individual is affected by current events.

“We’re all broken people, and because we’re all broken, broken people do broken things,” he said. “So, as a church we need to remember, not that it’s a moot subject, but that we need to pray for all people. We can’t pick a side. We need to pray for justice for those who need justice, and mercy for those who need mercy.”

## HONESTY

*continued from page three*

bright, but six feet down it’s all rotting bones and worm-eaten flesh. People look at you and think you’re saints, but beneath the skin you’re total frauds” (Matt. 23:27-28, The Message). He warned his disciples, “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy” (Luke 12:1).

What really gets scary and complicated is to examine ourselves. Am I authentic? Is there any hypocrisy in me? Are we being open, honest and authentic with one



After almost three months in lockdown mode, pastors and church planters of TCMBAGather for a much needed time of connection, encouragement and prayer. Meeting July 16 on the lawn of Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, they enjoyed a box lunch and Christian fellowship. Chris Reinertson – Southtown’s pastor and TCMBAG’s director of missions – encouraged and challenged the group using Ephesians 6:10-20 as his text.

## DEMOCRATS

*continued from page two*

and the president to only support cost-effective measures to reduce CO2 and other greenhouse gas emissions and to reject government-mandated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.” The convention cited “conflicting scientific research” and said carbon emission reductions based on a maximum acceptable global temperature “may have no appreciable effect if humans are not the principal cause of global warming, and could lead to major economic hardships on a worldwide scale.”

### Capital Punishment

The Democratic platform supports “abolishing the death penalty.” A 2000 SBC resolution supported “the fair and equitable use of capital punishment by civil magistrates.”

### Comprehensive Sex Education

“LGBTQ+ inclusive, age-appropriate sex education” is “essential to ensuring that people can decide if, when, and how to start a family,” according to the Democratic platform. A 2006 SBC resolution lamented public school “curricula and policies teaching that the homosexual lifestyle is acceptable” and encouraged Southern Baptists to exert “godly influence” on public school systems.

### Points of Partial Agreement

#### Religious Liberty

Consistent with the SBC’s advocacy

of religious liberty, Democrats pledged to “protect the rights of each American for the free exercise of his or her own religion.” However, the platform denounced the “use of broad religious exemptions to allow businesses, medical providers, social service agencies, and others to discriminate.” The platform noted as an example that employers should not be exempted on religious grounds from providing “prescription contraceptives at no cost” under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which includes abortion-causing drugs under the so-called contraceptive mandate. Democrats also opposed religious-based discrimination against LGBT individuals.

A 2016 SBC resolution supported conscience protections for individuals who cannot support laws based on unbiblical views of marriage, sexuality and gender. The resolution asked Congress to “ensure that the federal government does not discriminate against people of faith because of their convictions.” Two years earlier, SBC messengers in Baltimore responded with a standing ovation when the owners of Hobby Lobby were presented with an award from the ERLC for refusing to provide abortion-causing drugs to their employees despite ACA requirements. In 2018, GuideStone Financial Resources won a seven-year legal battle against the ACA’s abortion/contraceptive

mandate.

### Immigration

The Democratic platform called for compassionate treatment of immigrants to the U.S. and a roadmap to citizenship for undocumented individuals. A 2018 SBC resolution also called for compassionate treatment of immigrants and advocated “a pathway to legal status.” But the resolution did not call specifically for a path to citizenship, and it included “emphasis on securing our borders.”

### Gun Violence

The platform declared gun violence a “public health crisis” and pledged to “make gun violence a thing of the past.” In 2018, the SBC “decr[ie]d the epidemic of gun violence” and “call[ed] on federal, state, and local authorities to implement preventative measures that would reduce gun violence and mass shootings.” But unlike the Democratic platform, the SBC resolution demanded that solutions to gun violence be “in accordance with the Second Amendment” and “affirm[ed] that gun ownership carries with it a great responsibility of being aware of the sinfulness of one’s own heart.”

### Israel

Both the Democratic platform and a 2016 SBC resolution expressed support for Israel and opposed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Movement, which seeks to isolate the nation of Israel economically and socially.

However, Democrats advocated a “negotiated two-state solution” between Israel and the Palestinians. The SBC did not support any specific solution to Israel’s conflict with the Palestinians, but it “support[ed] the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state and reject[ed] any activities that attack that right.”

### Points of Agreement

#### Racism

References to combating racial discrimination and racial disparities are sprinkled throughout the platform, including sections on health care, housing, criminal justice reform and education. “Democrats are committed to standing up to racism and bigotry,” the platform states.

The SBC has denounced racial discrimination numerous times, including a 2018 resolution in which messengers “maintain[ed] and renew[ed] our public renunciation of racism in all its forms.”

The platform’s advocacy of “removing the Confederate battle flag and statues of Confederate leaders from public properties” also parallels a 2016 SBC resolution calling for “brothers and sisters in Christ to discontinue the display of the Confederate battle flag.”

#### Abuse

The platform’s commitment to “ending sexual assault, domestic abuse, and other violence against women” resonates with themes in a 2019 SBC resolution “on the evil of sexual abuse.”

### Opioid Abuse

To combat the opioid epidemic, Democrats pledged “to make medication-assisted treatment available to all who need it” and to “require publicly supported health clinics to offer medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction.” A 2018 SBC resolution “encourage[d] our city, state, and national governments to work together to address the [opioid] crisis.”

### Adoption

Democrats pledged to support adoption services. In 2009, the SBC encouraged “each Southern Baptist family to pray for guidance as to whether God is calling them to adopt or foster a child or children.”

### Mental Health

The platform includes at least 30 references to mental health, including pledges to increase federal support of mental health care. In 2013, the SBC expressed a commitment “to affirm, support, and share God’s love and redemption with those with mental health concerns.”

### Human Trafficking

Democrats said they would “fight human trafficking and strive to end the practice of modern-day slavery around the world.” SBC resolutions have condemned trafficking at least twice, including a 2013 call to support “public policies at the local, state, national, and international level which combat human trafficking.”

### Back to the beginning

## REPUBLICANS

*continued from page eight*

status.” In both 2011 and 2018, the SBC urged a pathway to legal status for undocumented immigrants, adding in 2011 that none of the convention’s policy stances should “be construed as support for amnesty for any undocumented immigrant.”

The 2016 Republican platform aligned with SBC resolutions in opposing “any form of amnesty,” calling for immigration reform and demanding both secure borders and worker verification. The platform did not advocate a pathway to legal status for undocumented individuals.

### Points of Agreement (2016 Platform)

#### Abortion

The 2016 Republican platform referenced the party’s pro-life stance about once every two pages, including advocacy of a constitutional amendment applying the right to life to children in the womb. The platform echoes SBC calls to defund Planned Parenthood (2017), repeal *Roe v. Wade* (2003), uphold the Hyde Amendment banning federal funding of abortion (1993), halt use of the abortion drug RU 486 (1994) and ban the sale of fetal tissue from elective abortions (2000). In all, SBC resolutions have opposed abortion at least 25 times since 1976.

#### LGBT Issues

Marriage is “the foundation for a free society” and “the union of one man and one woman,” the platform

stated. Citizens have a constitutional right to uphold that definition, according to the GOP, and the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2015 *Obergefell* decision legalizing same-sex marriage should be overturned. Permitting transgender students to use school restrooms and locker rooms that do not correspond to their biological gender is “illegal, dangerous, and ignores privacy issues.”

The SBC has expressed opposition to homosexual behavior at least 19 times since 1976, including a 2016 expression of “dissent from the *Obergefell* opinion that purports to redefine the institution of marriage created by God.” In 2014, the convention “oppose[d] steadfastly all efforts by any governing official or body to validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy,” including transgender-affirming restroom policies in public schools.

#### Religious Liberty

Individuals, businesses and institutions of faith should never be compelled “to transgress their beliefs,” the platform stated. Accordingly, government should not discriminate against businesses that decline to sell goods or services based on their religious views of marriage or gender; government benefits should not be withheld from religious schools; public display of the Ten Commandments should be permitted; voluntary prayer led by students should be al-

lowed at public school events; private religious organizations should be permitted to set their own membership standards; and military members should have the freedom to express their religious beliefs. Republicans also affirmed international religious liberty.

The SBC has expressed its support for religious liberty in dozens of resolutions. Among them, a 2016 statement advocated conscience protections for individuals who cannot support laws based on unbiblical views of marriage, sexuality and gender. A 2014 resolution advocated religious freedom for faith groups on college campuses, military members and health care workers among other groups. A 2011 resolution asked U.S. leaders “to make religious liberty for all people a priority in decisions of foreign policy and international aid.”

#### Racism

The GOP denounced bigotry, racism and religious intolerance. The SBC has denounced racial discrimination numerous times, including a 2018 resolution in which messengers “maintain[ed] and renew[ed] our public renunciation of racism in all its forms.”

#### Federal Judges

The president should nominate “judges who respect the rule of law expressed within the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, including the inalienable right to life and the laws of nature and

nature’s God,” the platform stated. The SBC advocated nomination and confirmation of “strict constructionist judges to fill the remaining vacancies in the federal judiciary.”

#### Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide

Republicans’ opposition to euthanasia and assisted suicide paralleled the stance of SBC resolutions in 1996 and 1992.

#### Adoption

Federal funding should be utilized to assist families with adoption services, the platform stated. In 2009, the SBC encouraged “each Southern Baptist family to pray for guidance as to whether God is calling them to adopt or foster a child or children.”

#### Stem Cell Research

Both the Republican platform and the SBC opposed embryonic stem cell research and its federal funding while supporting adult stem cell research. The SBC expressed its view in 2005 and 2000.

#### Cloning

The platform called for “a ban on human cloning.” The SBC also called for such a ban and “repudiate[d] both reproductive cloning and research cloning of human embryos.”

#### Mental Health

“Mental illness affects people from all walks of life,” the platform stated. In response, Medicaid-related grants and the military health care system,

among other avenues, should be utilized to promote mental health, Republicans said. In 2013, the SBC expressed a commitment “to affirm, support, and share God’s love and redemption with those with mental health concerns.”

#### Sex Education

Schools should replace “‘family planning’ programs for teens with sexual risk avoidance education that sets abstinence until marriage as the responsible and respected standard of behavior,” according to the platform. The SBC, in 1992, urged government officials to “implement abstinence-based educational programs in public schools.”

#### Criminal Justice Reform

Republicans urged prison alternatives for “first-time, nonviolent offenders” and potential modification of mandatory minimum sentencing requirements for “nonviolent offenders and persons with drug, alcohol, or mental health issues.” The SBC supported in 2013 “legislative policies that seek to reduce high incarceration rates without jeopardizing public safety.”

#### Capital Punishment

“The constitutionality of the death penalty is firmly settled by its explicit mention in the Fifth Amendment,” the platform stated. A 2000 SBC resolution

# Mission Gifts from the Churches

## MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING

January - July 2020

2020 CP Budget	\$344,166.67
2020 CP Receipts	\$371,312.63
OVER Budget YTD	\$27,145.96

### NAME

### CP

#### BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$300.00
Appleton, Fox Valley Hmong	\$180.00
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$338.45
Appleton, Valley	\$33,508.23
Black Creek, Community Bible	\$4,644.00
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$1,212.75
Green Bay, Bethel	\$333.33
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$4,673.43
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$34,741.94
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$224.57
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$2,092.65
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$1,020.00
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,780.60
<b>BLBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$85,049.95</b>

#### SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$860.26
Ft. Atkinson, Casa de Oracion	\$30.00
Janesville, Resonate Church	\$2,405.20
La Crosse, New Hope	\$100.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,200.00
Madison, City on a Hill	\$3,500.00
Madison, Doxa Church	\$16,397.98
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$4,505.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$1,529.02
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$1,396.73
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$9,518.08
Madison, Red Village	\$7,500.00
Madison, Sovereign Joy Baptist	\$3,505.08
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$2,402.56
Portage, River of Life	\$1,699.60
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$10,062.50
Sparta, Gospel Baptist Church	\$2,762.88
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$3,111.00
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$90.00
Waterloo, Cornerstone Church	\$600.00
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$1,400.00
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$2,553.00
WI Rapids, First Baptist Church	\$350.00
<b>SWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,478.89</b>

#### LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist Church	\$891.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$600.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$0.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$9,352.98
Kenosha, Missio Dei Fellowship	\$4,447.00
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$2,542.46
Mequon, Westlake Church	\$300.00
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist	\$2,400.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Church	\$333.56
Milwaukee, Greater Impact	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Hmong First Baptist	\$150.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue	\$9,708.16
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$450.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$34.28
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$284.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$250.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$600.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$4,110.89
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$2,069.88
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$4,424.00
Racine, Hope Commnuity Church	\$2,887.73
<b>LBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,835.94</b>

#### SOUTHERN MN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$1,730.00
Austin, Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$483.52
Chester, Chester Woods	\$1,666.70
Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$513.90
Mankato, Hope Baptist Church	\$1,459.20
Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$2,081.09
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$9,889.91
Rochester, Joyful Hope Baptist	\$95.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$11,459.06
Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$3,172.56
Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$2,283.42
Willmar, Grace Baptist Church	\$50.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$2,087.64
<b>SMNBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,972.00</b>



Cecil & Jean  
Frady

## Struggling to make ends meet?

If you or someone you know  
is an SBC minister, worker or their  
widow and in financial need,  
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Minnesota-Wisconsin  
**Baptist**

# Mission Gifts from the Churches

## TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSN.

Amery, Journey Church	\$3,750.00
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean	\$800.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$13,142.58
Bloomington, True Light Chinese	\$200.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$1,500.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$4,343.49
Burnsville, Berean Baptist Church	\$2,000.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong	\$750.00
Maple Grove, Northwood Community	\$1,333.36
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$3,978.62
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$3,780.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint	\$700.00
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations Fellow.	\$389.46
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations Gospel	\$207.54
Minneapolis, New Hope Baptist	\$200.00
Minneapolis, Shalom Community	\$817.63
Minnetonka, Zion House of Prayer	\$250.00
Monticello, First Baptist Church	\$500.06
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$15,705.46
Oakdale, Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,176.00
Ramsey, Bethlehem Worship	\$325.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$6,000.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian	\$250.00
St. Paul, Cities Church	\$5,000.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$4,052.59
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$800.00
St. Paul, Living Water Baptist	\$54.00
St. Paul, Salt City Church	\$12,300.00
St. Paul, Twin City Hmong	\$1,400.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$3,600.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese	\$300.00
<b>TCMBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$89,605.79</b>

## NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist Chur	\$586.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$1,750.00

Crookston, Prairie Community C	\$2,881.10
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$420.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Bap	\$1,525.75
Hill City, Hill City Baptist Church	\$400.00
Pequot Lakes, Eagles Nest	\$3,495.47
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$2,695.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist Churc	\$2,130.12
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$816.00
Wadena, Grace Connection	\$420.00
<b>NWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$17,119.44</b>

## OTHER

Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$5,950.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$1,887.95
<b>OTHER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,837.95</b>

**MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED** **\$371,312.63**

NOTE: No giving received by MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above during stated giving periods

## REPUBLICANS

*continued from page eleven*

supported “the fair and equitable use of capital punishment by civil magistrates.”

### Pornography

Pornography, according to the platform, “has become a public health crisis that is destroying the lives of millions.” In 2015, the SBC “call[ed] on government authorities to enact and enforce laws that restrict all forms of pornography, particularly those that include and exploit minors.”

### Opioid Use

Legislation must address the opioid crisis, which “is ravaging communities all over the country,” the platform stated. A 2018 SBC resolution “encourage[d] our city, state, and national governments to work together to address the [opioid] crisis.”

**Women in Combat**  
Republicans called

for women to be exempt from registering for the draft and from serving in U.S. military ground combat and infantry battalions. A 2019 SBC resolution said requiring women to register for the draft “would be to act against the plain testimony of Scripture and nature.” Two decades earlier, the convention “oppose[d] the training and assigning of females to military combat service.”

### Points of Partial Agreement (2016 Platform)

#### Guns

Lawful gun ownership is part of the “God-given right of self-defense,” according to the platform. Republicans opposed restrictions on magazine capacity and banning “sale of the most popular and common modern rifle.” The SBC demanded in 2018 that any government solutions to gun violence be “in accordance with the Second Amendment.”

But the convention has not opposed specific weapon bans. It has “call[ed] on federal, state, and local authorities to implement preventative measures that would reduce gun violence and mass shootings.”

### Israel

Republicans in 2016 asserted their “unequivocal support for Israel,” including recognition of Jerusalem as its capital. The platform opposed the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) Movement, which seeks to isolate the nation of Israel economically and socially. Southern Baptists likewise opposed the BDS Movement and “support[ed] the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign state.” The convention committed “to pray for God’s peace to rule in Jerusalem” but did not express a position on Jerusalem’s status as the nation’s capital.

**Back to the beginning**



### CREATE A WILL FOR FREE

FreeWill’s will-writing tool is an online service that allows anyone to write a legally valid will in under 25 minutes, for free!



### SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation has partnered with FreeWill to give every congregation member across the region the ability to give back to their church.



### TWO WAYS TO GIVE

First, a will-writing tool gives you an opportunity to give to your church. Second, a Qualified Charitable Distribution tool allows gifts from IRAs.

FreeWill’s will-writing tool is an online service that allows anyone to write a legally valid will in under 25 minutes, for free! 70% of American adults don’t have one because the process can seem complicated or scary. FreeWill solves that problem by making writing a will easy and accessible. Visit our specialized site to begin and ensure your church stays strong for generations to come.

To write your will, visit [FreeWill.com/MWBC](http://FreeWill.com/MWBC)  
To make a QCD, visit [FreeWill.com/QCD/MWBC](http://FreeWill.com/QCD/MWBC)



# Where do we go from here?

**Convention Goal: \$74,000**

*Make your ways known to me, LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
Psalm 25:4*

- 25% Disaster Relief**
- 20% Urban Ministry**
- 15% Cross-cultural Missions**
- 10% Hands of Hope**
- 10% Internships**
- 5% Children's Evangelism**
- 5% Called Out Youth Camp**
- 5% WMU**
- 5% Pastoral Emergencies**



**Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention  
State Missions Offering**