

**AGENDA 69<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**10.19.23 – FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, AUBURNDALE, FL**

**6:30 p.m. – Annual Meeting Business Session**

<b>Call To Order</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; Prayer</b>	<b>Tom Johnson, FBC Auburndale</b>
<b>Seating of Messengers</b>	<b>Tracey Cayson, Lake Shipp</b>
<b>Book of Reports</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>
<b>Business:</b>	
<b>Approval of Minutes for Last Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>
<b>Nomination of Associational Leaders 2024</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>
<b>Budget recommendation for 2024</b>	<b>Danny Moosbrugger, Heartland</b>
<b>Reports to the Association</b>	
<b>Disaster Relief</b>	<b>Michael Petty, Ridge</b>
<b>Stewardship Simplified (FBFS)</b>	<b>David Russo, FBFS</b>
<b>Recognition of New Pastors</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>
<b>Recognition of Guests</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>
<b>Report from the Mission Strategist</b>	<b>Michael Petty, Ridge</b>
<b>Ridge Bible Training Center</b>	
<b>Church Plant Support</b>	
<b>Recognitions</b>	
<b>Expression of Gratitude</b>	<b>Michael Petty, Ridge</b>
<b>Introduction of 2024 Leadership</b>	<b>Michael Petty, Ridge</b>
<b>Closing Prayer/Adjourn</b>	<b>Kevin Clark, Oasis</b>

**Program: Better Together Church Planting**

<b>Introduce Theme and Speaker</b>	<b>Michael Petty, Ridge</b>
<b>Worship Set</b>	<b>James Schick, NorthRidge</b>
<b>Prayer</b>	<b>Erwin Santoso, Church Planter</b>
<b>Better Together Church Planting</b>	<b>Ridge Church Planting Team</b>
<b>Prayer &amp; Adjourn</b>	<b>Henry Link, Church on the Hill</b>

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
October 20, 2022

The 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Ridge Baptist Association was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at New Hope Baptist Church in Lake Wales, Florida.

**Call to Order**

The Business Session was called to order by Dr. Chris Young, Moderator. He then invited Pastor Stephen Bolden of New Hope Baptist Church to give the welcome and prayer.

**Welcome & Prayer**

Pastor Stephen Bolden of New Hope Baptist Church welcomed the attendees and then opened the meeting with prayer.

**Seating of Messengers**

Tracey Cayson, Clerk, made a motion that all registered messengers constitute the working body of this 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the Ridge Baptist Association. The motion was seconded by Pastor Kevin Clark. Motion carried.

**Book of Reports**

Dr. Chris Young, Moderator, stated that the Book of Reports will be posted in its entirety in electronic format on the Ridge Baptist Association website and can be downloaded as needed during the coming year.

**Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting**

The minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were distributed for review. Pastor Joe Lemmons made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pastor Mark Hodges seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**BUSINESS:**

**Nomination of Associational Leaders 2023**

The Nominating Team moved that the following officers be elected to serve as the 2022-2023 Associational Leadership:

**Officers**

Moderator:	Kevin Clark, Oasis
Vice Moderator:	Mark Hodges, Winter Haven Baptist Church
Treasurer:	Danny Moosbrugger, Heartland
Clerk:	Tracey Cayson, Lake Shipp Baptist/RBA

**Team Leaders**

Worship Leader:	James Hurlburt, The Rock
Church Planting & New Churches:	Joe Lemmons, Lake Shipp Baptist Chris Young, Graceway Community
Evangelism & Prayer:	Steven Harness, FBC Winter Haven
Legacy:	Jim Durham, FBC Winter Haven

Youth Ministry:  
Disaster Relief:

Mike Jarrett, The Rock  
Bill Snively

Dr. Chris Young, Moderator, stated that since this has been presented as a motion from the Administrative Team and Executive Committee, no second is needed. The floor was opened for discussion, but none ensued. Motion carried.

### **Budget Recommendations for 2023**

The Ridge Treasurer, Danny Moosbrugger, presented the Proposed Budget for 2023. The budget represents a modest increase from the 2022 budget. The increase is possible because the financial support of the churches has outpaced budget expectations for the current year. The total 2022 budget was \$160,454.34. The proposed budget for 2023 reflects the increased partnership support and brings the total 2023 budget to \$163,834.21, representing an increase of \$3,379.87.

Dr. Chris Young, Moderator, stated that since this has been presented as a motion from the Administrative Team and Executive Committee, no second is needed. The floor was opened for discussion, but none ensued. Motion carried.

### **By-Law Amendment Recommendations**

Dr. Chris Young, Moderator, referred to the insert in the program listing three proposed amendment changes to the Ridge Baptist Association By-Laws. The matter bringing about the need to recommend these changes are a result of legal actions and court arguments bringing Baptist polity to the spotlight. We are and have always been autonomous. Our practice of church and institutional autonomy has been a long held distinctive in our Baptist tradition. We are not independent, as we voluntarily choose to partner and cooperate with other churches, associations, conventions, schools, and mission boards. All the while we vehemently maintain that each of these are autonomous. No association, convention, board, or agency has authority over the other. That is autonomy. The recent court filings cast shade on autonomy and sounded eerily like North American Mission Board held hierarchical authority over all other entities. This prompted outrage and legal counselors to recommend that churches, associations, and all other autonomous entities review our by-laws to ensure that autonomy is explicit.

### **By-Law Issue and Recommendation #1**

#### **By-Law 1.3.1**

The current reading of the By-Laws requires, for membership, a church to support the Cooperative Program. This requirement removes from churches their autonomous freedom to bypass the Cooperative Program and designate to specific ministries.

The recommended change for section 1.3.1 removes the portion reading “and the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.”

Since this comes as a recommendation from the Administrative Team and the Executive Team, it needs no second. Moderator Chris Young opened the floor for questions.

Pastor Mike Arms inquired if it would benefit him to disassociate from the Ridge Baptist Association but continue to send in financial support in order to further protect his church? Mission Strategist Michael Petty stated that the way this By-Law currently reads, member churches would be required to support the cooperative program 100%. The proposed change would let member churches, by conviction, bypass cooperative designations and still be a member of the Ridge Baptist Association. After discussion, the motion carried.

#### By-Law 1.3.3

The current reading of section 1.3.3 requires for membership, a church “to affirm their support of the authority and inerrancy of Scripture and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 of the Southern Baptist Convention.”

As the often-changed Baptist Faith and Message has, in our By-Laws been elevated to inerrant status, we felt it necessary to ask the churches to adhere to inerrancy of Scripture and to affirm the statement of beliefs of this Association which is the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. This removes the language that the BF&M is inerrant.

Since this comes as a recommendation from the Administrative Team and the Executive Team, it needs no second. Moderator Chris Young opened the floor for questions. Pastor Steve Harness stated that the way the original wording was drafted wasn’t necessarily stating that the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 was inerrant but can see how it could be misconstrued. After discussion, the motion carried.

#### By-Law 1.4.1

Similarly, section 1.4.1 sets the requirement for churches to equally defend the truths of both the Scripture and the Baptist Faith & Message.

The revision recommended here removes the requirement of defense of the Baptist Faith & Message and leaves only the defense of the inerrant Scripture.

Since this comes as a recommendation from the Administrative Team and the Executive Team, it needs no second. Moderator Chris Young opened the floor for questions. No questions were forthcoming. The motion carried.

### **REPORTS TO THE ASSOCIATION:**

#### Disaster Relief Update

A video from the Ridge Disaster Relief Team’s work in Pt. Charlotte was shown. Michael Petty shared that the Disaster Relief trailer axle and a couple of tires were damaged on its last trip. Once the trailer has been repaired another Disaster Relief trip will be scheduled. More information on will be forthcoming.

#### Florida Baptist Financial Services

Michael Petty introduced David Russo, our area representative from Florida Baptist Financial Services, who gave a brief description of the services they offer for the Ridge churches. All funds are used for loans to Florida Baptist churches for construction, expansion, etc. Currently, interest rates through FBF’s Church Growth Investment Fund are great.

After David Russo's brief presentation, a video from Rick Wheeler, President of Florida Baptist Financial Services, was shown.

### **New Ridge Pastors**

Moderator Chris Young asked for any new pastors to please stand and be recognized. The following new pastors were present and recognized:

Pastor Shane Mitchell, Calvary Baptist Church  
Pastor Kyle Mulcahy, Golfview Baptist Church  
Pastor Henry Link, The Church on the Hill  
Pastor Jim Kiser, Lake Region Baptist Church  
Pastor Anthony DeJesus, Conexion Hispana Lake Wales

### **International Mission Board**

Barbara Johnson, a former missionary to Jordan for 31 years, is now back in her hometown of Bartow and is working on behalf of IMB as a liaison to connect local churches with missionaries in the field. There are three ways to connect through IMB.

1. Prayer – the IMB distributes the Prayer Points publication to churches, and it can also be ordered online.
2. The SEND Relief program – the program works in conjunction locally with IMB and overseas with NAMB doing relief work.
3. If a church is interested in having a connection to a missionary in the field please provide her with the appropriate contact information. She will leave the sign-up form with Michael Petty as well.

### **REPORT FROM THE MISSION STRATEGIST:**

Michael Petty, Mission Strategist for the Ridge Baptist Association gave the following reports:

#### **One Together Offering**

Michael Petty shared that this offering will be used by Ridge churches to help Ridge churches who encounter situations that hinder them from moving forward. Last year, the total offering collected was \$22,109.28. So far, this year there was one church in need of \$500 and the Ridge was able to help meet that need. He asked that Ridge churches consider holding this offering in February but it can be held at any time.

This offering will also be taken during the worship portion of tonight's program.

#### **Ridge Bible Training Center**

The RBTC is going strong. The courses are for anybody and everybody. Currently, the students are taking the New Testament Survey course. There are two course tracks – pastors and laypeople. The following students came to the stage: Phyllis Boyd, Andrew Bradley, David Durham Jr., Tony Ridge, Buck Barnhill and Steven Clevenger. Phyllis Boyd and Tony Ridge both gave testimonies about their experiences with the RBTC program and what it means to them.

## **RECOGNITIONS:**

### **Expression of Gratitude**

Michael Petty expressed his gratitude to Pastor Stephen Bolden and New Hope Baptist Church for hosting the Annual Meeting this year.

### **Introduction of New Officers**

Michael Petty, Mission Strategist, introduced those who will be serving as officers and team leaders for 2022 – 2023 and asked them to come to the stage as he called out their names.

Chris Young, outgoing Moderator, was presented with a card and will receive a commentary of his choice from the Ridge Baptist Association.

### **Closing Prayer/Adjourn**

Pastor Chris Young closed the meeting with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted by:*  
*Tracey Cayson, Clerk*

## 2024 Nominations

### OFFICERS:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nomination</u>
Moderator	Kevin Clark
Vice Moderator	Mark Hodges
Treasurer	Danny Moosbrugger
Clerk	Tracey Cayson

### TEAM LEADERS:

<u>Team</u>	<u>Nomination</u>
Worship Leader	James Hurlburt
Church Planting & New Churches	Joe Lemmons Chris Young
Disaster Relief	Bill Snively



## 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET

*Empowering churches* to join one another in *advancing the Kingdom of God*.

**\$4,300**

**Ministers Conferences  
Pastors and Wives Hospitality**

**\$1,000**

**Learning Events**

**CHURCH PLANTING \$6,000**

**Church Planting Consultant**

### **Administrative/Personnel/Personnel Expenses**

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Insurance</b>	<b>\$1,958.10</b>
<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>\$1,400.00</b>
<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Postage &amp; Printing</b>	<b>\$165.00</b>
<b>Office Lease/Rent</b>	<b>\$2,794.00</b>
<b>Utilities: Electricity, Internet, Phone, Web Page</b>	<b>\$5,419.00</b>
<b>Accounting &amp; Payroll</b>	<b>\$900.00</b>
<b>QuickBooks</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>Personnel: Salaries, Insurance, Retirement, Taxes</b>	<b>\$133,191.21</b>
<b>Workers Compensation</b>	<b>\$720.00</b>
<b>Mission Strategist Conferences</b>	<b>\$1,200.00</b>
<b>Mission Strategist Auto</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
<b>Total Administrative / Personnel</b>	<b>\$152,507.31</b>
<b>Total 2024 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>\$163,807.31</b>