

ANNUAL MEETING
RIDGE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
October 19, 2023

The 69th Annual Meeting of the Ridge Baptist Association was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at First Baptist Church in Auburndale, Florida.

Call to Order

The Business Session was called to order by Pastor Kevin Clark, Moderator.

Welcome & Prayer

Pastor Tom Johnson of First Baptist Church Auburndale 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 69th Annual Session of the Ridge Baptist Association. The motion was seconded by Pastor Joe Lemmons. Motion carried.

Book of Reports

Pastor Kevin Clark, 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 2022 Annual Meeting

The minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were distributed for review. Pastor Mark Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Pastor Rick Giles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:

Nomination of Associational Leaders 2024

The Nominating Team moved that the following officers be elected to serve as the 2023-2024 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
Disaster Relief:	Bill Snively

Pastor Kevin Clark, 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 2024

The Ridge Treasurer, Danny Moosbrugger, presented the Proposed Budget for 2024. The budget represents a strong commitment to church planting, including a church planting consultant to help facilitate the strength and health of our church plants. The financial partnership of the Ridge churches has enabled us to serve. The total 2024 proposed budget is \$163,807.31 which is closely in line with last year's budget. Pastor Kevin Clark, 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.

REPORTS TO THE ASSOCIATION:

Disaster Relief Update

A video from the Ridge Disaster Relief Team's work was shown. Michael Petty encouraged folks to plug in to Disaster Relief ministry in any capacity. There is a place for everyone to be involved – child care, laundry, feeding unit, etc. Volunteers are required to complete training. The next Disaster Relief training is scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024 at First Baptist Church Bushnell. More information regarding the training will be forthcoming.

Stewardship Simplified (FBFS)

Pastor Kevin Clark, Moderator, 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.

Recognition of New Pastors and Guests

Pastor Kevin Clark, Moderator, asked for any new pastors to please stand and be recognized. The following new pastors and guest were present and recognized:

Pastor Josue Hernandez, The Church on the Hill Spanish ministry
Pastor Jose Garcia, Iglesia NorthRidge
Worship & Youth Pastor James Schick, NorthRidge Church
Alfredo Campos, Church Administrator, Dios Te Ama
Jeffery Singletary, Regional Catalyst, Florida Baptist Convention
Dr. Jean Moise, partner in Show Them Ministries, Haiti

REPORT FROM THE MISSION STRATEGIST:

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

Ridge Bible Training Center

The RBTC courses are going very well, and we have a wonderful first cohort of students. Due to the major growth occurring in Polk County, we have a need for more than one location for the RBTC. We also need to train more teachers. Lena Vista Baptist Church in Auburndale and Lake Shipp Baptist Church in Winter Haven have offered to host RBTC courses at their locations. FBC Waverly is currently hosting the RBTC courses for

the first cohort of students. We are hoping to add a location at NorthRidge Church and another in Lake Wales. Please pray about Ridge church involvement in the classes as well as host locations. This is a tremendous opportunity to live and learn local.

Church Plant Support

The 2024 budget includes funds for a church planting consultant. Our goal last year was to plant 36 churches in order to be where we need to be based on demographic information from the past few years. We have a desire for associational buy-in for the church plants. We currently have 11 church plants in process. In an effort to support and encourage them, the Ridge Administrative and Executive Teams met and are asking our associational churches to pledge additional giving to our church planting fund to assist new church plants. We would like to give a minimum of \$100 per month to each church plant but would love to provide more. One association church, Shady Hammock Baptist Church, has offered a matching gift of \$20,000 to be released in conjunction with other donated funds. Churches may also hold a special one-time offering in lieu of a monthly donation.

Michael Petty introduced the following two new Ridge church planters and prayed for them:

- Pastor Kyle Kilpatrick, Hillside Church in Babson Park. His sending church is The Church on the Hill, where he was the previous Youth Pastor.
- Pastor Josue Hernandez, The Church on the Hill Spanish ministry. His sending church is also The Church on the Hill.

RECOGNITIONS:

Expression of Gratitude

Michael Petty expressed his gratitude to Pastor Tom Johnson and First Baptist Church Auburndale for hosting the Annual Meeting this year. He also expressed his gratitude to the following outgoing Associational Leadership Team members: Pastor Mike Jarrett, Team Lead, Youth; and Pastor Steve Harness, Team Lead, Evangelism & Prayer.

Evangelism Training Announcement

Pastor Steve Harness of First Baptist Church Winter Haven invited those present to attend a Ridge sponsored free evangelism training event that will be hosted by FBC Winter Haven on November 9th from 9:00am – noon with lunch provided. The speaker will be Mike Kahn, Mission Strategist at the Tampa Bay Baptist Association, and the program is titled “Imagine...If.” Folks may sign up via FBC Winter Haven or the Ridge office. More information will be forthcoming.

Introduction of 2024 Leadership

Michael Petty, Mission Strategist, introduced those who will be serving as officers and team leaders for 2023 – 2024. He asked them to come to the stage as he called out their names, and then he prayed for them as they lead the Ridge during the upcoming year.

Closing Prayer/Adjourn

Pastor Kevin Clark, Moderator, closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted by:
Tracey Cayson, Clerk