



# THE BAPTIST MESSAGE

November 21, 2024  
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## Louisiana Baptists connect during busy annual meeting

### HORN: Connect, obey Commission, cooperate, commit

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn, during the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 12, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, urged messengers to connect, cooperate, follow the Great Commission and commit for the Kingdom.

#### CONNECTION

“We are a connected force for good,” Horn said. “But if we cease to be connected, we will lose or at least diminish our ability to be a force for good. Just as we are a force for good at the national level, I believe we are a force for good in Louisiana.”

Horn said the *Baptist Message*, Louisiana Baptist Foundation, Louisiana Baptist Children’s Home and Family Ministries, Louisiana Christian University and Executive Board all play a part in that connection.

Importantly, he shared how the Executive Board has responded to the church insurance crisis that is pressing on congregations across the state, approving a motion, Sept. 24, that would loan \$250,000 from the Disaster Relief Restricted Fund to help cover initial costs of a newly formed church self-

See **CONNECT**, page 4



Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn said the Great Commission most effectively defines the mission of the church and LBC



Louisiana Baptist Convention President David Goza in his president’s address said pastors should speak the things of God to win souls to the Kingdom.

### Louisiana Baptists fellowship, pray, conduct business

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – Louisiana Baptists enjoyed fellowship and worship during the 2024 LBC Annual meeting, Nov. 12, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport.

#### BUDGET APPROVED

Messengers approved the 2025 financial plan based on Cooperative Program contributions of \$17,380,808, a decrease of \$699,761, or 3.87 percent. Cooperative Program projections are based on actual receipts from August 2023 through July 2024. The allocation formula for distributing CP gifts between Southern Baptist entities and Louisiana Baptist causes remains unchanged, 62.87 percent to support ministries in the state and 37.13 percent forwarded to fund national entities.

#### MOTIONS

Messengers considered four motions, unanimously approving one that established a day of prayer for Louisiana Christian University on the first Sunday in February (submitted by Terry Young, pastor, Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City).

Young submitted two other motions regarding LCU. He with-

See **BUSINESS**, page 3



Pastors Conference President Heath Peloquin, pastor with Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, thanked pastors, staff members and wives for dedication to their churches, families and communities.



Praying for Louisiana Christian University



Pastor Brian Gunter makes a resolution.

## Pastors Conference: Faithful to the end

By Brian Blackwell  
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – During the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Pastor’s Conference, Nov. 11, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, speakers offered words of encouragement and conviction to pastors

about remaining faithful in all areas of their lives.

Pastors Conference President Heath Peloquin, pastor with Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport, thanked the pastors, other staff members and

See **FAITHFUL**, page 12



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# Speakers press messengers to connect

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – David Goza charged pastors to be unified and preach the grace of God in a godless culture in his presidential address during the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 12, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport.

“We are the light of

Christ for this world,” he said. “We have to be united; we have to be thinking alike; and we have to be going in the same direction.”

“Obviously, we’re going to have some times of disagreement. But we have to be able to come together for the sake of the lost,” he continued. “Our mission is the Great Commission of Jesus Christ to the Church, and we’re a Convention of Bible believing churches.”

Drawing from Titus 2:11-14, Goza said God’s grace teaches churches to

deny self, live a godly life and look for the return of Jesus.

“These are dark days. We are the Church of this age. God has saw to it that we are the keepers of His Word for this generation, and I believe, for one, that we are the end time Church. It falls on us in this dark hour to preach the Gospel.”

### BIBLE STUDY

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president and CEO with  
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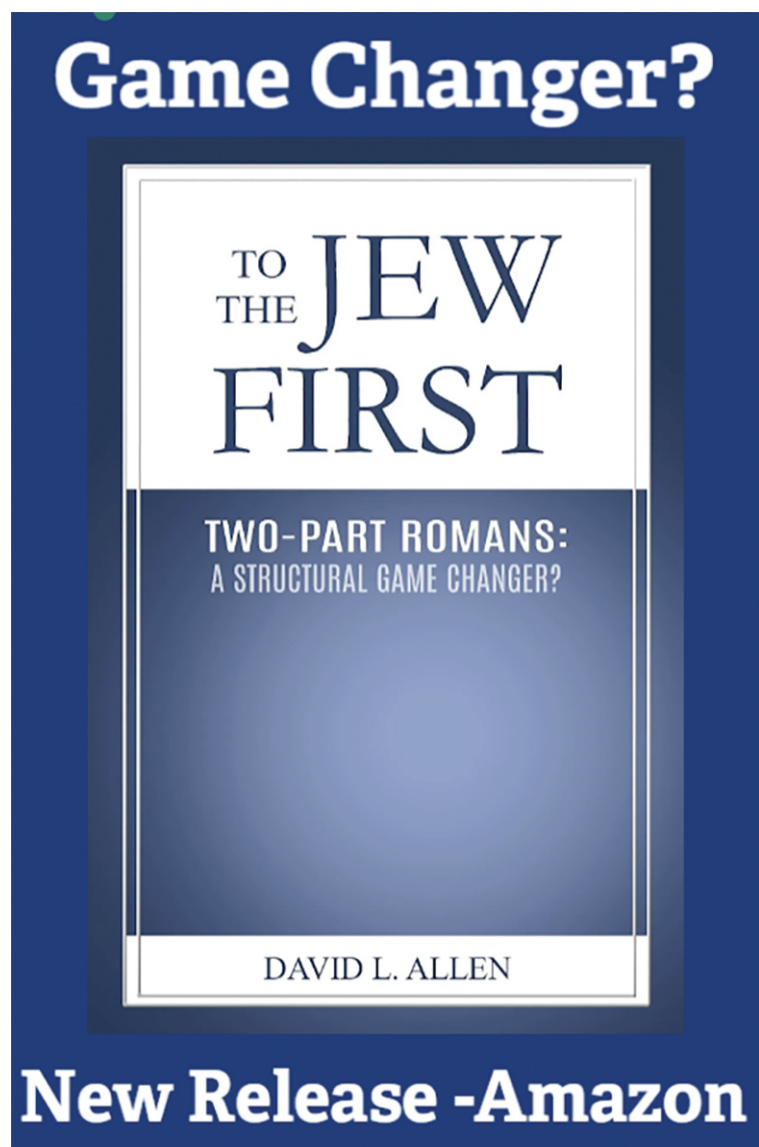
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## Business from page one

drew one motion that asked Louisiana Baptists to use prayer, more funding, and student recruiting to reaffirm their dedication to and partnership with the school. His third motion, asking for a special annual offering for the next three years that would be collected on the day of prayer for the school, was referred to the Executive Board for further deliberation and consideration.

A motion by messenger Lewis Richerson, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, to amend Article 6, Section 5 of the Articles of Incorporation to affirm the office of pastor as exclusive to men was referred to the Executive Board for further deliberation and consideration.

### LAGNIAPPE

The final messenger count for the 2024 Annual Meeting was 451, an

increase from 338 that registered for the 2023 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

The 2025 LBC Annual Meeting will take place Nov. 11 at the Randolph Riverfront Center, Alexandria. The convention sermon will be preached by Michael Wood, pastor with First Baptist Church, West Monroe.

The alternate preacher will be Tommy Middleton, associational mission strategist with Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge. The worship leader will be Cullen McDaniel, worship pastor with Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.

### OFFICERS ELECTED

David Goza, pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, was re-elected president. Matt Endris, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church,



Brian Blackwell photo

Messengers elected officers of the Louisiana Baptist Convention for 2025: (R-L) David Goza, pastor of Jefferson Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, president; Matt Endris, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Alpha, first vice-president; and Craig James, associational missions strategist, North-Central Baptist Association, second-vice president.

Alpha, was re-elected first vice-president, and Craig James, associational mission strategist, North-Central Baptist Associa-

tion, was elected second-vice president.

All three men were given individual votes of acclamation by the Con-

vention – a single ballot cast by the LBC executive director in view of no opposition to any of the candidates

# ECON

## EVANGELISM CONFERENCE



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Connect from page one

insured organization. The money would be used for the establishment and administration of the self-insurance trust, also known as the Fellowship of Louisiana Churches and Non-Profit Religious Organizations.

“Of great interest to all of us at this moment in our history is how your Executive Board is attempting to connect our churches to a more affordable insurance model,” Horn said. “We are not at the finish line yet, but God willing, I trust that when we meet next year your church will have been presented the option to

participate with other Louisiana churches in a church self-insurance program. Our connection through Convention is what helps us to do that.”

COOPERATE

Horn shared that in 2025, Southern Baptists will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Cooperative Program, whose architect was the late Shreveport pastor, M.E. Dodd.

He noted that in 2008 Louisiana reached the height of giving through CP with receipts of \$22,650,000 (8.27 percent of undesig-



Louisiana Baptists' Executive Director Steve Horn

nated receipts). However, in 2023 Louisiana Baptist churches gave \$17,400,868 (5.38 percent of undesignated receipts).

Horn said that while he

is not asking churches to do more than they are doing with the CP, he asked them to pray that Louisiana can return to at least \$20 million a year in giving through the CP and to ask themselves the question, “Is this the best we can do?”

“Over five years ago, when I became the executive director, I said ‘the Cooperative Program will be emphasized,’” Horn said. “I’m standing before you today in my sixth annual meeting, standing by that commitment. I make no apologies. This is why we are Southern Baptist, and this is why we are Louisiana Baptist.”

COMMISSION

Horn said Louisiana Baptists have to follow the Great Commission which defines the mission of the church and LBC.

“Many of you have embraced my challenge to create and maintain a ‘culture of evangelism’ in Louisiana,” Horn said. “Let’s stay the course and stay on mission.” In that regard, he asked churches to simultaneously preach about John 3:16 on March 16, 2025.

He also offered that Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Associate Kevin Ulmer has written a 16-day prayer guide for churches to use in the 16 days leading up to March 16.

“Though I would never tell pastors what to preach, with humility and in the spirit of cooperation and connection for the Great Commission, I want to invite and challenge every Louisiana Baptist pastor to preach that Sunday on John 3:16,” Horn said. “Imagine the possibility of every Louisiana Baptist pulpit preaching this text on this same Sunday and trust the results to God. That’s my challenge.”

COMMITMENT

Horn challenged messengers to be devoted to God and walk daily with Him.

“It matters not how strong our connections, or cooperation, or even zeal for the Great Commission, if our personal commitment to the Lord Jesus is not characterized by personal holiness, obedience to our Lord’s commands, and a growing devotion to Him,” he said.

Speakers from page 2

Resources of the SBC, reminded messengers that a Kingdom leader is a servant, steward and shepherd.

“This model for Kingdom leadership is to shepherd them according to the integrity of His heart and to guide them with the skillfulness of His hands,” said Dilbeck, basing his Bible study on Psalm 78:70-72.

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# LBC entities report significant good news

**By Brian Blackwell**  
Message staff writer

SHREVEPORT, La. (LBM) – Messengers to the 2024 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 12, hosted by Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, heard encouraging updates from the state's four entities.

## BAPTIST MESSAGE/ PUBLIC POLICY

*Baptist Message* Executive Editor Will Hall said the news service continues to operate with sound accounting principles and made a profit last year, and he highlighted two “golden apples” (Proverbs 25:11) among the articles the entity published in 2024.

Specifically, he referred to a report about a 31.1 percent surge in baptisms by Louisiana Baptists in 2023 on top of an 18.8 percent increase the prior year. He also shared about the impact of an article that described how Hopewell Baptist Church, Center Point, experienced a re-

birth through prayer. Hall said that HBC's pastor, Ricky Belgard, posted the article on his Facebook page and a grandmother, after reading the story to her 10-year-old granddaughter, led the young girl to a relationship with Jesus.

Hall, who also serves as the director of the Convention's Office of Public Policy, said Louisiana Baptists helped to pass some good bills but failed to defeat one in the recent state legislative session:

-- Although lawmakers handily killed a recreational pot bill, they rejected legislation (Senate Bill 237) that would have banned THC (the psychotropic component in both pot and hemp) from consumable products that are being pushed in conve-

nience stores, local grocery markets and gas stations. Instead, they legalized

recreational THC in a hemp bill (HB 952).

-- Act 676, championed by Rep. Dodie Horton, a member with First Baptist Church, Haughton, will place the Ten Commandments

in every publicly funded classroom, kindergarten through college, in Louisiana. This measure is headed to the conservative 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with Louisiana set to appeal a ruling against the law by a federal district judge appointed by former President Obama.

-- Act 293, authored

by Sen. Mark Abraham, a member with Trinity Baptist Church, Lake Charles, allows “each city, parish, or other local public school board” to “employ or accept as a volunteer a certified chaplain to provide support, services and programs for students, staff, and parents.”

“There are some golden apples being served up

because of the cooperative ministries and cooperative missions of Louisiana Baptists,” Hall said.

## LBCH & FM

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries President and CEO Perry Hancock celebrated changed lives

See ENTITIES, page 6



Baptist Message  
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# Entities from page 5

through the entity's ministries: ConnectiChild foster care and adoption ministry; Granberry Counseling Centers; Minister Care Residential Program (which serves LBC pastors in transition as well as SBC missionaries on stateside



Louisiana Baptist Children's Home and Family Ministries President and CEO Perry Hancock celebrated changed lives through the entities many ministries.

assignment, transitioning to a new ministry, or retiring from missionary service); HomePlace ministry for homeless women and their children; Orphans Embrace (reaching Haiti through a children's home in the country); Granberry Coun-

seling Centers; and Compassion for Kids (a ministry designed to meet the basic life needs of economically challenged children and their families in north and central Louisiana).

"Gospel seeds were planted, and we're hoping for a harvest of souls in the days ahead," he said. "And that's worth celebrating."

Importantly, he highlighted how children on campus have turned to Christ through VBS, Baptist camps and through Granberry Counseling Centers.

In 2025, the LBCHFM plans to open in January its Compassion Center, which

will serve up to 25,000 impoverished children and their families each year. The regional center, still under construction, will provide weekend food backpacks and school supplies for children, a baby store for infants and toddlers and support for foster care families. The center also will provide space for a mission church, resources for existing compassion ministries and establishment of new church-based compassion works.

He also noted that foster care support groups will be started in Alexandria, Baton Rouge and Shreveport, before expanding to other cities across the state.

Hancock said the ministry continues to celebrate its 125th anniversary and invited Louisiana Baptists to come for a tour of campus.

"I came today to say thank you for allowing God to use your church to change lives through the Children's Home," Hancock said.

"Thank you for giving to Fall Food Round-up. Thank you for giving to the Children's Home Sunday Offering, thank you for giving special gifts."

"Thank you so much for giving every Sunday through the Cooperative Program," he continued. "It is the way God does what he does through Louisiana Baptists. Thank you so much for meeting needs and changing lives in your Children's Home."

LBF

Louisiana Baptist Foundation President Jeff Steed reported that \$73.7 million in ministry support overall has been generated since the July 2020 launch of the LBF's Vision200 (a goal to impact the Kingdom with \$200 million grown through the LBF in 20 or fewer years).

Steed said the ministry has helped Louisiana Baptists receive a return of \$34

See ENTITIES, page 7

## Sam Moore, Evangelistic Ministries

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## Entities from page 6

for every dollar of Cooperative Program budgeted to the Foundation in the most recent year.

He shared that the entity offers church loans, Giving-Gateway.net, payroll services, a computer support help line, capital campaigns, accounting services, real estate loans, short-term funds and on-line giving.

"How can we partner with your with in ministry, with you and your church to maximize impact?" Steed asked messengers. "How can we leverage and maximize the relationships in this room today for ministry partnerships to advance the Kingdom for those who will be attending this meeting in the year 2104? How can we partner together to further strengthen your church in these days and future days?"

"We need to celebrate what God's done over the last 80 years through your foundation ministry," Steed offered. "But we also need to maximize what we do now to leave an impact over the next 80 years, for His sake, for His glory."

### Louisiana Christian University

Louisiana Christian University Acting President David Jeffreys said the school is in a period of transition, noting that six town hall meetings have been held this year to meet with alumni, pastors and others to field questions and give updates on the search for the next presi-

dent as well as to report about other happenings at the school.

He said the search committee has narrowed the field of candidates to nine individuals, and that the committee plans to make a hiring recommendation to trustees by February.

He said the school remains committed to evangelism and discipleship.

"Not every student that goes to Louisiana Christian University is a Christian," Jeffreys said. "So, we present the Gospel through our athletics, through our chapel, through everything that we do in the classroom. We are about the Gospel and leading students to Christ, and about leading them in a deeper relationship with Him. And the result of that is seeing students changed."

Following the report, LBC President David Goza, Presidential Search Committee Chairman Tommy Kiker and Louisiana Baptist Executive Director Steve Horn surrounded Jef-



Louisiana Baptist Foundation President Jeff Steed reported that \$73.7 million in ministry funds have been generated through the LBF since the July 2020 launch of Vision2020 (a goal to impact the Kingdom with \$200 million through the LBF in 20 or fewer years).

freys as Terry Young, pastor of Airline Baptist Church, Bossier City, led a prayer for him. Young made a motion that passed during the Annual Meeting that establishes a day of prayer for the school.

"I pray for the team that's been assembled," Young prayed. "Thank you for their faithfulness and their willing-

ness to give so many hours to do a hard task but a good task.

"Thank you for Dr. Jeffreys and his ministry," he said. "Lord, you put him in this position for such a time as this," Young prayed. "Lord, I'm thankful for the Cooperative Program. I'm thankful for our churches in this room

and around the state that understand the value of us cooperating to educate the next generation. God, may we continue to commit to that mission and commit to support this university.

God, I pray that our best days are not in the past, but they're yet to come."

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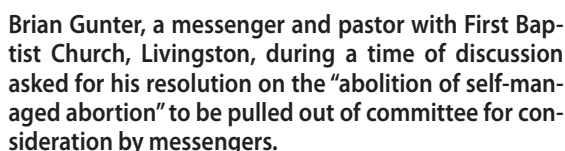
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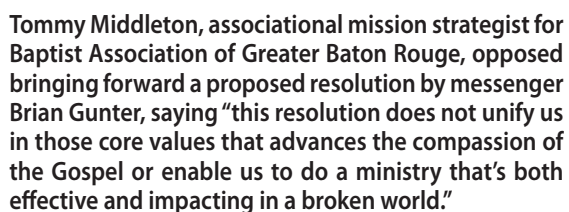
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However, the Committee on Resolutions reported it had declined to recommend a resolution it had received, "The Abolition of Self-Managed Abortion in Louisiana," from Brian Gunter, a messenger and pastor with First Baptist Church, Liv-



During a time of discussion about the resolutions report, Gunter asked messengers to vote to pull his proposed resolution out



Gunter shared that this is the third year he had come before the messengers, asking them to adopt a statement on the matter.

"I'm going to bring this matter to your attention year after year, because some in our state convention of churches have repeatedly opposed our efforts to unify our

“Maybe someone would like to come before this microphone and explain why he believes that children in the womb should not have the same right to life as you and me,” he continued. “Please come explain why you believe that self-managed abortion must remain legal for women in Louisiana. Please explain why you believe that a child’s life should not be fully protected until after that child is born.

See **RESOLUTIONS**, page 11

November 21, 2024 ● [www.baptistmessage.com](http://www.baptistmessage.com) ● Louisiana Baptist Message



## Resolutions from page 10

"Oh, and don't forget, we aren't a convention of politicians," he said. "We are a convention of churches, and our authority is the Word of God, not what you think might be politically pragmatic or expedient. If you want to convince us that self-managed abortion should remain legal for women in the state of Louisiana, then you'll have to make your case from the Bible. But you can't do that, and we all know it. The Bible is extremely clear – 'you shall not murder.' There are no exceptions. Murdering anyone should be illegal for everyone, and frankly it's shameful that it has taken us three years to make such a statement."

Speaking against the motion, Committee on Resolutions Chairman Fieldon Thigpen, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church in Bogalusa, shared that the committee did not bring Gunter's resolution out of committee after the group had researched the abortion abolitionist movement, with which Gunter has aligned.

**EDITOR'S NOTE: The abortion abolitionist movement advocates for the prosecution of women who have abortions. In some high-profile instances,**

**pro-life leaders and groups who have disagreed on this point have been attacked as "pro-abortion," "murderers," etc.**

Thigpen noted that Louisiana Baptists have a long track record of defending the sanctity of human life, promoting efforts to preserve the lives of the unborn and offering support for expected mothers, and mentioned six resolutions that messengers have adopted in just the last 10 years:

-- 2023 ON PREVENTING MAIL-ORDER ABORTIFACIENTS (which addresses "self-managed abortions")

-- 2022 ON THANKING GOD FOR THE SUPREME COURT'S RULING IN DOBBS v. JACKSON

-- 2019 ON LOVE LIFE AMENDMENT (support for a state constitutional amendment that there is no right to an abortion)

-- 2018 ON LOUISIANA BAPTISTS' PRO-LIFE BELIEFS

-- 2015 ON DEFUNDING PLANNED PARENTHOOD

-- 2014 ON PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

"In contrast, the LBC has voted down proposed abolitionist resolutions," he said.

"As the Resolutions Committee, we are not the voice

of the Convention," he said. "We seek to provide words for the voice of the Convention ... words of which we believe you will be resolved about. In light of these facts, we are confident that Louisiana Baptists are resolved on the sanctity of human life and desiring to see all babies in our state live, but do not believe Louisiana Baptists are unitedly resolved with the abolitionist movement about the methods by which we hope to accomplish this."

Joel Williams, pastor with First Baptist Church, St. Francisville, spoke in favor of Gunter's motion.

Williams identified himself as "generationally, a Louisiana Baptist" with both his father and great-grandfather serving as pastors, and his father also leading the "Louisiana Baptist Children's Home for years until he retired."

"I've been a pastor at First Baptist for 12 years, and as far as I know, in my life, in my family's life, we have always been pro-life," he said.

"For me, the issue is really simple: Life begins at conception," he shared. "All life created in the image of God deserves equal protection under the law. The intentional taking of life is murder. Ba-

bies in their mother's wombs deserve equal protection as much as babies in their mother's arms."

Williams said Gunter's public statements at the Southern Baptist Convention and the Louisiana Baptist Convention had convinced him that despite the victory claimed by pro-life forces in the overturning of Roe v. Wade, "it is easier to get an

abortion in Louisiana than ever before" because of access to mail-order abortion pills.

He said that some Baptist leaders say "they long for a day when abortion becomes unimaginable. It's already an unimaginable horror to us as Christians. But it will never be unimaginable to the lost, sinful human heart. I'll settle for illegal."

See **RESOLUTIONS**, page 13

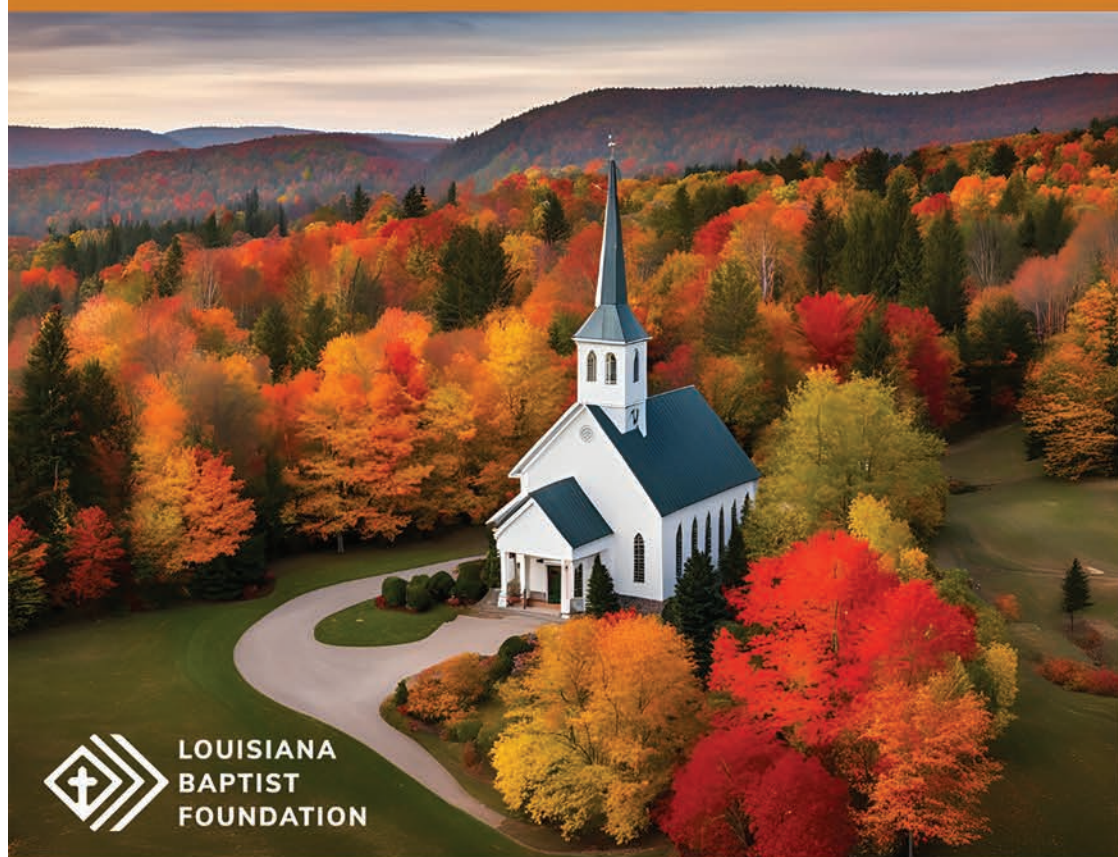


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## Faithful from page one

their wives for remaining dedicated to their respective church, family and community.

"When you and I trust Jesus, He gives us the grace to rest in His arms," he said. "Pastors' wives, you are treasures. My wife is a treasure to me. I can't do this without mine; you're important."

"Maybe you say, 'Well, I'm not a senior pastor or senior pastor's wife,'" he continued. "Did you know your role is important to the Kingdom? Did you know that what you're doing matters?"

**GEVAN SPINNEY**

Gevan Spinney, pastor with First Baptist Church, Haughton, spoke during the opening session from 1 Samuel 7 and told pastors God has a deep love for them, God's promises are not based upon performance and God's purpose for their lives and ministries is beyond what they can imagine.

"The place where you may serve, it may be difficult and every Monday, you may want to resign," Spinney said. "You may have your resume out, and you may be looking all the time. But I want you to remember: God's equipped you, God's never leaving you. He sent you to love those people who are His and sometimes are hard to love. But the more you love them, the more they see God's love coming through you."

He reminded pastors that some of them are battlers like David and some are builders like his son, Solomon, who completed the temple. Both are important for the Kingdom, he said.

"God has battlers and God has builders," he said. "Are you okay with the current assignment you have that if God is appointed you to win battles that the next guy is going to come and build on? Are you okay with fighting the fights

and battling over the things that send you into your prayer closet or you and your wife agonize over?"

He encouraged the pastors to finish well.

"I want you to love His Bride the way He loves His Bride," Spinney said. "I want to be faithful."

**RICHARD TAYLOR**

Richard Taylor, director with Corpus Christi Baptist Association, Corpus Christi, Texas, told pastors they must proclaim the hope and promises of Christ.

Preaching from Acts 3, Taylor said Peter and John recognized they were not in competition with each other, prayer was important and those who were broken were image bearers of God.

"We can do more together than any of us can do alone," Taylor said. "It's amazing how much we could accomplish if we got concerned."

He told pastors they must prioritize prayer.

"Pastor, it starts with us," he said. "Yeah, we know how to pray when our back is up against the wall, don't we?"

We know how to pray when we're in trouble. We know how to pray when there's too much month at the end of the money. But until prayer becomes a priority in each and every one of our lives - independently and all of our lives collectively - we will never accomplish what God has called for us."

Taylor said just as God loves all people equally, Christ followers must do the same.

"God loves all people, regardless of their skin tone, regardless of their ethnicity, regardless of their socio-economic status, regardless of their voting (preference)," he said. "Yes, God loves all people equally, and we better learn how to love all people equally."

See FAITHFUL, page 16

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## Resolutions from page 11

Williams added that for him that meant “equal protection for human life in the womb” and justice for “whoever is responsible” for an abortion.

“If we as Louisiana Baptists don’t make a stand on God’s Word against self-managed abortion in Louisiana, what are we doing?” he asked. “If we’re not willing to call for equal protection of babies in the womb, who will? Please vote yes for this resolution today to simply say that self-managed abortion should be illegal. Period. That is absolutely biblical. It is not at all complicated.”

Tommy Middleton, associational mission strategist for the Baptist Association of Greater Baton Rouge, spoke against the motion.

“I believe that all of us in this body, 100 percent, are opposed to abortion and desire for it to end. But how do we achieve this practically, spiritually and legally? That is where we differ,” he said.

“Our differences on this should not be considered a basis of fellowship, because that’s based on Christology and Soteriology,” he added.

“I believe that this will be perceived as a punitive measure toward women who have had an abortion at whatever age, from teenager to adult, and the Louisiana Baptist Convention will lose our voice of compassion and mercy in

our current culture,” Middleton said. “We cannot shut the door to those who make bad choices, wrong choices...that is the very nature of ministry to the lost.

“Will this not necessitate that we as pastors and staff members police our own flocks, and if we discover that there may be those who have had abortions, do we turn them in, call for their prosecution, imprisonment or even worse?” he asked. “Who will trust a pastor if he is perceived as an arm of the state or even an extension of it?”

“Our pro-life clinics will no longer be considered as safe places of confidentiality and hope,” he offered. “That being said, if this resolution were to be somehow codified in the civil law, it may in reality be antithetical to our mission as the church and counterintuitive to our calling and convictions as followers of Jesus Christ. This resolution does not unify us in a way that advances the compassion of the Gospel or enables us to do ministry more effectively in a broken world.”

After the discussion, the motion to adopt Gunter’s resolution did not receive the required two-thirds majority needed to pass.

### BACKGROUND

In July 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned

Roe v. Wade to return the issue of abortion to the states. The decision did not ban abortion nationwide, but in Louisiana it triggered a 2006 state law, updated during the 2022 legislative session, that instantly outlawed abortion in Louisiana.

Revised Statute 40, Section 1061, titled “Abortion: Prohibition” specifically states that any “decision of the United States Supreme Court which reverses, in whole or in part, Roe v. Wade,” immediately puts into effect a ban on anything “causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn human being.”

This statute also specifically states that “No person may knowingly administer to, prescribe for, or procure for, or sell to any pregnant woman any medicine, drug, or other substance with the specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn human being.

This section of the Louisiana legal code was updated by S.B. 342, signed into law as Act 545 by Gov. John Bel Edwards and effective since June 22, 2022. These changes to Louisiana’s prohibition against abortion do not make an exception for the case

of a pregnancy that results from rape and incest. But it does contain exceptions for a pregnancy which imperils the physical life of the mother and an ectopic pregnancy, as well as for any pregnancy for which two doctors conclude that the unborn child would not survive after birth. Act 545 also permits the use of “morning after” pills – emergency contraception taken shortly after sex to prevent pregnancy.

Act 548, also signed into law by Edwards in 2022, created the crime of “abortion by means of an abortion-inducing drug,” which includes delivering, dispensing, distributing or providing abortifacients when the person administering the medication is not a physician licensed in the state – thereby banning abortions by mail.

In 2024, Gov. Landry signed Act 246 into law, classifying the abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol as controlled substances akin to opioids, and requiring doctors to have a special license to prescribe them. However, the law does not prevent “a pregnant woman to possess mifepristone or misoprostol for her own consumption.”

Likewise, none of the legislation criminalizes the woman who has an abortion, just the abortionist or provider of the abortion means.

Finally, R.S. 40:1061.1 states in part, “The legislature does solemnly declare, find, and reaffirm the longstanding public policy of this state that every unborn child is a human being from the moment of conception and is, therefore, a legal person for purposes under the laws of this state and Consti-

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## SEEKING A PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Hatfield, Arkansas is prayerfully seeking a full time or bi-vocational Pastor who preaches the whole counsel of God. A parsonage is provided. Please send a résumé and include a link to three recent sermons to: FBC Hatfield, P.O. Box 108, Hatfield, AR 71945 or email to: [fbchatfield@gmail.com](mailto:fbchatfield@gmail.com)



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## Seeking a Bi-Vocational PASTOR

Friendship Baptist Church, located between Saline and Jonesboro Louisiana (16511 Hwy4, Bienville, La 71008) is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. In addition to the salary, the parsonage is available as part of the compensation package. Please email résumés to [salinebrown@yahoo.com](mailto:salinebrown@yahoo.com).



## Seeking a part-time Music Minister

Accepting résumés for a Christ-centered, bi-vocational worship leader for Erwinville Baptist Church. Send any questions and résumés to [Ebcwls2024@gmail.com](mailto:Ebcwls2024@gmail.com). Include a video/audio clip if possible.

## SEEKING A PASTOR

Merryville First Baptist Church in Merryville, Louisiana is searching for a full time pastor. Please contact or send résumé to Greg Marchie at 337.401.0715 or [g\\_marchie@hotmail.com](mailto:g_marchie@hotmail.com)



## MINISTER OF STUDENTS

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Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jasper, Texas is seeking a FT Minister of Music/Worship to lead a blended style of music. Experience in audio/visual technology is needed. If interested, send résumés to [debbiereed@hbcjasper.com](mailto:debbiereed@hbcjasper.com), 409.384.3371. A full job description can be requested.



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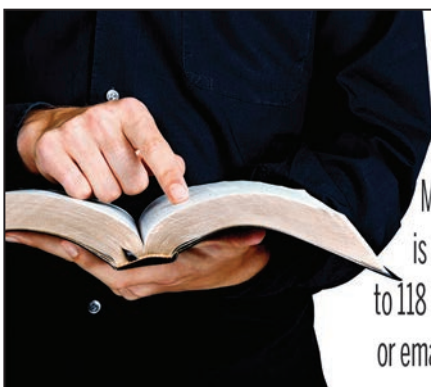
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## SEEKING A PASTOR

Mineral Springs Baptist Church is seeking a pastor. Send résumé to 118 Pea Ridge Road, Dubach, LA 71235 or email [msbaptistlouisiana@gmail.com](mailto:msbaptistlouisiana@gmail.com).

## Westside Baptist Church seeks a PASTOR

Westside Baptist Church, Natchitoches, LA is seeking a pastor. Résumés can be mailed to Pastor Search Committee, Attn: Mike Newton, 6834 Hwy 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, La. 71457 or submitted to Mike Newton via email at [westsidenatchitoches@gmail.com](mailto:westsidenatchitoches@gmail.com).





**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *The Baptist Message* provides churches an opportunity to share with other Louisiana Baptists an upcoming revival, homecoming, new pastor, new staff member, a community outreach, or a concert in *Louisiana Notables*. **To place your event in the paper, send your information (who, what, where, when, time) to [philip@baptistmessage.com](mailto:philip@baptistmessage.com) or call 318.449.4345. Please submit your information four weeks prior to the event to insure placement in the Message.**

**ON THE MOVE**

■ Jim Alan Calvert is the new Pastor of Parkview Baptist Church, Metairie, LA. Pastor Calvert's first day in the pulpit was November 3, 2024.

■ Charles Ebarb is the new music minister at South Bossier Baptist Church, Bossier City.

**POSITION SOUGHT**

■ Hodge Baptist Church in Hodge, LA is seeking a full-time pastor. Please mail resumes to Pastor Search Committee in c/o

Hodge Baptist Church, P O Box 340, Hodge, LA 71247 or email to: [hodgebaptist@yahoo.com](mailto:hodgebaptist@yahoo.com). Pastor:

■ College Drive Baptist Church in Pineville, LA is seeking a bi-vocational pastor. Please mail resumes to Richard Bullock, 515 Sandy Hill Lane, Pineville, LA 71360 or email [gm-bull50@yahoo.com](mailto:gm-bull50@yahoo.com). Pastor:

**HOMECOMING/ANNIVERSIES**

■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Homecoming, Nov. 17, 9:30 a.m. Guest Speaker: Paul Roney (guest speaker). Special music: John Simmons, former minister of music. Riverview is located at 8709 Hwy 1 South, Alexandria, La. 71302. For more information, contact Mike Boone at 318.613,6505. Pastor: David Newton.

■ Summer Grove Baptist Church, Shreveport: 175th Homecoming, November 24. Life Groups will be at 9:16 a.m. 10:30 a.m. One united worship service, Cupcakes & fellowship will be had following the worship service in the Center Court. Come celebrate with us as we look back on God's faithfulness and look forward to what He has in store.

Pastor: Heath Peloquin.

**REVIVAL**

■ Larto Baptist Church, Larto: Harvest Sunday, November 17. Speaker: Scotty McDowell. Pastor: Kenny Smith.

■ Rescue Community Church, West Monroe: Fall Revival, November 10-13. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Russell Caldwell.

■ First Baptist Church, Robeline: Revival, November 10-17, Evangelist: Sam Moore. Pastor: Brian Ray.

■ Bouef River Baptist Church, Winnsboro: Harvest Day, November 17, 10:30 a.m. Food and fellowship will follow after the service. Guest Speaker: Rodney Ratcliff. We can't wait to see everyone back at Boeuf River. Pastor: Rodney Ratcliff.

■ Antioch Baptist Church, Farmerville: Revival, November 30-December 1. Evangelist: Bill Britt. Pastor: Rubin Weaver.

**LAGNIAPPE**

■ Riverview Baptist Church, Alexandria: Brian Free & Assurance in concert, November 16, 6 p.m. Pastor: David Newton.

■ University Baptist Church, Thibodaux: Harvest craft fair and chili cook-off, November 16, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. For more information, contact the church office at 985.446.5818. Pastor: J.P. Cox.

■ Ethel Baptist Church, Ethel: Chronicles in concert, November 17, 10:15 a.m. Pastor:

■ Trinity Heights Baptist Church, Shreveport: Ladies Ministry Event, November 16, 9 a.m. Cost \$25 includes lunch and T-shirt. Contact Malissa Stewart at 318.221.2695. Pastor: Scott Teutsch.

■ Tangipahoa Baptist Church, Kentwood:

Chronicles in concert, November 24, 11 a.m. Pastor: Clint Stewart

■ Faith Baptist Church, Livingston: Chronicles in concert, December 8, 9:30 a.m. Pastor:

■ The NCBA Choir's Third Annual Christmas Cantata – Dec. 6, 7 p.m. FBC, Jonesboro; Dec. 7, 7 p.m. Sweetwater Baptist Church; Dec. 8, 7 p.m., Ebenezer Baptist Church. Interested in singing? No church choir. For more information, contact Benjamin DeCou at 318.243.1180.

■ Hickory Gove Baptist Church, Coushatta, Southern Plainsmen in concert, December 10, 10:30 a.m. Pastor:

■ Homewood Baptist Church, Alexandria: Ivan Parker in Concert, Dec. 14, 6 p.m. The

church is located at 3111 Rapides Avenue, Alexandria, La. A love offering will be taken.

Pastor: Jimmy Koonce, Jr.

■ First Baptist Church, Mandeville: Live Nativity, December 14-15, 6-8 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 4 or 6 p.m. Pastor: Ronny Cooksey.

■ Red Oak Baptist, Livingston: Chronicles in concert, December 15, 11 a.m. Pastor: Carl Varnado.

■ Faith Baptist Church, Livonia: Greg Sullivan Ministries with special guest Chris Golden, December 22, 10 a.m. Pastor: Freddie Rodrigue.

■ Midway Baptist Church, Ponchatoula: Chronicles in concert, December 22, 10:30 a.m. Pastor: Jimmy Wall.



New officers were named for the Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Board: (L-R) Tim Williams, pastor, Williams Boulevard Baptist Church, Kenner, president; and Jarrod Muller, pastor, Riverside Baptist Church, River Ridge, vice president.

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*"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11-12*

Westside Baptist Church seeks a

**PASTOR**

Westside Baptist Church, Natchitoches, LA is seeking a pastor. Résumés can be mailed to Pastor Search Committee, Attn: Mike Newton, 6834 Hwy 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, La. 71457 or submitted to Mike Newton via email at [westsidenatchitoches@gmail.com](mailto:westsidenatchitoches@gmail.com).

**Scripture Crypto**

The Scripture Crypto is a Bible verse in which one letter has been substituted for another, thus encoding the verse. To find out what the verse is, you must determine what each letter is a substitute for. An "a," for example, may stand for a "t" in this week's issue of the ScriptureCrypto. Next week, "a" could stand for a "d." Each week, each letter is different. Solve by trial and error. The answer will be given next week. Note: All numerals, such as those in the scripture reference after the verse, are spelled out.

izw pfgz mgbxb bip qfiq fg izbpgygw

wvbhyggqsu, fg bivw xzqr fvd, qfrx iyq zrq niy

wxybq ibe fvd izu lxgbqvrz.

diye qpgskg:qfvyqu-nrxy

**Clues:**  
G = E; Y = R

**Answer to October 31, Scripture Crypto:**  
John one:twenty one



Faithful from page 12

WAYLON BAILEY

Waylon Bailey, pastor with First Baptist Church, Covington, used Acts 6 to challenge pastors to be mindful that Satan seeks to take out the Church. "Satan seeks to destroy the Church, your ministry and my ministry," he said. "Jesus said Satan came to kill, to steal and to destroy. And he seeks to destroy our ministry, our witness, our

testimony of our churches because he can do so in these subtle ways. He wants an untaught Church, a Church that knows on the surface but not deeply within, a Church that is built for the culture and the things of the world but not the things of God." Bailey reminded pastors that despite Satan's attempts, God is faithful and has given the Church a remedy against these attacks – godly leaders, repentance

and response to Christ. "It is time for us to open the door and let Christ lead according to His will and let Him bless according to His great power," he said. "We kind of think that we are weak and we're struggling. But as long as we have God and the Holy Spirit, and as long as we put our trust in Christ the Lord and teach His Word, we will not struggle."

DAVID ALLEN

David Allen, a professor with Mid-America Baptist

Theological Seminary, Cordova, Tennessee, cited Luke 19 to remind pastors that Jesus is a "lost and found kind of Savior." Allen said Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost, including the tax collector Zacchaeus who came down from the sycamore tree and was welcomed by Jesus. He told pastors that Jesus' mission to save the lost should be their mission too. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost," he said. "That's His mission. That's your mission. That's His goal. That's my

goal. This should be the goal of every Southern Baptist, every Southern Baptist church and every state convention, to herald the truth that the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.

"Let's get about His business," he said. "Oh yeah, don't forget about the men in trees."

HANCE DILBECK

Hance Dilbeck, president and CEO of GuideStone Financial Resources of the SBC, closed the Pastors Conference by sharing that Jesus is the Exalted Lord, Warrior King and Great High Priest.

"When Jesus says all authority has been given to me on heaven and on earth, he's saying don't forget Psalm 110," Dilbeck said, basing His message on that passage. "He's exalted, following the humiliation of the cross. He's exalted, following His finished work on the cross."

Dilbeck said Jesus has taken action to engage His enemies, extend His Kingdom, establish justice and shatter the enemy. "We're not fighting for Jesus," he said. "We're fighting along Jesus. He's the King. Don't just think of Him seated at the right hand. Think of Him as leading you into this fight."

LANGIAPPE

The afternoon session included a time of prayer for pastors and their families, as well as for Louisiana Christian University.

"The Lord is faithful, and He will establish you and guard you against the evil one," Peloquin told the crowd during the prayer time. "For some of you, the enemy has told you, 'You're not enough,' the enemy has told you. 'There's something better out there.' The enemy's told you, 'Why don't you give up and go get a real job?' Don't give in to the evil one. Don't try to talk yourself out of something. Just say, 'Lord, here I am. Speak to Me.'"

Finally, officers were elected to lead the 2025 Pastors Conference: Tommy Kiker, pastor, East Leesville Baptist Church, president; Joey Smith, pastor, Grayson Baptist Church, vice president; and Garrison Griffith, First Baptist Church, Wisner, secretary.

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Charitable Giving with IRAs

Recent studies show that Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) give more to churches and ministries than any other generation. This isn't surprising, as they collectively hold the greatest wealth among Americans. A significant portion of this wealth is comprised of IRAs and other retirement assets. While the generosity of this generation is well-known, many overlook one of the most powerful tools for charitable giving from IRAs – the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

A QCD allows individuals aged 70½ or older to make tax-free charitable donations directly from their IRA to churches, ministries, or other charitable organizations, up to certain annual limits (\$105,000 for 2024, and \$108,000 for 2025). By using this tool, individuals avoid paying taxes on the amount donated to charity, while also satisfying their annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and reducing their taxable income – potentially leading to other benefits.

Beyond the annual QCD limit, individuals can make a one-time QCD of up to \$50,000 (adjusted annually for inflation) to fund a life income plan, such as a charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust. These plans provide the donor with a lifetime income stream, with the remainder directed to benefit a charitable organization – such as their church or other ministries – after their passing.

In addition to the immediate giving benefits, anyone, regardless of age, can plan for future impact by designating their church or ministry as a beneficiary of their IRA. This designation

ensures that the donation is tax-free to the recipient and bypasses the probate process. If left to an endowment, this gift can also create a perpetual and growing legacy of support for their church or other ministries.

By leveraging the power of a Qualified Charitable Distribution, you can make a significant impact on your church and other ministries while benefiting from tax savings and other advantages. Whether you choose to give now or plan for a future legacy, charitable giving through your IRA is a powerful tool for advancing the Kingdom.

To learn more about the ways you can give from your IRA and other assets to advance the Kingdom, contact the Louisiana Baptist Foundation at 1-877-523-4636, email [contact@LBInfo.org](mailto:contact@LBInfo.org), or visit [www.Giving-Gateway.net](http://www.Giving-Gateway.net).

Jared Price, J.D., Director of Gift Planning

DECEMBER 2024  
SATISFY YOUR RMD

A Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA before year-end can satisfy your annual Required Minimum Distribution and impact your church or other ministries.

JANUARY 2025  
REDUCE YOUR TAXABLE INCOME

A Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA to your church or other ministries can lower your annual taxable income and lead to other benefits.

FEBRUARY 2025  
FUND A LIFE INCOME PLAN

A Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA can be used to provide a lifetime income stream now and impact your church or other ministries in the future.



LOUISIANA  
BAPTIST  
FOUNDATION

Learn more: 877-523-4636 • [Contact@LBInfo.org](mailto:Contact@LBInfo.org) f x in