

President's Message

By President Jason Aultman

Greetings to the churches of the BMA of America! I hope 2016 has gotten off to a wonderful start and proves to be a year that overflows with God's abundant blessings on you and your church family.

I wanted to remind you that on April 25–27 we will gather in beautiful Gatlinburg, Tenn. for the annual meeting of our national association. I hope you will make plans to be there for what I believe will be an enjoyable and exciting few days together.



As an added feature at last year's meeting, opportunities were offered to attend workshops on various topics. The hope was that this would provide attendees a time to receive practical instruction and help, allowing us all to return to our fields of ministry better equipped to serve and lead effectively. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to offering additional workshops at the upcoming meeting. Of course, these are provided in addition to the times of conducting business and opportunities to gather for worship.

A preliminary schedule for the meeting in Gatlinburg is on page 8 of the Jan. 13th *Baptist Trumpet*. I trust this overview will be helpful to you in planning your schedule and travel.

If the Lord returns before April 25, I will see you in Heaven. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you in Gatlinburg!

It's Time To Make Your Reservations!

When:

The 2016 session of the Baptist Missionary Association of America will meet April 25-27 at the Gatlinburg Convention Center in Gatlinburg, Tenn.

Registration packets are being printed and should be in the mail to each church by the end of next week. Although work is being done on providing online registration, it will not be available for this year's meeting. All church letters should be mailed by April 15 to pre-enroll your messengers.

The Committee on Arrangements has made its review and plans for the 2016 annual Association meeting. The facilities and hotels are looking forward to our meeting there. There is plenty of space for all of our meetings and lodging.

We hope that you will make your reservations early. Most of the hotels can make your reservations either by phone or online, but you must identify that you are with the Baptist Missionary Association of America.

Glenstone (Headquarters Hotel): \$85 (800-362-9522) Group code: BMA 16; 2 block walk

Edgewater: \$95; (800) 423-9582; 2.5 block walk

Graystone: \$95; (800) 451-9202; 5 block walk

Gillette: \$95; (865) 436-5601; across from convention center

Bearskin: \$90; (865) 430-4330; 4 block walk

Old Creek: \$90; (865) 430-7200; 3 block walk

Clarion: \$114; (865) 436-5656; 2 block walk

CourtYard (Marriott): \$129 & \$139

We Need Your Help!

When the BMAA Committee on Arrangements contracts with a convention center to host our annual meeting, the rental fee is normally tied to the number of hotel rooms we expect our attendees to use during the meeting. The rental fee in Gatlinburg is contingent upon our use of rooms blocked at the designated hotels. The rental fee will increase by the daily cost of each room not used.

The Committee on Arrangements has negotiated terms in Gatlinburg that will allow the conference center space to be greatly reduced if we use the total number of rooms blocked at the designated hotels/motels. Please help us fill these first to cap the cost of the rental space.

Our association has had to pay extra in the past years because many of the blocked hotel rooms were not used. Please help us avoid a situation like that this year. We appreciate your help.

— BMAA Committee on Arrangements: Leon Carmical, Charles Attebery and Jackie Manasco

Baptist Missionary Association Of America

James Ray Raines, Recording Secretary
P.O. Box 17872 • North Little Rock, AR 72117

Letter Of Representation
67th Annual Session
Gatlinburg Convention Center • Gatlinburg, Tennessee
April 25-27, 2016

Church _____ of _____
(City) (State)

Address _____
(Number-Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

IMPORTANT:

Is the above mailing address a permanent address to which correspondence can always be sent? () Yes () No

Pastor _____ Phone _____

Address _____
(Number-Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Clerk _____

Address _____
(Number-Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Church elected Missionary Committeeman _____

Address _____
(Number-Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

Messengers _____

Alternates _____

Funds sent with letter: Minutes and Meeting Expenses \$ _____

Other \$ _____
(PLEASE SPECIFY)

Note: Please make checks payable to BMAA Minute Fund

Mail this letter no later than April 15, 2016

Petitionary Form

This section to be used only for petitioning fellowship in the Association.

Church _____

(City) (State)

Having adopted the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and Doctrinal Statement of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, we herewith petition for fellowship in this body.

Adopted by this church in conference.

on _____ day _____, 2016

Moderator _____

Clerk _____

Please return this completed form in the enclosed self-addressed envelope provided.

67th Annual BMA of America National Meeting

April 25-27, 2016

Gatlinburg Convention Center • Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Theme: "It's Worth It"

All General Sessions in the Tennessee Ballroom

Worship Music Led By Travis Sellers

Monday Evening, April 25

7:00 Welcome/Introduction
President's Message
Dr. Jason Aultman

Tuesday Morning, April 26

8:00 WMA Meeting (Tenn. Ballroom)
Brotherhood Meeting
9:30 Committee Meetings
11:00 First Breakout Session

Tuesday Afternoon, April 26

2:00 Second Breakout Session
3:00 Worship
Moral Action Report
Coordinating Council Report
Lifeword Report
Ministers Resource Report

Tuesday Evening, April 26

7:00 Worship
Randy Anderson, Special Music
Annual Message
Jeff Swart, Speaker
James Ray Raines, Alternate

Wednesday Morning, April 27

8:30 Worship
BMA Seminary Report
DiscipleGuide Report
BMA Foundation Report
11:00 Third Breakout Session

Wednesday Afternoon, April 27

2:00 Worship
Brotherhood Report
Master's Builders Report
WMA Report
3:00 Larnelle Harris Concert

Wednesday Evening, April 27

7:00 Worship
Missions Report
Commissioning Service
Johnny Hunt, Speaker

Registration

Monday (2-4 p.m.; 6-7 p.m.; 30 min. after p.m. session)
Tuesday (8:30-9 a.m.; 2-3 p.m.; 6:30-7 p.m.; 30 min. after p.m. session)
Wednesday: (8-8:30 a.m.)

National Meeting Elective Breakout Sessions

- **The Importance of Women in Ministry (Jerene Reddin)** — Women have a valuable place in kingdom work. From the Old Testament through the New Testament, and from the early church through today, God has used faithful ladies to spread the gospel and make disciples of all nations.

Join Jerene Reddin for a celebration of ministry from a female perspective. As an active ministry leader, Jerene has a unique perspective that will be an inspiration and encouragement. She and her husband, George Reddin, serve faithfully at Denver Street Baptist Church in Greenwood.

- **How to Resolve Conflict within the Church (Dr. Mike Smith)** — Conflict can wreak havoc on a congregation, but God has not left us to work out our problems alone. Instead, He has given us clear strategies for peacekeeping in His Word and promised the presence of His Spirit to work through our conflicts.

Dr. Mike Smith is president of Jacksonville College in Jacksonville, Texas. His book, *Conflict: Causes and Cures*, draws on wisdom from working with over 3,000 conflict cases throughout his ministry.

- **How to Protect Your Church from a Lawsuit (Kurt Hetherington)** — Today, more than ever, churches are under attack. The demand for homosexual weddings, claims of unlawful discrimination and accusations of hate-speech are only the beginning. Is your church prepared to defend itself?

Kurt Hetherington is the president of James Greene and Associates in Sherwood, Arkansas. The agency is one of America's largest insurers of churches and related ministries. Kurt has over twenty years of insurance and risk management experience. He is also a CRM (Certified Risk Manager) and has held this designation for almost 10 years. His specialized training and experience with church insurance and lawsuits provide him with insight to help pastors protect their congregations.

- **Small Churches Can Make a Big Difference (Paul Bearfield)** — Who said that only big churches can make an impact? The fact of the matter is that the majority of churches in America are small. The bulk of ministry in America happens in congregations of less than 70 people.

Paul Bearfield is the pastor of Worden Baptist Church in Bald Knob. This small congregation is reaching a multi-ethnic, multi-generational farming community through outreach and discipleship. Paul's experience in both large and small churches gives him a unique perspective on the advantages small churches have in reaching communities for Christ.

- **How to Deliver Transformational Teaching (Mark Livingston)** — It is possible to share information without seeing transformation. What is it that sets apart powerful teaching and preaching from a mere lecture? Whether you are a first-time Sunday School teacher or a seasoned pastor, this session will provide practical tips you can put into action this Sunday.

Dr. Mark Livingston is the pastor of Keltys First Baptist Church in Lufkin, Texas. His background in radio broadcasting, coupled with doctoral studies in preaching, has helped Mark hone his communication skills. In addition to pastoring, Mark also teaches at BMA Seminary in Jacksonville, Texas, and serves as managing editor of *Compass Adult Bible Studies*.

- **How to Recruit and Keep Volunteers (Bryan Atwood)** — Do you find yourself scrambling each week to fill teaching positions? Is it hard to keep nursery workers? Do you have to replace greeters more often than you'd like?

Every church runs on volunteers. No matter how big the congregation's budget or attendance, the majority of workers within any given church are volunteers.

Bryan Atwood, pastor of Campground Baptist Church in Gulfport, Miss., possesses years of experience organizing volunteers for both a church and a campground. In this breakout, he will share helpful ideas for identifying, training and keeping volunteers in your church.

2016 BMAA Recommendations

The following recommendations will be voted on by the messengers (three allowed per church) at the BMA of America meeting April 25-27 in Gatlinburg, Tenn. They are printed in the order they appear in the *2016 BMAA Reports and Recommendations* booklet.

Proposed Amendment

The following proposed amendment to the BMAA Doctrinal Statement was presented by Springhill Baptist Church in Greenbrier (Ed Stephenson, pastor) and was discussed at last year's meeting. It will be voted on in this year's session:

Article III – Creation

C. Man — As the crowning work of His creation, God created humankind (male and female) in His own image (Psalm 8; Gen. 1:27; 2:7). Consequently, every person from conception is of inherent dignity and worth and merits the respect of all other persons (Psa. 51:5; Psa. 139:13-16; Gen. 9:6; Matt. 10:28-31; James 3:9).

D. Marriage — God created marriage (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23-24). Jesus Christ declared the Creator's intention for marriage to be the inseparable and exclusive union between a man and a woman (natural man and natural woman) (Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9). Marriage testifies of the union between Christ and the church (Eph. 5:31-32; Rom. 1:25-27).

Committee on Arrangements

The Committee on Arrangements visited four prospective sites in Arkansas for the 2019 annual meeting, and recommends that the meeting be held May 6-8, 2019 at the Embassy Suites Northwest Arkansas Hotel and Convention Center in Rogers. The Embassy Suites would be the lead hotel. (Other sites visited were Antioch Baptist Church in Conway, Fort Smith Convention Center and Springdale Convention Center.)

Editor's Note: In the 2013 Annual Meeting, the messengers approved a recommendation by the Committee on Arrangements that "effective with our 2017 meeting, we begin rotating our meetings between the following three areas contingent upon the availability of suitable facilities and that a wild card location be chosen every fourth year. The three areas are: Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; Central or Northwest Arkansas; and Jackson, Miss."

Moral Action

- That our local associations, our local, state and national WMA and Brotherhoods and our local churches be encouraged to give a financial gift or budgeted monthly gifts to Moral Action. These funds will strengthen this ministry. We desire to do much more.
- That our churches and pastors embrace and support our nation by participating and promoting the National Day of Prayer (NDOP), Thursday, May 5, 2016. Join other Americans in prayer for our nation. Meetings can be conducted at town halls, city halls, county courthouses, flagpoles, statehouses and churches.
- That all our BMA churches schedule June 26 and July 3, 2016 as the Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sunday. This is an opportunity to honor and give memorials to our soldiers, both past and present.
- That the BMA family celebrate Sept. 11, 2016 as Grandparents Day and honor their influence.
- That Dr. John M. Adams, executive director, represent the BMAA in Washington, D.C. at the Watchmen on the Wall Conference.
- That our BMA reaffirm and approve the six Moral Action resolutions (Godly Citizenship, Abortion on Demand, Evils of Gambling, Israel/Jewish People, Vote Your Bible Values and Marriage — One Man and One Woman) and that we sincerely pray for our nation and homes.
- That we humbly request that these resolutions be printed in our BMA state papers.
- That Dr. John M. Adams stand as a nominee for executive director of Moral Action.
- That the proposed budget be approved for 2016 (\$63,964.98).

Lifeword

- That we adopt the proposed operating budget for 2016 (\$1,121,663).
- That Sunday, Oct. 23, 2016 be set aside as Lifeword Sunday.

- That the housing allowance be set at \$2,500 per month for the chief broadcast officer, production team leader, program director and executive director.

- That the executive director be paid a base salary of \$45,846, a housing allowance of \$30,000, one-half of Social Security/Medicare, health & dental insurance, retirement at 6% of salary and an auto provided. *Note: The recommended compensation is based on an independent evaluation of the executive director position by Phillip Blount & Associates, an independent compensation consulting firm used by a number of Baptist groups. Compensation levels are determined through a three-step process — job analysis, job evaluation and extensive market research. The recommended amount is at the 25th percentile level.*

- That Steve Crawley stand as a nominee for executive director.

Ministers Resource Services

- That Ron Chesser stand as nominee for executive director of Ministers Resource Services (MRS).

- That \$18,000 of the executive director's salary be designated as housing allowance.

- That the budget be approved (\$257,404.14).

- We urge each church to enroll her pastor and church staff in the BMA retirement Plan at MRS.

- We urge our pastors and their wives to enroll in the Ministers Benevolent Society and Auxiliary.

- We urge each church to include MRS in her monthly budgeted offerings to the various departments and agencies of the BMA.

BMA Seminary

- Affirmation of the proposed budget (\$1,421,046).

- Re-affirm the appointment of Dr. Charley Holmes as president

- Each church observe Sunday, May 15, 2016, as *Scholarship Sunday* with special prayer for our graduates and receive a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA pastors and missionaries on that Sunday.

DiscipleGuide

- We recommend the adoption of the 2016 DiscipleGuide Budget (\$1,207,688).

- We recommend that Scott Attebery stand as a nominee for the position of executive director of DiscipleGuide.

- We recommend that the executive director be paid a base salary of \$49,646, a housing allowance of \$32,000, one-half of Social Security/Medicare, health & dental insurance, retirement at 6% of salary and an auto allowance. *Note: The recommended compensation is based on an independent evaluation of the executive director position by Phillip Blount & Associates, an independent compensation consulting firm used by a number of Baptist groups. Compensation levels are determined through a three-step process — job analysis, job evaluation and extensive market research. The recommended amount is at the 25th percentile level.*

- We recommend that churches participate in DiscipleGuide's Kingdom Investment Special Emphasis on Dec. 18, 2016.

BMA Foundation

- That the proposed 2016 operating budget be approved (\$110,345).

- That the executive director's compensation be set at \$9,600.

- That \$7,200 of the executive director's compensation be designated as housing allowance for income tax purposes.

- That Charles Attebery stand as a nominee as executive director.

- That members of BMAA churches prayerfully consider tithing their estates with a bequest directed to the BMA Foundation.

BMAA Missions

- We recommend Ashraf Sara for a three-year term as a church planting catalyst among Arabic-speaking peoples in the U.S.
- We recommend Jesse Garrido for a three-year term as a church planting catalyst among Spanish-speaking peoples in California.
- We recommend the approval of the proposed BMA Missions Employee Compensation Policy.
- We recommend Joe Costa as missionary to the Middle East to be elected in April 2016.
- We recommend the approval of the “Policy and Procedures for Partnering/Endorsed Ministries.”
- We recommend that we endorse the ministry “We Are Free” and that it becomes a partner ministry.
- We recommend Angel Colon as a North American Church planter to Vidalia, La.
- We recommend monthly support for the Hispanic church planting effort in Louisiana with up to \$2,000, as per budget availability. (Angel Colon).
- We recommend Carl and Dana Sookraj as self-supporting missionaries to Peru.
- We recommend the election of Tatiana Tinoco and Susy Galvez from Peru as missionaries to India in partnership with the Peruvian association.
- We recommend the proposal made by the Missions office leadership concerning Larry Barker and North American church planting. We recommend that Larry Barker serve as the leader of North American Church Planting with a monthly part-time stipend from the Missions office.
- We recommend the 2016 budget as presented by the Missions Department (\$5,057,679).
- We recommend the re-election of Dr. John David Smith as executive director of Missions.
- We recommend that the executive director’s salary be set at \$44,000, along with all director’s housing allowances set at \$24,000.