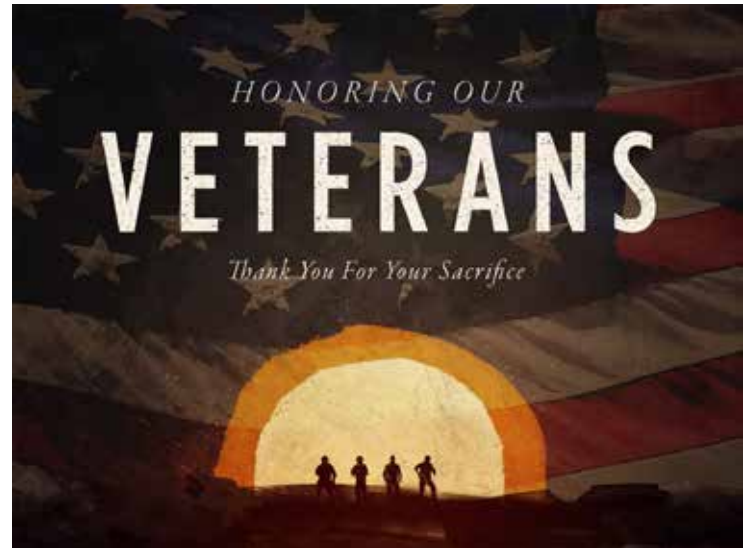


Annual Church Profiles (ACP) are due November 15!

Why bother?

The information provided by the ACP determines the number of messengers allowed at the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC).

In order to be well-represented during the business session of the ABC, please fill out your ACP by the deadline. Contact our office if you have questions: 1.800.883.9627, 907.344.9627.



facilitated by the Adult Group and Faith Development Team, Georgia Baptist Mission Board
sponsored by the Alaska Baptist Convention, www.alaskabaptistconvention.com

Bible Study Leadership Training

Preschool • Children • Youth • Adults • Pastors • General Officers

**Saturday
November 5
9:00 - Noon**

First Baptist Church, North Pole
(breakfast included with RSVP)

**Monday
November 7
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

First Baptist Church, Palmer
(supper included with RSVP)

**Tuesday
November 8
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

Sunset Hills Baptist Church
(supper included with RSVP)

Deadline to register at each location is November 1.

http://www.alaskabaptistconvention.com/ABC_Events/ABC_Events.html

Stay current with conferences, activities and events sponsored by the Alaska Baptist Convention. Visit www.alaskabaptistconvention.com or call the office for additional information, 907.344.9627, 800.883.9627



God's Plan for Sharing in Alaska

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
Alaska Iu-Mienh First Baptist Church	\$290.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$290.00
Anchor Baptist Church	\$604.14	\$0.00	\$1,022.37	\$1,178.37	\$0.00	\$2,804.88
Anderson Church Plant	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Aquillaa Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Big Lake Baptist Church	\$5,722.38	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,722.38
Bodenburg Butte Baptist Church	\$2,715.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,715.34
Calvary Baptist Church	\$2,527.98	\$0.00	\$1,012.32	\$1,005.00	\$0.00	\$4,545.30
Catalyst Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christ Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Chugach Baptist Association	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
City on a Hill Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clearwater Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cliffside Community Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cold Bay Chapel	\$413.75	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$663.75
College Heights Baptist Church	\$34,012.37	\$0.00	\$3,745.00	\$7,445.00	\$0.00	\$45,202.37
Comm Baptist Church, Coffman Cove	\$2,242.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,242.50
Community Baptist Church, Nome	\$212.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$212.64
Cross Roads Baptist Church	\$9,354.00	\$0.00	\$1,967.46	\$1,233.34	\$0.00	\$12,554.80
CrossCountry Church	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,050.00
Dillingham Bible Fellowship	\$6,500.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,175.00	\$0.00	\$8,675.04
Eagle River Korean Baptist Church	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$550.00
Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$1,845.69	\$0.00	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,395.69
Fairview Loop Baptist Church	\$22,763.04	\$2,743.95	\$0.00	\$4,407.38	\$0.00	\$29,914.37
Faith Baptist Church	\$7,828.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,640.00	\$0.00	\$12,468.40
Faith Recovery Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
False Pass Christian Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Filipino Bible Church, Anchorage	\$2,625.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,625.00
First Baptist Church, Anchorage	\$21,940.49	\$2,000.00	\$4,225.00	\$10,802.00	\$0.00	\$38,967.49
First Baptist Church, Eagle River	\$23,481.00	\$300.00	\$2,472.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$26,253.71
First Baptist Church, Fairbanks	\$5,136.79	\$0.00	\$1,461.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,597.79
First Baptist Church, North Pole	\$21,318.00	\$0.00	\$805.00	\$650.00	\$0.00	\$22,773.00
First Baptist Church, Delta Junction	\$44,136.23	\$5,339.00	\$13,833.44	\$22,209.44	\$0.00	\$85,518.11
First Baptist Church, Juneau	\$6,452.60	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,472.60
First Baptist Church, Kenai	\$5,713.14	\$0.00	\$1,244.20	\$1,896.20	\$0.00	\$8,853.54
First Baptist Church, Ketchikan	\$8,866.82	\$10.00	\$1,505.00	\$1,690.00	\$0.00	\$12,071.82
First Baptist Church, Kotzebue	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
First Baptist Church, Palmer	\$14,133.43	\$0.00	\$3,330.00	\$2,550.00	\$0.00	\$20,013.43
First Baptist Church, Petersburg	\$5,243.81	\$0.00	\$1,529.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,772.81
First Baptist Church, Sitka	\$6,010.49	\$0.00	\$1,520.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,530.49
First Baptist Church, Soldotna	\$6,749.00	\$0.00	\$875.00	\$1,018.75	\$0.00	\$8,642.75
First Baptist Church, Valdez	\$15,233.32	\$0.00	\$3,177.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$18,410.32
First Baptist Church, Wasilla	\$10,351.33	\$0.00	\$2,982.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,333.33
First Baptist Church, Willow	\$3,810.63	\$615.00	\$873.00	\$6,854.00	\$0.00	\$12,152.63
First Hmong Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Korean Baptist Church	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$330.00	\$0.00	\$1,980.00
First Native Baptist Church	\$1,489.00	\$720.52	\$1,047.57	\$1,065.96	\$0.00	\$4,323.05
Friendship Baptist Mission	\$1,940.34	\$600.00	\$1,530.00	\$1,050.00	\$0.00	\$5,120.34
Frontier Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Frontier Southern Baptist Church	\$1,312.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,312.52
Gilead Ministries	\$408.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$408.00
Glacier Valley Baptist Church	\$14,185.69	\$0.00	\$3,338.00	\$3,296.00	\$0.00	\$20,819.69
Grandview Baptist Church	\$23,695.33	\$80.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,975.33
Greater Friendship Baptist Church	\$11,112.72	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,112.72
Hatcher Pass Baptist Association	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hillside Baptist Church	\$9,130.08	\$0.00	\$1,170.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$11,300.08
Iglesia Bautista Hispana Sunset Hills	\$625.88	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$675.88
Immanuel Baptist Church	\$961.97	\$0.00	\$2,265.27	\$962.38	\$0.00	\$4,189.62
In His Steps Community Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Journey Church	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
Juneau Korean Church	\$270.00	\$0.00	\$242.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$812.00
Kasaan Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ketchikan Filipino Baptist Mission	\$260.10	\$0.00	\$810.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1,470.10
Kiana Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kobuk Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Korean New Central Baptist Church	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$340.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,240.00
Lighthouse Community Church	\$7,073.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$7,073.00
Living Water Church	\$602.70	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$602.70
Malamalama Fou Church	\$450.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$650.00
Misc. Contributors-Cash	\$0.00	\$8,351.79	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$90.00	\$8,741.79
Montana Creek Baptist Church	\$13,195.07	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,158.00	\$0.00	\$14,353.07
Moose Creek Baptist Church	\$1,298.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,298.00
Moose Pass Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Moriah Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Morning Star Baptist Church	\$5,052.81	\$0.00	\$700.00	\$1,723.50	\$0.00	\$7,476.31
Mount Pleasant Baptist Church	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Mount Redoubt Baptist Church	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,200.00
Mountain View Community Church	\$450.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
Muldoon Road Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Beginnings Baptist Church	\$1,332.10	\$0.00	\$120.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,452.10

January-September 2016 Gifts from ABC Churches

Organization	CP	SMO	AA	LM	WH	Total
New Birth Christian Church	\$550.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00
New Grace Christian Church	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
New Hope Baptist Church	\$11,159.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,659.00
New Hope Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope Fellowship	\$350.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$450.00
North Bear Street Baptist Church	\$134.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$134.12
North Tongass Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Northern Lights Missions	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$125.00	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
OnMission Church	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
Pioneer Baptist Church	\$1,266.04	\$0.00	\$30.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$1,696.04
Rabbit Creek Community Church	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
River In The Desert Community Church	\$768.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$768.00
Riverside Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Roots Family Church, Kasilof	\$825.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$925.00
Roots Family Church, Soldotna	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Sabbath Peace Fellowship	\$840.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$840.00
Salcha Baptist Church	\$5,964.99	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$4,970.00	\$0.00	\$10,954.99
Sand Lake Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sand Point Baptist Chapel	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Schrock Road Community Church	\$693.00	\$126.00	\$84.00	\$84.00	\$0.00	\$987.00
Settler's Bay Community Church	\$600.00	\$47.00	\$1,035.00	\$4,699.66	\$0.00	\$6,381.66
Shannon Park Baptist Church	\$1,409.50	\$0.00	\$81.05	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$1,790.55
Shungnak Baptist Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Slavic Bridge	\$15.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15.00
Solid Rock Baptist Church	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
St. John Baptist Church	\$5,391.64	\$0.00	\$335.00	\$95.00	\$0.00	\$5,821.64
Sunset Hills Baptist Church	\$17,032.82	\$0.00	\$4,437.84	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$21,570.66
Tanana Valley Baptist Association	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tenakee Community Church	\$317.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$317.00
The Church @ Commodore Park	\$60.00	\$25.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135.00
The Crossing @ Birchwood	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
Thorne Bay Baptist Church	\$344.34	\$0.00	\$105.00	\$384.00	\$0.00	\$833.34
Togiak Baptist Mission	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Tongass Baptist Association	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
True North Church	\$5,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,878.00	\$0.00	\$12,478.00
True North Church Girdwood	\$2,922.57	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,922.57
UBC-Chinese Fellowship	\$908.50	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$1,128.50
University Baptist Church, Anchorage	\$3,772.76	\$0.00	\$580.00	\$592.00	\$0.00	\$4,944.76
University Baptist Church, Fairbanks	\$8,551.00	\$0.00	\$4,581.00	\$3,127.15	\$0.00	\$16,259.15
Valley View Baptist Church	\$3,750.00	\$0.00	\$390.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,140.00
Wasilla Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Whittier Christian Community Church	\$612.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$612.36
Totals	\$485,107.30	\$22,058.26	\$77,316.23	\$104,245.13	\$90.00	\$688,816.92
		<u>1st QTR</u>	<u>2nd QTR</u>	<u>3rd QTR</u>	<u>4th QTR</u>	
2000 Club Receipts as of September 30		\$8,662.00	\$8,730.00	\$7,406.00	\$3,965.00	\$28,763.00
GRAND TOTAL as of September 30, 2016						\$717,579.92

Legend:

CP:	Cooperative Program, January - December
SMO:	Valeria Sherard State Mission Offering, August - July
AA:	Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, January - December
LM:	Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, June - May
WH:	World Hunger, January - December

Alaska Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Support

	2016		2015	
September				
Receipts	\$38,932.98		\$54,244.95	
CP Goal	57,531.16		59,484.00	
Variance	(18,598.18)	-32.33%	(5,239.05)	-8.81%
Year-to-Date				
Receipts	\$485,107.30		\$506,468.31	
CP Goal	517,780.44		535,356.00	
Variance	(32,673.14)	-6.31%	(28,887.69)	-5.40%

Please Pray for
our Pastorless Churches

Aquillaq Baptist Mission, Ambler
Chinese Fellowship, Fairbanks
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Juneau
False Pass Christian Fellowship
First Baptist Church, Juneau
First Baptist Church, Soldotna
Friendship Baptist Mission, Fairbanks
New Hope Baptist Church, Anchorage
Riverside Chapel, King Salmon
Shungnak Baptist Mission
True North Church, Girdwood

November 7
Baptist Women's World
DAY OF PRAYER
ARISE SHINE



100%
of your gift

*Helps Someone
in Need*

Years ago, an endowment was established that funds the operating expenses of Mission:Dignity. This covers staff salaries, printing, postage and other expenses.

Every dollar of current Mission:Dignity annual gifts is used for monthly distributions to retired pastors and their widows in need.

Mission:Dignity.
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses

MILEPOST MOMENTS

The staff of the Alaska Baptist Convention reserves the right to edit submitted information for content and space.

Worship Leaders Conference



Worship leaders from across the state gathered at Alyeska Resort Friday-Saturday, October 21-22 for a conference on leading worship in the local church. Rick Muchow, former worship pastor at Saddleback Church in California, was the conference leader. Currently, Rick offers his expertise as an independent speaker, worship leader coach and songwriter.



November 5, 1912: An election selected 24 members, 8 in the Senate, 16 in the House, for the first Territorial Legislature
November 9, 1929: Carl Ben Eilsen and Earl Borland were killed when their plane was wrecked in Siberia.
November 13, 1913: The bark A. J. Fuller, loaded with Alaska canned salmon, was rammed by a steamer at Seattle and sunk.
November 18, 1959: The first pulp was produced by the Alaska Lumber & Pulp Company at Sitka.
November 19, 1942: Driving of the Portage-Whittier tunnel was started. It was holed through a year later.
November 22, 1942: The Alcan Highway, as it was first named, was dedicated near Lake Kluane.
November 25, 1922: The Alaska Electric Light & Power Company installed a 20-watt radio broadcast station at Juneau.

alaskahistoricalsociety.org; www.historyplace.com

Frontier Southern Baptist Church, Kodiak

FBC has called Mark (Heather) Overbeek as associate pastor of Worship and Small Groups.

University Baptist Church, Fairbanks

UBC enjoyed their October sermon series, "I Love Sundays" and their November series is about about Christ in prophecy. The church is a city polling location for the November 8 general election; they will dedicate their "Operation Christmas Child" shoeboxes on November 20.



Alaska Baptist Convention (ABC) 71st Annual Meeting

September 27-29, 2016

submitted by Debra Long, office manager, Alaska Baptist Convention

1. Approved the adoption of the 71st Annual Meeting program as printed with any adjustments that may be required.
2. Approved the seating of 116 messengers representing 32 churches.
3. Approved the Committee on Committees recommendation for the following individuals to serve on the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with term expiring 2019: Harold Conrad (pastor, Montana Creek Baptist Church, Talkeetna); Dwight Morrison (member, First Baptist Church, Valdez); and Dessura Terry (member, First Baptist Church, Palmer).
4. Elected Bryan Myers (pastor, Faith Baptist Church, Fairbanks) as President; Eric Jones (pastor, New Birth Christian Church, Fairbanks) as 1st Vice President; Tracy Simmons (pastor, Christ Community Church, Anchorage) as 2nd Vice President; and Donna Fleury (member, First Native Baptist Church, Anchorage) as Recording Secretary.
5. Approved two recommendations presented by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee: (1) Call for a second vote to change Articles of Incorporation of the ABC, Article VIII, Section 3 to read; "The employees or immediate family of an employee (spouse, child, or sibling) of the Convention or its Agencies shall not be eligible for election to the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, or Recording Secretary"; (2) Call to change ABC Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2 to read; "Executive Committee. The Executive Board shall establish an Executive Committee which shall meet as necessary between sessions of the Executive Board. The Executive Committee shall perform the duties assigned to it by the Executive Board. The Executive Committee is made up of the four elected ABC officers, the three Executive Board Committee Chairs, and the Executive Director. The specific duties of the committee are to perform duties between session of the Executive Board as assigned, help prepare the Board agenda, recommend Executive Board organization and temporary work groups, supervise the Executive Director on behalf of the Board, serve as the search committee for an Executive Director (along with three Executive Board members elected at large) when vacancy occurs, and work with the Executive Director in the recommendation of prospective staff personnel. Any decisions approved by the Executive

Committee would need a majority vote. In the case of a tie vote, the action would be referred to the appropriate Executive Board Committee for discussion and brought before the Board at the next Board meeting for vote. Five members of the Executive Committee must vote in the affirmative to pass any measure regardless of how many committee members are present at the meeting.

6. Approved the recommendation of the Committee on Boards for the following individuals to serve:

Members to the ABC Executive Board:

- Lawrence Ellison, pastor of St. John Baptist Church, Fairbanks, term expiring 2019;
- Gary Elmore, pastor of Frontier Southern Baptist Church, Kodiak, term expiring 2020;
- Paul Frost, pastor of Togiak Baptist Mission, Togiak, term expiring 2020;
- Brad Burns, pastor of Frontier Fellowship, Anchorage, term expiring 2020;
- Judy Rice, member of First Baptist Church, Anchorage, term expiring 2020.

Members to the Birchwood Behavior Health Executive Board:

- John Bills, pastor of Moose Creek Baptist Church, North Pole, 1st term expiring 2017;
- Judy Ann Cabe, member of Moose Creek Baptist Church, 2nd term expiring 2019;
- George Stewart, member of Rabbit Creek Community Church, Anchorage, 2nd term expiring 2019;
- Scott Thompson, pastor of Faith Recovery Fellowship, 1st term expiring 2019.

Members to the ABF Board of Trustees:

- David Fickes, member of Hillside Baptist Church, Anchorage, 1st term expiring 2019
- Dr. Bruce Rowell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Palmer, 1st term expiring 2019.

7. Approved the adoption of the 2017 ABC budget.
8. Approved the Time, Place, Preacher Committee's recommendation to select Gordon Mills, pastor of Glacier Valley Baptist Church, as preacher at the 72nd Annual Meeting of the ABC and Doug Edwards, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ketchikan as alternate preacher. The 75th Annual Meeting of the ABC will be September 28-30, 2020 and hosted by FBC, Wasilla.
9. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m., September 28, 2016.



Randy Covington, *Executive Director*

Awesome! That was the overwhelming response I heard from many of you. Indeed, we enjoyed a great annual meeting last month in Fairbanks. Thanks to everyone who made this a memorable gathering. As we move into the winter months, let me remind you of some important events on the immediate horizon. This might even appear like an exercise in hieroglyphics.

Have you completed your ACP?

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) is the main source through which we gather information and statistics for the churches associated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Some people might ask the question, “Why must we send this local information to Nashville? Why do they need it?” Part of the cooperative effort of Southern Baptists is to understand the needs of our churches and coordinate efforts to facilitate the work of the local church. Although that information gives us the BIG picture of how the gospel is being extended across America, it also serves as a tool for defining the demographic shifts and provide statewide representation on national boards and committees. In the past, we have only had around 70% participation in reporting among Alaska Baptist churches. As a result, we have lost some representation on these national boards and agencies. If you need help completing the report, please contact Debra in the convention office and she will be happy to assist you.

What about the VSSMO?

Yes, that stands for the Valeria Sherard State Missions Offering (VSSMO). This is the time when we gather the offering for mission work across the state of Alaska. Those funds are essential in addressing ministry needs where funding is in short supply. If we intend to push the gospel into the darkest corners of our state, we must come together and join in giving cooperatively so that everyone in our state has the opportunity to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for promoting and giving through this strategic statewide effort.

Is it LMCO season yet?

Every year at Christmas, Southern Baptists join together in giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) for international missions. Serving overseas for 22 years through the International Mission Board (IMB) was made possible for my family through the faithful giving of Southern Baptists. Let me say personally, “Thank you!” Last year was a record year when Southern Baptists gave over \$165 million to international missions. Your church will soon be receiving promotional materials that will assist you in leading your church to promote the cause of giving corporately to this international outreach.

Blessings as you **GFASTL** (Give Faithfully and Serve the Lord) in the days ahead.

Please continue to pray for Jimmy Stewart and his family



Jimmy Stewart, Alaska Director of Evangelism and Church Development continues to recuperate from the accident he suffered at his cabin near Talkeetna, Alaska on Saturday, July 23. With burns on 80 percent of his body, he is currently undergoing therapy in the In-Patient Rehabilitation Unit at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle. Jimmy’s injuries are extensive and his long-term

prognosis is multiple surgeries and a long convalescence.

If you want to financially support the Stewart family during this crisis, please visit

www.alaskabaptistconvention.com and choose the “Give” tab on the left. From the drop-down menu, choose the “Stewart Family Assistance Fund.”

100% of all monies received will go to the family.

Thank you!

*University Baptist Church, Fairbanks
for hosting the annual meeting of the Alaska Baptist Convention!*



2017 Executive Board Leadership Team (picture l to r): (outgoing president) Todd Burgess, Tracy Simmons (2nd VP), Donna Fleury (recording secretary), Bryan Myers (president), Eric Jones (1st VP), Randy Covington (Executive Director)



Randy Covington, ABC Executive Director



*Dr. Frank Page
President and CEO of
SBC Executive Ctte*



*Dr. Steve Bass
NAMB VP (West) for
Convention Relations*



*Wanda Lee
Executive Director
national WMU*



*Wally Smith
Academic Advisor
Wayland, Fbks campus*



2017 Alaska WMU Leadership Team (picture l to r): Angela Jones (African-American missions consultant), Linda Hearn (HPBA WMU director), Kathryn-Diane Kanz (youth missions consultant), Judy Rice (designated VP), Glenda Shaw (children's missions consultant), Judy Zach (president), Robin Covington (recording secretary). At back is Wanda Lee (retiring) executive director/treasurer, national WMU.



*Scott Belmore
Mosaic Ministries
UAA campus*

Thank you to UBC members and others, who helped before, during and after the annual meeting!

Terri Beach, William Beach, Erich Bergh, Laura Bergh, Olpiana Bola, Romeo Bola, Judy Ann Cabe, UBC College and Career Group, Gary Cox, Jennifer Cox, Mary-Ellen Cox, Meagan Dowler, Robert Dowler, John Dunwoody, Joe Kan, Levi Lewellyn, Suzanne McBride-Reudy, Jason McNeely, Margaret Moody, Rebecca Myers, Ann Roberts, Angie Rogers, Collin Rogers, Paul Rogers, Wally Smith, Hang Lin Tse, UBC Youth Group, Judy Zach

5 WAYS CHURCHES CAN PROTECT GOSPEL CENTERED MINISTRY

*Christiana Holcomb,
Legal Counsel for
Alliance Defending Freedom*

Pastor, your church's freedom to maintain gospel-centered ministry may well depend on the steps it takes now to protect that freedom.

The church faces an array of new cultural and legal challenges. Our culture not only accepts, but celebrates, sexual behaviors and identities that are contrary to God's good design. Cities, states and federal agencies are creating special legal protections for sexual orientation and gender identity. And, of course, last summer five Supreme Court justices crafted a new constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

Pastors and churches are already feeling the effects of the sexual revolution. Pastors are asked to perform same-sex weddings and counsel same-sex couples about marriage enrichment. Same-sex couples now demand that churches open their doors to same-sex wedding celebrations. All too often, churches that graciously de-

cline these requests are threatened with lawsuits and public slander. Churches are currently defending against lawsuits for holding their ministers and music directors to a biblical sexual ethic. And confused biological men are arriving to church in women's clothing and requesting access to women's restrooms.

These challenges are grave, but they are not hopeless. Although some scholars and judges wrongly insist that the First Amendment only protects the freedom to believe—not the freedom to act on those beliefs—the First Amendment still protects a church's freedom to operate according to its faith. A long, unbroken line of Supreme Court precedent affirms a church's right to govern its internal affairs, determine its doctrine, and choose its leaders without government interference.

Churches need to ensure that they are in the best position to take advantage of these legal protections should the need arise. Maintaining a gospel-centered witness in today's culture requires not only standing firm on the truths of Scripture, but also taking affirmative steps to protect the church's freedom to continue peacefully living out its faith. Our principles do not change, but our policies must.

Here are five ways churches can protect their freedom to maintain fidelity to the faith.

1 **Adopt a statement of faith about marriage.**

Every church that affirms God's design for marriage and sexuality should include that belief in a statement of faith or other policy document. This statement not only proclaims the church's beliefs to the congregation and broader culture, but also serves as key evidence of those beliefs should they be challenged in court.

A statement on marriage is ideally suited to the church's statement of faith. A statement as simple as, "We believe that God designed marriage to be exclusively the covenant union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union," can be seamlessly inserted into an already existing statement of faith. It is not necessary to list the various sexual sins; the goal is simply to proclaim what marriage is and identify the proper boundaries of sexual expression. Churches that are uncomfortable with amending a historic confession of faith can adopt a separate marriage policy instead.

Pastors commonly ask whether their denomination's statement on marriage will suffice. At a minimum, churches should adopt the denominational statement by reference in church bylaws or other policy document. But preferably, churches should restate the denomination's position statement in full, or draft a belief statement of their own.

2 **Establish religious employment criteria.**

A church's intent to make faith-based employment decisions should be clear from its employment application and employee policies. Start by requiring all employees and prospective applicants to sign a statement affirming that they have read the church's statement of faith and doctrine, hold to those beliefs, and are willing to abide by them.

You should also ensure that each employee has a written job description. Each description should not only describe the physical and administrative duties of the job, but should also specify the position's spiritual responsibilities and clearly explain how it furthers the church's mission. These details are especially important for "minister-like" positions—positions that involve conveying church doctrine or administering its ordinances. Highlighting spiritual responsibilities helps to reinforce that shared faith is an essential qualification

for church employment and critical to advancing the church's mission.

Bonus tip: Volunteers should be held to the same standards as employees to maintain institutional integrity and consistency. Such standards are particularly important for volunteers that hold leadership positions like a deacon, Sunday School teacher or community group leader.

3 Create a facility use policy. If a church owns a facility that it permits anyone to use outside of normal church operations or events, the church should establish a written facility use policy. Churches do not (yet) need to restrict use of their church buildings to members only. Despite some attempts to characterize them as public, church facilities are private property that may be used at the church's discretion.

Instead, churches should implement a detailed facility use policy. The most important aspect of this policy is commonly the most overlooked: highlighting the religious nature of church property. Note that the facilities have been entrusted to the church by God to be used for his glory. As such, the church cannot have any material cooperation with activities or events that violate its religious convictions. Specifically note in the policy that the church will only permit activities and events that do not conflict with the church's religious beliefs, as determined by the pastor or his designated representative. This allows churches to welcome even secular groups that do not agree with church doctrine, as long as those groups will not use the facility in a way that contradicts the church's beliefs.

Create a detailed application and approval process, and ensure that the pastor or his official designee determines whether to approve or deny these applications. Train all staff on the proper application of this policy.

4 Establish a wedding policy. Churches are encouraged to adopt a written wedding policy, grounded in the statement of faith. This policy should reiterate the church's beliefs about marriage, specify what marriages its pastor(s) may officiate and under what circumstances, and list criteria for any weddings that take place on church property. The wedding policy can operate as a separate policy, or in conjunction with the facility use policy. It serves to add another layer of covering for a pastor faced with a wedding request he cannot fulfill, or a church that receives a wedding request it cannot accommodate.

5 Adopt a church membership policy.

A formal church membership policy identifies those who have assented to church doctrine and willingly submitted to the church's authority. This identification helps determine qualifications for church leadership or employment, preference in facility use, access to baptism or baby blessings, and so on. Churches with formal membership policies also have greater legal protection when it becomes necessary to exercise church discipline. On occasion, former church attendees have sued for alleged harm to their reputation or privacy from church discipline, and the case often turns on whether the attendee consented to the church's authority.

So, churches are encouraged to adopt a written membership policy that explains the procedure for becoming a church member, procedures for member discipline and procedures for rescinding church membership. This does not mean that a church must adopt a form of church government to which it does not subscribe. Churches can still have designated members who affirm they are committed to and part of a church body, even if there is no voting or say in church practices.

Alliance Defending Freedom has developed a resource to help churches accomplish these five steps and more. Visit www.ADFlegal.org/church to download our free Protecting Your Ministry resource. This legal guide is designed to help churches strengthen their governing documents and internal policies so that they can maintain fidelity to the faith. Included within the resource are sample statements and policies that each church can take and adapt to suit its own needs.

Pastors often ask whether there are other resources that they can share with the people in their pews to equip them for these new religious liberty challenges. Alliance Defending Freedom recently published two new legal guides to meet this need. Faith in the Workplace, available at www.ADFlegal.org/employerguide, is a free resource to help Christian business owners and CEOs protect the exercise of their faith in their business. It answers common questions about workplace policies and accommodating employees' beliefs. Create Freely is a free resource for creative service professionals—including photographers, cake artists, and floral designers—to help these Christian artists protect their freedom to use their talents consistently with their faith. Visit www.CreateFreely.org to learn more.

Alliance Defending Freedom exists to ensure that you—pastors and parishioners—can continue faithfully carrying out your mission. And should you or your church face threat of litigation for living according to your faith, Alliance Defending Freedom attorneys stand ready to defend you, free of charge.

Printed with permission from the Summer 2016 issue of the ERCL's Light Magazine.

LABOR OF *Love*

2000 Club • Fourth Quarter 2016

Mountain View Community Church needs assistance in repairing their building following two car crashes in one year's time, which caused extensive damage to the wall, furnace, gas lines and electrical box. Insurance covered the cost of initial repairs but not the cost of bringing the building up to municipal code.

\$7406
has been
received for
3Q 2016*
*as of 9/30/16

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN — NOV • DEC • JAN —

November 2016

- 5 Bible Study Leadership Training, TVBA
- 6 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 7 Baptist Women World Day of Prayer
- Bible Study Leadership Training, HPBA
- 8 Bible Study Leadership Training, CBA
- 14-15 ABC Executive Board meeting
- 15 Annual Church Profiles due
- 15 CBA Annual Meeting (*NEW DATE*)
- 17 ABF Trustee meeting
- 23 ABC and ABF office closed
at 1:00 p.m. for Thanksgiving
- 24 ABC and ABF office closed for Thanksgiving

December 2016

- 4-11 Week of Prayer for International Missions
and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 23-Jan 2 ABC and ABF office closed for Christmas

January 2017

- 1-8 January Bible Study
- 27 Women's Winter Wake-Up, Fairbanks

Because of
your congregation's
Cooperative Program giving
through the
Alaska Baptist Convention,
in September 2016
\$28,794.83
remained in Alaska
for
missions and ministries.