

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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Cindy Vang receives national WMU award

By Julie Walters/
WMU

NEW ORLEANS – Cindy Vang of First Hmong Baptist Church in Coon Rapids, Minn., was honored with WMU’s top leadership award during the WMU Missions Adventure and Celebration on June 12 in New Orleans. Vang is a past president of Minnesota-Wisconsin Women’s Missionary Union.

She was honored with the Dellanna West O’Brien Award for Women’s Leadership Development, established in 1999 to annually recognize a Baptist woman who demonstrates the ability to foster leadership in women and displays the

potential to be leaders in the community and the world. The award includes a grant to help the recipient continue her development and ministry to others.

Vang first learned she would receive the award in a conversation with Sandy Wisdom-Martin, WMU executive director.

“She asked if I was coming to the annual meeting and I told her no and she asked if I would come if someone I knew was getting an award,” Vang said. As she wondered what friend would be honored, Vang heard Wisdom-Martin say, “The person getting the award is you.”

Vang was humbled by the news.



Cindy Vang holds the award she received at the Woman’s Missionary Union meeting in New Orleans just before the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. The Dellanna West O’Brien Award for Women’s Leadership Development is the top leadership honor given by WMU.

“I do not measure up,” she said. “I remember when I was elected president (of MN-WI WMU), I said I can’t do it. They’re going to

think they scraped the bottom of the barrel and found Cindy.”

Those who know her,

See WMU page 7

SBC messengers affirm task force, amend confession, begin constitutional amendment

NEW ORLEANS (BP) – Messengers dealt with a number of key issues at the 2023 SBC Annual Meeting June 13-14. The convention was originally scheduled to meet in Charlotte but was relocated to the Ernest N. Morial New Orleans Convention Center due to larger crowds in recent years. There were 12,737 registered mes-

sengers at the meeting.

Three churches ruled not in friendly cooperation

Messengers agreed with a February 2023 decision by the SBC Executive Committee to deem Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., Freedom Church in Vero Beach, Fla., and Saddleback Church in Lake For-

est, Calif., not to be in friendly cooperation with the SBC.

Fern Creek was ruled not in friendly cooperation with the SBC based on the Baptist Faith and Message 2000’s statement that Scripture reserves the office of pastor for men. Linda Popham has pastored Fern Creek full-time since April 4, 1993, after a

near three-year term as interim pastor.

Freedom Church was deemed not to be in friendly cooperation because the church failed to cooperate to resolve concerns regarding a sexual abuse allegation. Freedom Church has denied the charge to Baptist Press, saying the matter

See SBC page 9

MWBC at SBC



Philip and Jummai Nache acknowledge recognition received during the North American Mission Board report at the SBC annual meeting.



Some people from the MWBC gather for a Tuesday evening dinner during the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.



In their celebrative native dress, members of First Hmong Baptist Church of Coon Rapids, Minn., pose in front of the paddlewheel Creole Queen while in New Orleans for Southern Baptist Convention and Woman's Missionary Union meetings. Left to right are: Elee Vang (MN-WI WMU WorldCrafts consultant); Tia Underbakke (MN-WI WMU president); Pang Lo; Cindy Vang (MN-WI WMU adviser); Kabo Yang (MN-WI WMU children's consultant); and Destiny Moua.



Rob Warren, pastor of Doxa in Madison, Wis., answers a question during a panel discussion at the SEND luncheon.



Paul Springer, left, is the newly elected MWBC representative on the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. The pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Wauwatosa, Wis., he is pictured here with Leo Endel, MWBC executive director.

What would you do with \$400?

What would you do with \$400?

At least 35 of our churches applied for outreach/evangelism grants this summer provided through the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board. This is the third year we've assisted in this way.

It is fun watching

our churches love their communities in creative ways! Here are a few of their ideas in action this summer:



Perspectives

Leo Endel

- Community outreach featuring a mud pit tug of war, obstacle run, giant slingshots, inflatables, games, caricature art, free lunch, and root beer floats.

- Outreach and evangelism meal to interna-

tionals who have moved into the neighborhood.

- Barbecue party for incoming students with student gospel testimonies shared.

- Friday night worship and block party on the town square.

- Block parties everywhere using the games and equipment of the associational block party trailers.

- Archery camp.

- Outreach booth with face painting and coloring at the county fair and gospel outreach materials.

- Smoked meat barbecue block party with all kinds of games.

- Two days of street evangelism with free drinks, food, and gospel conversations.

- Church-sponsored, Hands of Hope-like events where the congregation plans a week of morning Bible Clubs in the park, afternoon neighborhood work projects, evening dinner, and evening worship.

- Evangelistic and Vacation Bible School mailings to targeted neighborhoods using the

Mapping Center's Bless Every Home list.

- VBS outreach and promotion.

As I type this article, I'm smiling, thinking about little kids dancing and singing all over Minnesota-Wisconsin at VBS and children's camps. I see their pictures on Facebook—kids eating cookies, playing, and listening to the Bible. The nations of the world are being loved by our sister churches and God's Son, Jesus Christ.

See **GRANTS** page 6

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist:

- The state paper and official publication of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

- A Christian newsjournal with a focus on Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists – their interests, churches, and partners.

- A digital only publication, the PDF emailed free to all who subscribe and posted on MWBC's website and Facebook page.

- Formatted for letter size paper for those who want to print a copy.

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Like a garden

When I lived in Texas, we tried our best to keep a flower garden out back on our patio. The landscape seemed braced for the scorching heat that would surge past 100 when

the sun reached its full height. The live oaks were covered with dust and looked tired. I watered the flowers: bachelor buttons, petunias, chrysanthemums, marigolds and periwinkles. I kept a watering pot handy, and often left it filled the day before so I would remember to do this. If I missed a few days, the plants showed it. They became stressed, and, if neglected too long their leaves shriv-

eled and the flowers began to fall from the drooping stems. They withered and died.

Flowers don't respond well to alternate periods of drought and drenching. Drowning them in

water once a week simply doesn't work. They need watering every day, not necessarily a lot, just enough to keep the soil damp. Watered frequently in this fashion, they thrive, even in record setting triple digit weather.

This may explain why American Christianity seems so insipid, (like salt that has lost its taste). Many Christians depend on a deluge of spiritual watering for one hour

once a week during a worship service at church. And many more don't even do this. The spiritual lives of many Christians may resemble the stressed-out flowers sitting on my patio in the heat of summer.

For many years I have made it a practice of having a time of devotion early in the morning. I like to spend this time outside, preferably at sunrise. There have been gaps when I missed. The demands of the day were pressing, and I was unwilling to get up early enough for this discipline. I have discovered that when I spend time for personal study of Scripture, prayer and reflection on what God wants to say to me, the day seems to go better. My life has a healthier center and,

when the day is done, it seems to be more productive.

David expressed this truth in Psalm 1. "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers."

Jesus said, "Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life," (John 4:14). "I am the Alpha and

See **GARDEN** page 10



Reflections

Bill Tinsley

Christian leaders reflect on their position in Christ

A surprising insight about the role of self-acceptance in leadership is emerging from pastors and chaplains as they participate in clinical pastoral education (CPE).

Pastors and chaplains complete a predictive analytical questionnaire called the Harrison Assessment during their CPE experience. Remarkably, most pastors and chaplains have the same tendencies. They are helpful to others, but often at the expense of

their own needs. They take care of others, but could improve in taking care of themselves. They are more inclined to relate warmly with others and less inclined to hold others accountable. They seem

to value improving themselves more than they value accepting themselves.

CPE students also read and relate what they are reading to understanding themselves and their ministries. Gary McIntosh

and Samuel Rima name the five dark sides of leadership in *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership*. Leaders' dark sides may present as narcissistic, compulsive, passive-aggressive, paranoid, and co-dependent. Students considered these five dark sides and the results of the Harrison Assessment. The result was a startling observation. A lack of self-acceptance could be at the root of any of these five dark sides of leadership.

The suggestion of the value of self-acceptance is met with skepticism by many Christian leaders. Christian leaders point

to the sacrificial work of Christ as a model for Christian ministry. The logic follows that since Christ gave His all for me, I must give my all for others. Ministry tempts leaders to think in terms of what leaders do for God, and forget what God has done for us. McIntosh and Rima remind us, "Our worth as God's people is what results from our position in Christ rather than our condition on earth." Accepting ourselves by reflecting on our position in Christ will result in healthier leadership of our churches and ministries.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Con-

vention is sponsoring a CPE course this Fall that will meet via Zoom 5:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Sept. 7 to Dec. 14. CPE tuition is normally \$1,199 per unit. The MWBC has arranged for MWBC pastors to take their first unit for \$250. The group is limited to nine pastors. Pastors will pay a \$75 application fee and \$250 for tuition. Contact Clint Calvert at calvert@mwbc.org for more information.

Clint Calvert is church leadership catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.



Leadership
Clint Calvert

SEA Missions: Thailand 2023

We had a very successful English camp! [See photos on page 5.](#)

In our original planning, we were expecting 30-40 kids, but 61 showed up. Most of them came from unbelieving families. Although the majority of the kids were Hmong, a few came from another ethnic minority group called the Lua. We did not plan for this at all but, thankfully, we had an excellent Thai language translator who sat with them and trans-

lated for them throughout the entire time.

The camp consisted of English lessons, group activities, Bible devotions, reflection time, and worship. During worship, we taught the kids

praise and worship songs in Hmong and English. Then Pastor Aaron preached a gospel-centered message, which was translated into Hmong and Thai. The kids did not appear to be engaged at first, but during reflection time when we asked them about the mes-

sage, many of them were able to tell us what it was about.

On Saturday night after the sermon, we invited everyone to come forward if they wanted to know more about God and accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. We expected that a few of the kids would respond, but we could not have planned for what happened next. In total, 38 kids came forward to accept Christ. Our counselors listened and prayed for them.

Then, we sang a worship song that we had been teaching them, "Open the Eyes of My Heart." During the final refrain, we let the kids sing by themselves. As

they sang the words, "Holy, Holy, Holy," something incredible happened. It started raining. Earlier in the week, I had talked to a church leader in the village who told me that they were in the middle of a drought. They have had to fill water tanks on their trucks and drive to the fields to water their crops. As the kids lifted up their voices in praise to God, the sky opened up and rain came down. God was pleased with us.

I am reminded of Jesus' words in Mark 10:14: "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

The next morning,

we presented a children's Bible to each individual who came forward and accepted Christ. Everyone who attended camp received a small Bible story book. After lunch, we dismissed them home.

Please pray for all the kids to grow in their walk of faith, especially those who accepted Christ. Pray that they will be bold witnesses in their homes and villages. Pray for our local partners to have good results as they follow up with the kids and their parents.

Na Herr is intercultural catalyst/team facilitator for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.



Intercultural
Na Herr

Thailand Trip Photo Page



Kids start arriving at camp where they are registered by the team.



During free time, team members play jump rope with the kids.



Everyone who came forward to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior receives a children's Bible



Kids climb into the back of a truck that will take them home after camp.



During altar call, a group of kids come up together to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Good news from the associations

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

Mac Lake – author, speaker and trainer – will lead a workshop on developing leaders 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, at Gospel Baptist Church in Sparta. The training will follow the SWBA quarterly executive team meeting which is at 10 a.m.

Between now and the workshop, SWBA is giving away Lake's book *The Multiplication Effect* and encouraging pastors and church leaders to read the book and attend the workshop. The books are available at the SWBA office.

"Over the years, we have seen church plants and churches get stronger because they are developing leaders," said Mark Millman, SWBA director of missions/church planting catalyst. "This day will help you start a new process if you do not already have one and it will also help you strengthen your leadership development process if it is going well."

NORTHWOODS

Pastor Lonnie Lee has ministered in the Hill City area of Minnesota for about 40 years and is currently pastor of Hill City Baptist Church where he faithfully preaches and teaches God's Word, despite many health issues, the most pressing one being cancer. Those who know him are praying for God's healing hand and grace during this time.



Pastor Blake Canterbury of Redemption Church in Monroe, Wis., baptizes three new believers on May 21 at Monroe Middle School. "It was amazing to baptize Liz, Jayar and Chelsey," he said. "We know there are more baptisms to come."

GRANTS

continued from page three

By the time you read this, we'll be gathering at Monumental Missionary Baptist Church for our Hands of Hope 2023. We hope for a hundred people to help us minister in and around Pastor Roy Watson's church building and neighborhood. We'll paint, we'll worship, we'll serve, and we'll eat! All for the glory of God and to love the people of Milwaukee. We plan to erect a big tent on the front lawn of Monumental for VBS in the mornings and worship in the early evening. If you're in Milwaukee and can spend a few hours with us to work or to worship, please feel free to come and go as you can. It would be an encouragement to us all.

We will be at Monumental Church from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day and will be sleeping overnight at Brown Deer Church where one of our MWBC shower/laundry trailers will be set up to provide showers to our workers.

Pray for us as we share the gospel with our hands and our lips.

So, a good sermon is followed with a good invitation. What is your church doing this summer to reach out to the lost in your neighborhood. I'm praying for you and for the lost in your community. I think there might still be two \$400 grants available!

Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Back to the beginning

When your faith is tested

Think about how the Apostle Peter must have felt in the days after the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As the other disciples, he had gone through the agonizing confusion of the arrest, mockery of a trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. Yet, for Peter, there was that gut-sickening realization that he had miserably failed as these events unfolded.



Guest Column
Larry Creamer

True to the words Jesus had revealed to him, Peter had denied being a follower or knowing Jesus.

Then came more confusing news. The body was no longer in the tomb. The breathless excitement of the women as they ran to give this news to the disciples prompted Peter and John to immediately take off to the tomb to see for themselves. Nothing there but a pile of cloth which had been wrapped around the body of Jesus before He was placed in the grave (John 20:1-9).

Peter could think back to the moment of the arrest of Jesus. He had fearlessly unsheathed his weapon and wildly began to slash at the crowd. A servant of the high priest paid the price for this with the loss of an ear. Jesus rebuked Peter for this rash act and healed the man's wound. That rebuke had to sting deeply. It was humiliating. In the following hours in the midst of great internal emotional upheaval the denials took place (John 18:10-11; 15-27).

It is often in those times when God does something different than we ask or expect that our faith is shaken. We may, like Peter, think, "Lord, look at all I have done for You and even sacrificed for You. Don't You appreciate that? Doesn't that count for something?" This is sadly the place where many choose to begin to define God from the events encountered. It can begin a time of "wilderness wandering."

We should be glad that God never changes His perfect plans to accommodate our expectations. These are seasons of life when we must humbly come before Him and embrace Him as Lord more firmly than ever. The resurrected Christ found the proper time to take Peter aside. In the encounter Jesus helped Peter understand

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WMU

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however, see Vang in a much different light.

“What impresses me most about Cindy is that when God gives her a vision, she is not afraid to pursue it, even when she has no idea how it will happen,” wrote Joy Bolton, volunteer international WMU coordinator and retired executive director of Kentucky WMU, who nominated Vang for the award. “She prays, trusts God, and challenges others to join in . . . and people respond.”

Although their paths crossed when Vang served as president of MN-WI WMU from 2016-2019, Bolton said it was during the COVID pandemic when Vang invited her to be a part of an online prayer group that their relationship grew.

Recognizing the need to stay connected during a time of isolation, Vang began a “Prayer Chat” group that continues to meet each Tuesday and includes women from across the United States, as well as Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam who share their stories and pray together.

“There is no doubt of Cindy’s global impact of encouraging women in their walk with the Lord,” Bolton shared. “She encourages women to be on mission and prays for them. In Prayer Chat, we have learned of the mission work of several women in Laos and Thailand and prayed for them and also, through Cindy, sent resources to help them. The commitment of these women to

travel to remote places, to help others by taking blankets and food and share the gospel is inspiring. Cindy has played a vital role to encourage and help them.”

Betty Lynn Cadle, retired executive director of MN-WI WMU, shared that one of the joys and most rewarding parts of her role was working with Hmong women in the churches there.

“When Cindy got involved in WMU leadership work, she hit the road running,” Cadle reflected. “Watching her lead others to participate in the ministries and projects God lays on her heart is an inspiration and a challenge. She works willingly and endlessly to put feet to whatever she believes needs to be done. Cindy evidences love for accomplishing the purposes of WMU—where she is, throughout the U.S., and overseas, too.”

Vang and others who serve with her on the leadership team of MN-WI WMU have connected with women in Thailand and Laos to provide weekly training about WMU and become active missions leaders in the villages where they live.

Cindy Townsend, minister of women’s enrichment ministry and WMU at First Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., first met Vang in 2016 at a WMU board meeting. In 2018, she participated on a missions trip Vang helped lead to Chiang Rai, Thailand. One of the outcomes of that trip was the formation of Hill Top Crafts, a WorldCrafts artisan group.

“Before Hill Top Crafts existed, it was just a dream in Cindy Vang’s heart,” Townsend shared. “I was there in Thailand when the Hmong women covered the floor of a big room with different styles of purses made from the Hmong signature material and invited us to choose our favorite purse.

“They learned how to sew and create their own style by watching videos on YouTube,” Townsend explained. “We prayed that night this would be the beginning of a way for Hmong women to provide for their families in need. Today, Hilltop Crafts exists because Cindy challenged women to learn how to sew and do something productive for their children.”

The artisans employed at Hill Top Crafts send their much-needed income home to their families in small villages in Laos and Vietnam. They are provided with shelter, as well as leadership training and discipleship courses. Their work at Hill Top Crafts helps them build self-esteem, encourage self-confidence, and provides essential hands-on skills to be successful in life. The women donate a portion of their sales to provide food, clothing, and shelter for orphans.

Vang’s influence in the area continued on a missions trip in 2019 to Laos and Thailand. Her team visited 10 churches in Laos and five in Thailand, gave away more than 300 eyeglasses, coordinated a Vacation Bible School in a Laos church, gave away 105

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWBC events are in bold print.

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association

SWBA: Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association

LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association

NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association

SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association

TCMBA: Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association

To have your events included, email them to davidwilliams@compuserve.com.

JULY

8-14 Hands of Hope, Milwaukee

16-18 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, McAllen, Texas

AUGUST

27 Global Hunger Sunday

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions

4 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

15-16 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.

22-24 Called Out, Baraboo, Wis.

OCTOBER

19 SEND Network Planters Gathering, Twin Cities, location TBA

20 Pastors Conference, Southtown, Bloomington, Minn.

20-21 MWBC Annual Meeting, Southtown, Bloomington, Minn.

23-24 Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Springfield, Mo.

NOVEMBER

23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

DECEMBER

3-9 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

25-1/1 Christmas/New Year’s Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

Bible story books to help churches read to children, and gave away solar lights to people so they could read God’s Word at night, among other missions endeavors. Vang is planning another trip to Thailand and Laos in 2024.

“Cindy is constantly asking God to give

her visions of how to make the world better for her Hmong people,” Townsend shared. “God has answered her prayers by giving her His vision and by providing His way for the dreams and visions to become a reality.”

Back to the beginning

Hands of Hope

Youth & Family Mission Trip

July 8-14

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Contact Jonathan Lemaster
at Jhlemaster@gmail.com
or Na Herr at herr@mwbc.org



Monumental Missionary Baptist Church

SBC

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was investigated and resolved by the Anglican Church of North America. However, the Executive Committee stood by its decision to oust the church, saying the pastor admitted to sexual misconduct and pointing to the fact that the local Baptist association and the Florida Baptist Convention have also removed the church.

Saddleback Church was deemed not to be in friendly cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention's statement of faith, the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, due to "the church continuing to have a female teaching pastor functioning in the office of a pastor."

The SBC Credentials Committee, on whose recommendation the EC's decision was based, specified the teaching pastor role of Stacie Wood, the wife of pastor Andy Wood. Since then, Saddleback announced May 7 that Katie Edwards would become the new campus pastor for its Lake Forest campus. Edwards was among three women ordained with the title of pastor at Saddleback in May 2021.

ARITF extended

The Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force (ARITF) received another vote of confidence June 14 from Southern Baptists to continue its work in the Convention.

During the ARITF's report, Chairman Mar-

shall Blalock unveiled the MinistryCheck website, which will include a searchable database and ministry toolkit for churches. The one-year extension will help lead to the completion of a working database, hopefully by the 2024 annual meeting, with "credibly accused folks' names on there so that churches are safer next year than they are today," Blalock said.

New IMB missionaries sent

A total of 79 missionaries were recognized at the International Mission Board's Sending Celebration June 13.

Of those missionaries present, seven had parents who have served with the IMB on the mission field, and 42 had parents who served in some capacity with the IMB. One of the new missionaries is a fifth-generation missionary, continuing her family's long legacy of getting the Gospel to the nations through the IMB.

IMB President Paul Chitwood celebrated the 44 churches in 19 different states that the new missionaries represent. Those missionaries will soon spread across 33 countries, "taking the Good News with them, willing to leave behind comforts, friends and family, to answer God's call upon their lives," Chitwood said.

Crossover reaches New Orleans with Gospel hope

Seminary students

walked the streets, presenting the hope of the Gospel. Churches hosted block parties for their neighbors. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) held an appreciation event for local law enforcement. These events barely scratch the surface of all that took place during the Serve Tour + Crossover outreach events for New Orleans and the surrounding areas.

The event at NOBTS was one of a number of similar outreach efforts that took place throughout the city, as Send Relief, the compassion ministry arm of Southern Baptists, worked with local partners to meet needs and create opportunities for sharing the Gospel. Among those projects was a Send Relief medical and dental unit to serve those who have had difficulty accessing health clinics.

Barber elected for second term

Bart Barber was endorsed by messengers for a second term as SBC president in a contested election with Georgia pastor Mike Stone.

Out of 11,014 votes, Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas, received 7,531 (68.38 percent) of the ballots. Stone, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Blackshear, Ga., received 3,458 (31.4 percent) of the vote. Twenty-five votes were disallowed.

Amending the article

on the church in the Baptist Faith and Message

Messengers voted to amend the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, the statement of faith of the Southern Baptist Convention, to amend the role of pastor.

The amended Article VI on the church now reads: "In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural offices are that of pastor/elder/overseer and deacon. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor/elder/overseer is limited to men as qualified by Scripture."

Motion to amend SBC Constitution over pastor role clears first hurdle

Messengers initiated a two-year process to amend the SBC Constitution after two-thirds of messengers approved a motion initially brought last year by Virginia pastor Mike Law.

The motion is to amend, or specifically, add a sixth point under the first paragraph of Article III that lists characteristics of churches in friendly cooperation with the SBC. The sixth point would describe churches that affirm, appoint or employ "only men as any kind of pastor or elder as qualified by Scripture."

Texas pastor Juan Sanchez brought a friendly amendment to Law's original version that both deemed

to be more positive language. The SBC Executive Committee announced at its June 12 meeting that Law's motion would go before messengers. However, the EC registered its opposition to the motion itself over its placement within the constitution rather than addressing a theological matter through the Baptist Faith and Message.

The motion will be brought before messengers again at the SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis. Another two-thirds vote in the affirmative will amend the Constitution.

Full slate of resolutions passed in New Orleans

Messengers passed nine resolutions. They include what is believed to be the first statement from a religious convention or denomination on the development and use of artificial intelligence. Other resolutions dealt with issues of immigration and "gender transition."

Messengers voted to "re-affirm our confessional heritage, grounded in Scripture, and recognize" only two biblical offices and "to encourage churches to uphold all the biblical qualifications for those who hold either office of bishop/elder/pastor or deacon."

David Sons, chair of the SBC Resolutions Committee, says he believes the resolutions point to who Southern Baptists are becoming.

Back to the beginning

Mission Gifts from the Churches

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

January-May 2023

Cooperative Program Budget 2023 Year to Date	\$271,809.16
Cooperative Program Receipts 2023 Year to Date	\$213,947.39
Under Budget 2023 Year to Date	\$57,861.77

NAME	CP YTD
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BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$250.00
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$1,700.00
Appleton, Valley	\$14,290.11
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$742.50
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$2,562.02
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$20,972.87
Manitowoc, New Beginnings	\$168.09
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$200.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$1,014.50
Stevens Point, Tapestry	\$200.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$1,051.50
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$785.35
BLBA TOTAL	\$43,936.94

LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist Church	\$716.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$500.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00
Hartland, Disciples Church	\$1,250.00
Kenosha, Amistad Cristiana	\$1,200.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist Church	\$4,935.68
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$2,755.53
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist Church	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$101.99
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$5,277.40
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$600.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic Church	\$658.86
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$325.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist Church	\$150.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Northwest Baptist Church	\$2,924.85
Milwaukee, UFlourish Church	\$814.38
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E.	\$498.04
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$2,627.04
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$1,866.25
Racine, Hope Community Church	\$1,222.34
Wauwatosa, Redemption Church	\$1,200.00
LBA TOTAL	\$32,923.36

NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist Church	\$418.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$1,100.00
Crookston, Prairie Community Church	\$2,046.33
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$400.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Baptist	\$1,025.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist Church	\$500.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$100.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$2,468.90
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist Church	\$1,290.60
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$830.32
NWBA TOTAL	\$10,179.15

NAME

CP YTD

TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amery, Journey Church	\$5,100.00
Bloomington, Hope of Nations	\$666.30
Bloomington, MN Kangnam	\$500.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$5,090.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer	\$300.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$1,000.00
Maple Grove, Northwood	\$400.00
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$400.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$2,700.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint	\$1,300.00
Minneapolis, Shalom Community	\$1,000.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible Church	\$500.00
Monticello, Grace Bible Church	\$350.00
New Hope, Westview Church	\$1,250.00
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$11,364.91
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,512.00
Ramsey, Bethlehem Worship Cen	\$350.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist Chur	\$2,800.00
Roseville, Twin City Hmong	\$720.00
Spring Lake Park, Hmong Hope Church	\$500.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$3,864.30
St. Paul, Gracepoint Midwest	\$1,200.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$575.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist Church	\$3,000.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$240.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus Church	\$5,334.00
TCMBA TOTAL	\$52,016.51

GARDEN

continued from page three

the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost" (Rev 21:6).

All of us need a little water every day, especially when the stress of life is most scorching. We all need a daily time alone with God, a quiet place to seek His presence and His promises in prayer.

Bill Tinsley is a former executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Appearing in various local newspapers around the country, his column "reflects" on current events and life experiences from a faith perspective.

Back to the beginning

FAITH

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some things about himself. His faith and commitment in Jesus needed to be tested and tried. In this way Peter could see his level of commitment and faith so He could begin there and become all God wanted him to be. (John 21:15-19)

This story has a good ending. Peter went on to be used of God to prepare many people to meet Jesus. I trust that you will not shrink back from these hard, painful, and humbling events but will lean into our Great Shepherd. He is always about His perfect work and in the process will bring us deeper into our walk with Him.

Larry Creamer is pastor of Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis.

Back to the beginning

Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD	NAME	CP YTD
SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION		SOUTHERN MINNESOTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION	
Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$451.80	Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$2,322.60
Janesville, Bethel Church	\$1,485.68	Chester, Chester Woods Community	\$421.18
Janesville, Casa de Oracion	\$20.00	Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$1,000.00
Janesville, Resonance Church	\$1,889.87	Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$1,202.47
La Crosse, Crossway Church	\$600.00	Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist Church	\$4,801.81
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	Rochester, Northbridge Church	\$3,598.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$600.00	Rochester, Redemption City	\$6,034.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$3,370.00	Rochester, Rochester Community	\$400.00
Madison, Emmanuel Church	\$155.00	Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$2,795.96
Madison, Gracepoint	\$1,200.00	St. Cloud, St. Cloud International	\$200.00
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$1,231.00	Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$1,749.05
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$10,716.79	SMNBA TOTAL	\$24,525.07
Madison, Red Village	\$4,250.00		
Madison, Shalom Christian	\$425.00	OTHER	
Monroe, Redemption Church	\$266.26	Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$3,400.00
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$2,839.91	Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$978.55
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist Church	\$7,250.00	OTHER TOTAL	\$4,378.55
Sparta, Gospel Baptist Church	\$1,492.61		
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$500.00		
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ Baptist	\$551.93		
Sun Prairie, Transformation Church	\$1,178.92		
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$505.21		
Verona, Memorial Baptist Church	\$250.00		
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$120.00		
Waterloo, Cornerstone Church	\$1,100.00		
Watertown, Watertown Community	\$300.00		
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$1,000.00		
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$1,437.83		
WI Rapids, First Baptist Church	\$200.00		
SWBA TOTAL	\$45,987.81	MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED	\$ 213,947.39

NOTE: No giving received by MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above during stated giving periods

CP - Cooperative Program

Former MWBC minister arrested on sex crime charges

COLFAX, La. (BP) — A minister who formerly served churches in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention has been arrested in Louisiana, charged with multiple sex crimes.

Daryl Ray Stagg was arrested June 8 in Grant Parish on 12 counts of sex crimes against juveniles including first-degree rape. Within a few days he was also charged with four counts of sex crimes in Union Parish. At a June 12 press conference, law enforcement officials said those additional charges also involved a juvenile.

At the time of his arrest, Stagg was serving

as associational mission strategist of Big Creek Baptist Association in Dry Prong, La. and the CenLa Association in Alexandria, La. He had begun his work with those two associations in 2018 after serving as director of missions of associations in Missouri (2012-2018) and Illinois (2005-2012)

Previously Stagg had served as pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Kenosha, Wis. (Apr. 2001 through Mar. 2005), and before that was a church planter in St. Cloud, Minn., planting Living Waters Community Church in 1997 which changed its name in 1999 to New Heart

Baptist Church.

He served two terms as first vice president of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention in 2004 and 2005, failing to complete his second term because of his move to Illinois. He was also a member of the MWBC executive board while serving at Fellowship and was active in the MWBC disaster relief ministry. While a church planter in St. Cloud he served two terms as moderator of Western Baptist Association in 1999 and 2000.

If Stagg posts the \$500,000 bond he faces in Grant Parish, he will be transferred to the custody of Union Parish

where he faces an additional \$950,000 bond, Union Parish Sheriff Rusty Gates said at the press conference including sheriffs from Grant, Union and Rapides parishes who've collaborated in the investigation.

"Working in conjunction with these other agencies, we were able to identify one individual in Union Parish, in the Bernice, La., area," Gates said. After an investigation, Gates charged Stagg with one count each of first-degree rape, oral sexual battery, aggravated crimes against nature, and indecent behavior with juveniles.

"At this time during

the investigation," Gates said at the press conference, "that is the only victim we have been able to identify in Union Parish. However, as the other sheriffs have said, there could be additional victims. This is a very heinous crime and it's something we want to work hard to get this individual off the street and not let him be able to return to society."

In Grant Parish, Stagg is charged with three counts each of first-degree rape, oral sexual battery, aggravated crimes against nature and indecent behavior with juveniles, but the number of victims has not been disclosed.



Trip to the Holy Land

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with Dr. Leo Endel

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