

Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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Turner appoints team to plan future strategy

Rochester, Minn. — With a theme of “Advancing the Gospel,” the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention reflected on the past and looked toward the future as they gathered at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., for their 42nd annual meeting.

Trey Turner, elected in April to succeed long-serving Leo Endel, stepped to the stage to deliver his very first executive director report.

“It has been 23 years since this report was given by someone other than Leo Endel,” Turner said, acknowledging his predecessor’s long tenure. He also paid tribute to others who had served in that role: Otha Winningham, Bill Tinsley, and Gerald

Palmer.

“We don’t need the same approach of 23 years ago,” he said, “but we do need the same kind of compassion and commitment that we had 23 years ago.”

Before the annual meeting, Turner had called for M-W Baptists to devote 200 hours of prayer for the meeting and for a strategic planning team that would be announced at

See **STRATEGY** page 8



Trey Turner, who began serving June 1 as executive director of Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, shares his first report to an annual meeting of the convention. He named a strategy team to develop goals for 2030, but noted that “some priorities do not change,” adding, “Healthy pastors lead healthy churches and healthy churches engage in effective evangelism and outreach . . . and have healthy ministries to their communities.”

Daniel Goba challenges MWBC to join him in Liberia

Rochester, Minn. — Wrapping up his second year as president of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, Daniel Goba used his president’s message as an opportunity to challenge the convention to join him on mission in his home country of Liberia.

The pastor of Ebenezer Community Church in Bloomington, Minn., Goba said it seems unlikely “that I, as a black man, a Liberian, an African, would serve as the president of MWBC,” adding, “I am humbled by the opportunity that you have given me.”

Goba immigrated to the U.S. 25 years ago

but has returned to Liberia two or three times a year on mission trips.

“I extend this invitation to you,” he said, “to please go with me to Liberia.”

His vision is that the convention would build a house in Liberia that could serve as a base, “a hub to teach and to clarify issues of concern from churches and to leaders,” and “to train men and women to teach their church leaders and their churches.”

He suggested it could be called the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist House and it would be a way for MWBC “to launch out into the world.”



Daniel Goba uses his president’s address to invite MWBC to join him on mission in his home nation of Liberia.

“I can build it, but that’s not what I want,” he said. “I want you to build it so that when any of you go to Liberia you can say, ‘I’m going to the Minneso-

See **JOIN** page 7



Elected as officers of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Women’s Missionary Union are, left to right: Tia Underbakke, executive director; Angel Vang, president; Elee Vang, vice president; and Lucinda Vang, secretary. M-W WMU held their annual meeting at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., the morning of Friday, Oct. 24, preceding the annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

MWBC ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 24-25, 2025

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.



"What is your zeal factor for God's house right now today?" Chris Reinertson asks messengers and guests as he preaches the convention sermon on Psalm 69, quoted by the New Testament more than any other psalm. "Why did zeal for God's house consume Jesus?" he asked. "It's where God transforms us," he said. "It's where God and humans connect."



Brian Schoffstall, pastor of Transformation Church in Sun Prairie, Wis., leads the Friday evening Bible study, suggesting that just as Paul reacted with "deep distress" to the culture in Athens, we are often distressed by what we see in our culture. "What did Paul do? He wouldn't shut up. We cannot be silent," he said. "What do we say to the culture? What do we say to the stuff that makes us deeply distressed? We preach the gospel. . . . The gospel still works."



Reporting at the MWBC Annual Meeting on his first time to host disaster relief teams from other states as they came to help after floods in Milwaukee, Ben Seamans said, "I did not know what I didn't know." The MWBC disaster relief director said leaders from Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and other states helped him with that new responsibility by providing equipment, supplies, volunteers, teams, and advice. "We could not have done this without our partners," he said. Seamans challenged each church to enlist a PPDR, a Point Person for Disaster Relief, in order to get the church engaged in this ministry, which he said is "a one-stop shop for evangelism, missions, ministry and discipleship."



Tia Underbakke, executive director of Minnesota-Wisconsin Woman's Missionary Union, promises churches that she will come help them establish or improve their WMU ministries. All they need to do is invite her to come. "I'm not Batman," she said, "but put the sign up – WMU – and turn the light on. I can't fly but I'll drive over to you."



Salathit Sayaovong, pastor of Hmong First Baptist Church, Milwaukee, reports on the 2025 SEA (Southeast Asia) Mission Trip. He has been on three of the past four trips and is the only person on the team fluent in English, Hmong, and Thai.



In his report on the Called Out Conference, Chris Phillips asks his son to share what he likes about the annual student event in Baraboo, Wis.



Messengers elected new MWBC officers for 2025-2026. Left to right are: President Chris Phillips; Recording Secretary Tim Amert; Executive Director Trey Turner; First Vice President Joseph Young; Assistant Recording Secretary Glenn Slaats; Third Vice President Hoyt Lovelace; outgoing President Daniel Goba.



Musicians from the host church lead congregational singing under the direction of the church's worship minister, Joy McAfee. Joy and her husband Glen (the drummer) led one session of worship with music and lyric videos rather than live instruments to demonstrate how such a resource can help churches that struggle to find music leadership.

MWBC ANNUAL MEETING

Oct. 24-25, 2025

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.



Bob Smith shares how important collegiate ministry is, even though he was once told it was a waste of time because college students don't stay. "It's not really important how long they stay; it's important where they're going," he said. He recalled one year commissioning his entire church of 50 to summer ministry. Rather than grieving that the church building would be empty, they celebrated that the church members would be sent.



Darrel Robinson, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Rice Lake, Wis., makes a motion that an existing missions fund in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation be renamed the Gerald and Libby Palmer Memorial Missions Fund. The motion was approved.



Clint Calvert encourages those at the annual meeting to follow Paul's pattern of prayer: pray with a willingness to obey; pray in awe of God's character; pray with the assurance God will answer; and pray with Christ at the center of your prayer.



WMU leaders include, left to right: Elee Vang, vice president, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Lucinda Vang, secretary, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Dee Thao, WorldCraft, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Connie Shemwell, associational director, Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.; Tia Underbakke, executive director, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Angel Vang, president, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Kabo Yang, children's consultant, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Cindy Vang, advisor, First Hmong, Coon Rapids, Minn. In front: Jude Reinertson, nominating committee, Southtown Baptist, Bloomington, Minn.



"The gospel is good news that God spreads through aliens like Paul and we are all aliens," says Jim Benson, pastor of Viola (Minn.) Bible Church, leading the Saturday morning Bible study. "Like Paul we should see problems and crises as divine appointments to share the gospel with someone."



Nhia Yee Her, pastor of Hmong Baptist Church in Eyota, Minn., leads the Friday evening benediction.



Steve McKinion, theology professor with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, addresses the 2025 Pastors Conference that preceded the MWBC annual meeting. "We stand in a long line of those who have held the faith and passed it on, most of whom are forgotten," he said. "It's not about us but about the faith we are handing down. If you and I abandon the task . . . who will take our place?"

Keeping the main thing the main thing

Many of us along the way in ministry training have heard a wise professor remind us, “Keep the main thing the main thing!” The cooperative work of our national and state conventions, associations, and churches harmonizes under that same tune. We may serve in different parts



Perspectives
Trey Turner

of the mission, but the melody is one: to glorify the Lord of time and space by walking in

obedience and unity.

That unity, however, doesn’t come naturally. It may not be intentional when we lose sight of the main

thing—but it always requires intentional effort to keep the main thing the main thing.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that the body of Christ is one unit made up of many parts—each distinct in its function, yet serving one Lord. That truth was on display when

the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention met in Rochester at Emmanuel Baptist Church to celebrate and collaborate in that oneness. With new leadership, we look to build on a legacy of faithfulness while embracing the urgency of 2 Peter 3:9: God “is not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.” We unite for that mission here and around the world.

At the annual meeting in Rochester, we were encouraged by what God is doing through every part of the body:

Send Network Church Planting — Joshua Whetstone shared the impact of church planting across Minnesota

and Wisconsin under Mark Millman and Tony Antivero, and the exciting prospect of a new church planting assessment center in the Twin Cities. We celebrate this momentum and the multiplication of faithful, cooperative, New Testament churches that bring the gospel to those who have yet to hear. Isn’t it good to know that one part of the body of Christ pulsates with mission for the unreached? We can be a part of that.

International Mission Board — Representatives brought greetings from Dr. Paul Chitwood and reminded us that the world’s greatest problem is lostness. The IMB focuses on the main thing, main-

taining gospel outposts and empowering indigenous believers for maximum impact. Their message of gratitude and partnership resounded: together, cooperating Baptists hold the rope for those serving around the world. Is your church connected to the mission Jesus described in Acts 1:8? Part of the body of Christ pulsates with mission for the nations. We can be a part of that.

SBC Executive Committee — On Saturday, Jeff Dalrymple addressed the vital work of sexual abuse prevention and response. His words carried weight, reminding

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The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist:

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If you believe

A scientist placed a number of fleas in a jar and they immediately jumped out.

He then placed a clear glass plate over the top of the jar. The fleas continued to jump, smashing their heads into the invisible barrier. They kept this up for some time, jumping with all their might, crashing into the glass and falling back. They slowly adjusted the height of their jump to

avoid crashing into the invisible lid.



Reflections
Bill Tinsley

The scientist then removed the glass lid, and the fleas remained in the jar, jumping just short of where the lid had been, unable to clear the lip of the jar and escape.

The jumping fleas are a parable of how we adjust our expectations. Like the fleas, we become conditioned to limitations imposed by others and, some-

times, imposed by ourselves. We no longer try to extend beyond the comfort of what we have done before and we remain trapped by traditions and learned behavior.

Wilbur and Orville Wright were sons of an itinerant preacher, a bishop in the United Brethren Church. Like their father, they were gentlemen who neither smoked, drank nor gambled. But they learned to dream.

When the Wright brothers arrived at Kitty Hawk, N.C., they found an almost deserted island with constant winds, lots of sand and

about 50 homes, mostly occupied by descendants of shipwrecked sailors. The residents wore hand sewn clothes and lived in homes with scarce furniture and bare floors scrubbed white with sand.

Wilbur boarded with the William Tate family and set to work assembling his “darn fool contraption,” as the locals called it. Tate later said, “We believed in God, a bad Devil and a hot Hell, and more than anything else we believed that same God did not intend man should ever fly.”

See **BELIEVE** page 11

Helping pastors, churches, and communities T.H.R.I.V.E.

Pastor, imagine your community being impacted by the integrity of your character, the closeness of your relationships, the compassion of your heart, and the uniqueness of your kindness and hope.

Our character, relationships, and compassion serve as a powerful testimony that “we have been with Jesus” (Acts 4:31). As pastors, we long to impact our communities for Jesus. We realize that we need to apply the gospel

to ourselves and our churches to change our lives and empower our relational witness.

The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention is partnering with the Great Commandment Network

to provide practical resources to support Whole Life Discipleship to help you see those changes in your life, your church, and your community.

One of my best surprises of 2025 was meeting Dr. David Ferguson and becoming

acquainted with his Great Commandment Network. Dr. Ferguson spoke at GuideStone’s Pastoral Wellness Summit in January. His team represented their ministry at the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders this summer in Dallas.

Shortly after, GuideStone’s Mark Dance connected the Great Commandment Network with MWBC. The Great Commandment Network is sponsoring our 2026 Pastors and Wives Retreat by sending three couples to lead in a Galatians 6:6 Retreat for Couples in Ministry. The Great Commandment Net-

work has done these retreats for 30 years having now served more than 14,000 couples. This year’s Pastors and Wives Retreat will give us the opportunity to work on our relationships as ministry couples; it looks to be a refreshing, soul-strengthening experience.

Beyond the Galatians 6:6 Retreat, the Great Commandment Network seeks to strengthen pastors, churches and communities in John 10:10 abundant living through T.H.R.I.V.E., a series of resources designed to help pastors, churches and communities flourish by focusing on **Transformation**

in character and virtue, **Health** (physical, mental, and emotional), **Relational** closeness and caring connections, **Identifying** as happy, hopeful, and satisfied with life, **Vocational** fulfillment, adequacy, and purpose, and **Enjoying** financial stability and freedom.

MWBC is partnering with the Great Commandment Network to provide these resources to MWBC pastors, churches, and communities they serve. Watch for information on the MWBC website to take advantage of these resources. Register and attend the

See **THRIVE** page 11



Leadership
Clint Calvert

Reflections on 20 years as associational leader

This guest column is adapted from the Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association newsletter. Mark Millman recently celebrated 20 years of leading that association.



Guest Column
Mark Millman

In the second half of August 2005, my family and I moved to the Madison, Wis., area from Madison, N.J.. My first official date in the office was on September 1, 2005. From the first day until now, 20 years later, I am so thankful for God’s hand on me personally and on our association during my

time here in Wisconsin.

Vision for Church Planting Came from Our Pastors

The search team that called me was part of a core group of pastors here in this association that had a vision for church planting. There were 13 churches in 2005 in what was then called the Central Baptist Association. These pastors were bold and knew we had to invest in the future to move forward. That is what began to happen as we saw new churches starting. Today

there are more than 40 churches in our association as we have taken on the mission with God’s grace to plant and develop thriving churches in partnership with the gospel.

Name Changes Over the Years

Our association started in 1967 as the Central Baptist Association. It was called “Central” because there were only three associations in the state convention at that time. In 2010 we changed the name to the Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association where most of our churches were located. In 2024 we again changed the name to the Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association as



At the MWBC annual meeting, Trey Turner, right, congratulates Mark Millman on 20 years of associational leadership. Millman began serving Central Baptist Association in 2005 and has been with it through the name changes to Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association (2010) and Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association (2024).

we now have churches from Kenosha to La Crosse to Minocqua.

Coming to Madison - “The Church Planting Graveyard”

On January 1, 2010, Pastor Aaron Jozwi-

ak moved his wife, Tia, and his family to Madison, Wis. They unloaded their moving truck in weather that was 10 below zero degrees. Aaron started

See **REFLECTIONS** page 9

Hmong association gathers to call new leaders

By Karen Willoughby

GREEN LAKE, Wis. (BP) – The Hmong Baptist National Association (HBNA) gathered for its 34th annual meeting this year at the Green Lake Conference Center.

Thirty four churches were represented with a total of 31 messengers and 177 attendees. The association has a total of 51 churches.

“This year’s conference was a special opportunity to grow together in unity through inspiring workshops, powerful times of worship, and meaningful conversations,” outgoing HBNA President Rev. Pao Thao said.

“It was a time to celebrate the work God is doing among our churches and to encourage one another in the ministry He has entrusted to us.”

The theme for this year’s meeting was “Firm Foundation,” based on Psalm 62:1–2.

A notable highlight of the gathering was the increased participation of younger leaders, Thao said. Nearly half (43 percent) of attendees were between the ages of 30 and 45, a significant generational shift from previous years when most participants were 46 and older.

HBNA hosted 11 simultaneous workshops covering a range of ministry and leadership topics during the event.

“We were blessed by the continued presence of Training Leaders

International, the North American Mission Board (NAMB), GuideStone, and the International Mission Board (IMB), all of whom led workshops this year,” Thao said. “We were also honored to welcome Dr. Hongyi Yang from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, who led a workshop on the doctrine of the Trinity and shared valuable insights. HBNA looks forward to continuing our partnership with her in the future.”

Other workshop leaders included:

- Bang Xiong, who leads Hmong ministry in Thailand, speaking on Ministry in Thailand.
- Mark Hobafcovich (NAMB), Evangelism in a Pluralistic World.
- Jeremy Sin (NAMB), Developing Missional Leaders Through Coaching.
- Hoon Im, Investing and Budget Guidelines.
- Mary Vang Her, Prayer and Fasting.
- Nhia Lao Lee, The Importance of Christian Brotherhood.
- Chucklu Vang, The Father of the House Is Blessed by the Congregation.
- Erik Lee, Christ in All Ministry, specifically for NextGen participants.
- Say Yang, Women’s Ministry and Mental Health.
- Aaron Jameson (TLI), Principles for Preaching Christ-Centered Sermons.

This year also marked an election year



for HBNA.

“Elections are special to us because they only happen every two years,” Thao said. “We get to elect new teams to lead the association, and they bring new energy and fresh ideas.”

Newly elected leaders include:

- President – Rev. Cher Cha Yang, Senior Pastor of Hmong Baptist Church, Fresno, Calif.
- Vice President: Vacant (to be appointed by the president)
- Pastoral Director: Rev. Nhia Lor Lee, Senior Pastor of Fox Valley Hmong Baptist Church, Appleton, Wisc.
- Men’s Ministry Director: Vang Lee, Deacon at Reborn in Christ Baptist Church, Sun Prairie, Wisc.
- Women’s Ministry Director: Ncais Vang, Secretary and Assistant Treasurer at Yexus Thwjtum Hmong Baptist Church, Brown Deer, Wisc.
- NextGen Director: Alex Thao, worship director at First Hmong Baptist Church, Broomfield, Colo.
- Moderator: Foua Vang, a member of First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.
- Treasurer: Leng

Her, budget director and secretary for Men’s Ministry at Hmong Baptist Church, Eyota, Minn.

• Secretary: Vacant (to be appointed by the president)

Messengers also approved a \$136,850 budget, reflecting a \$33,800 decrease from the 2025 budget. The total includes \$126,050 in cooperative giving, down \$13,700 from the previous year.

“As seen across the Southern Baptist Convention, cooperative giving has experienced a decline this year,” Thao said. “However, we remain hopeful, as many churches continue to give directly to ministries, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to mission work and gospel advancement.”

Nine HBNA leaders presented ministry reports covering areas such as pastoral care, men’s and women’s ministries, NextGen initiatives, love and care ministries, women’s grief support, home missions, and international missions.

In other business, after two prior attempts to reach consensus, Thao appointed a new working committee that successfully completed

revisions to the HBNA Constitution and By-laws. Messengers unanimously approved the updated legal document.

Thao recognized Lydia Ly, a member of Followers of Christ Hmong Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minn., for eight years of faithful service as HBNA treasurer and communications coordinator.

“We greatly appreciate her dedication and the many ways she has helped the association,” Thao said. “She even created the Book of Reports, which shares how God is working among His Hmong people.” The publication is available as a downloadable PDF at hbna.org.

“We thank God for His faithfulness and for the unity of our churches as we continue to build up leaders and advance the gospel together,” Thao added. “HBNA remains committed to supporting churches, leaders, and members through prayer, partnership, and faithful stewardship.”

Dates and location for the 2026 annual meeting of the Hmong Baptist National Association have not yet been determined.

Leadership opportunities for growing student ministries

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt appreciation to every-

one who shared birthday greetings at the most recent Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention annual meeting in Rochester, Minn. It is always a little bit of a letdown when you have to be away from family on your birthday, but my MWBC



Student Ministries

Bob Smith

family more than made up for it. The day was topped off with a good meal and my choice of dessert.

Now on to more important matters.

The initial reports show significant growth in the ministries with collegiate/young adults in the churches across Minnesota and Wisconsin. Several of the groups have celebrated the baptisms of those who have made

the decision to follow Jesus.

As we look to the future, there will be two significant leadership development opportunities for students and student leaders. These opportunities are a part of a leader development initiative designed to identify, enlist, and train the next generation of young adult leaders.

• Cross-Con, Louisville, Ky., early January. Featured speakers include John Piper, David Platt, Alister Begg, and several others. A group led by Wes Grim from Red Village Church will

be attending.

• Collegiate Summit, May 6-8, First Baptist Church, Collierville, Tenn. (near Memphis). More than 800 student leaders will gather for training. The theme is "Collegiate Summit 2026: Rekindle Your Calling. Renew Your Strategy. Reconnect with the Movement."

Along with these events additional resources are being developed to train leaders of local ministries to prepare students as they move from their collegiate experience to find their place as

next generation leaders. Each student leader will have access to Emerge: Equipping College Leaders To Continue A Life of Vision and Purpose.

As we move into 2026 more resources will be made available to anyone with interest in next generation/collegiate/young adult ministries. I can be reached at BSmithMWBC@msn.com or (612) 940-3701 (voice or text).

Bob Smith is student ministries catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

JOIN

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ta-Wisconsin Baptist House." The house would give MWBC "a tangible presence in Liberia."

The need is great, he said, because the church in Liberia is confused, just as the church in Corinth was when Paul wrote to them the letters that are in the Bible.

"The confusion is both cultural and religious," he said. "Sixty-five percent of those who are Christians are cultural Christians who grew up thinking they were Christians because they went with their parents." In addition to that cultural confusion, there is religious confusion

because the mixture of Christianity and Islam has many families attending both a Christian church and a mosque.

The confusion is compounded by the immaturity and immorality in the church, he said, with some claiming the right to more than one wife because their culture allows it.

"I'm moving back to Liberia," he said, "and I'm scared. But God has placed this burning desire in my heart to return home."

"Minnesota-Wisconsin, you know the truth, you know the gospel, you know the Word," he said. "I want you to help me tackle this issue."

Back to the beginning

KidMin state associates meet in Ely

Ely, Minn. – Penny Reedy, KidMin specialist with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, hosted the annual KidMin State Associates Retreat in Ely, Oct. 7–10.

Thirteen Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Kid Ministry state leaders, each representing a different state convention, gathered for a time of encouragement, collaboration, and learning from one another. This annual retreat rotates among host states and is always a highly anticipated event among the group.

Toward the end of the week, Delanee Williams of Lifeway joined the retreat to share updates and offer encouragement.

While in Ely, participants — joined



Kid Ministry leaders from 13 state conventions gathered at Ely for a working retreat in October, but also made time for some outings, including a sightseeing cruise aboard the Vista Star on Lake Superior in Duluth.

by several spouses — enjoyed a taste of Northwoods adventure. Their outings included visits to the International Wolf Center and North American Bear Center, as well as a scenic hike to Kawaishiwi Falls. They also took time to explore Ely's local shops and restaurants.

To conclude the retreat, the group traveled to Duluth for a Lake Superior sight-

seeing cruise aboard the Vista Star, a fitting finale to a week filled with laughter, inspiration, and deepening friendships.

Reedy expressed gratitude for the fellowship and purpose shared during the retreat. "I'm so thankful for this group and for the way God continues to bless our time together — encouraging and inspiring one another," she said.

Minnesota-Wisconsin
Baptist

STRATEGY

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the meeting.

The strategy team, tasked with developing a five-year plan to guide MWBC's priorities through 2030, is composed of Matt Wunderlin, pastor, Rolling Hills Church, Platteville, Wis.; Chris Phillips, pastor of administration and discipleship, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.; Clint Calvert, elder, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.; Paul Fries, member, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.; Paul Springer, pastor, Northwest Baptist Church, Wauwatosa, Wis.; Charles Dunning, member, Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wis.; and Dee Thao, member, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.

"They will work from now to April and present their findings at the April executive board

meeting," Turner said.

A total of 143 attended: 73 guests and 70 messengers from 39 of the convention's 195 churches. Messengers approved a 2026 budget of \$915,274 which is a 6.5 percent decrease from the 2025 budget of \$978,525. The percentage of Cooperative Program giving forwarded to national causes remains at 20 percent.

Messengers elected President Chris Phillips, pastor of administration and discipleship, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.; First Vice President Joseph Young, pastor, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Second Vice President Hoyt Lovelace, pastor of missions, Resonate Church, Janesville, Wis.; Recording Secretary Tim Amert, member, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.; and Assistant Recording Secretary Glen Slatts, member, Trinity Baptist Church,

Reedsburg, Wis.

Messengers approved the two resolutions reported out of the resolutions committee by Keith Cogburn, director of missions, Lakeland Baptist Association: (1) thanking the host church and praying for their search for a new pastor; and (2) seeking God's leadership for the MWBC as it navigates changes and opportunities.

The 2026 annual meeting will be Oct. 23-24 at Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis. The annual sermon will be delivered by Matt Wunderlin, pastor of Rolling Hills Church, Platteville, Wis. Alternate will be Philip Nache, pastor of Hope of Nations Fellowship Church, Minneapolis. The following year's annual meeting will be Oct. 22-23, 2027, at Cross Pointe Church in Cambridge, Minn.

Back to the beginning

MAIN

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us that self-discipline is required in everything we do. As Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:27, we must discipline ourselves so that we are not disqualified. Another part of the body of Christ sounds a clarion call for integrity and justice—for the sake of His name. We can be a part of that.

Disaster Relief — No one could lead Minnesota-Wisconsin Disaster Relief better than Ben Seamans. He reported on recent needs stretching from western Minnesota to southeastern Wisconsin, celebrating the generous responses of partner states and trained volunteers from our own churches. This is yet another expression of the Body of Christ—building bridges of care for the gospel to travel. We can be a part of that.

Global Compassion — Our churches also have an opportunity to support the Protez Foundation, a nonprofit providing prosthetics for those injured in Ukraine's war-torn regions. This tangible witness brings hope to

families who desperately need it.

Strategic Planning and Future Vision

— A trusted group of seven men and women has begun a guided strategic planning process to help us listen carefully to the Lord for our next faithful steps. In the coming year, we'll look closely at our relationships with multicultural congregations across our states and pray for bridges into the new communities God may be calling us to reach.

Indeed, there is vast diversity and one great purpose. As Paul wrote, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord; and there are varieties of workings, but the same God who works everything in everyone" (1 Cor. 12:4-6, LSB).

Isn't it great to know that the body of Christ moves forward with a unified mission until all are gathered at His throne? We can be a part of that.

Trey Turner is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Back to the beginning

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

한글 ENSEMBLE JUNTO 함께 JUNTO ZUSAMMEN BMECTE 一起

TOGETHER

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

SEA Mission Trip Thailand

July 17 - 31, 2026

www.mwbc.org/sea



REFLECTIONS

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from scratch, reaching one person at a time. Today their church has sent out missionaries all over the world. Aaron's quote is, "The sun never sets on a Red Village Church member."

In the context of our association, this church plant became

the first English speaking church plant to be successfully planted in Madison since East Madison Baptist Church started in 1965.

God's hand has clearly been on Red Village Church. Since that time many other churches have been successfully planted in Madison.

During my first five

years, others involved in church planting called Madison a "church planting graveyard." But our courageous planters and their families with the Lord's appointing and anointing have proven that different. Today we have a number of English speaking and language churches scattered all over Madison

reaching many natives of Madison and also people from all over the world who have moved to Madison.

Diversity Has Increased

The first non-Anglo church in our association was Madison Hmong Baptist Church which started in 1992. When I first started in

2005 that was the only ethnic church in our association. Today we have many language and multi-ethnic churches in the Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association. There are churches meeting every Sunday all across Wisconsin in the GWBA that speak Spanish, Amharic, Korean, Hmong, and many more. We are thankful the Lord has allowed us to participate in reaching the nations of the world here in Wisconsin.

Much More Could Be Said

I really could share for a long time about how the Holy Spirit has been at work in my 20 years. John 21:25 is the last verse in the Gospel of John and the writer says this, "Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

Jesus has done great things and too much to share in this article as we remember 20 years together. But I do believe it is biblical and healthy for us to reflect on the greatness of the God of the universe and how He is at work in our midst. Praise to the Lord for all that He has done and continues to do in our lives, families, and in our churches.

Back to the beginning

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association
GWBA: Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association
LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association

MWBC events are in bold print.

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

NOVEMBER

8 GWBA Annual Meeting, Memorial Baptist Church, Verona, Wis.

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

27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

DECEMBER

24-31 Christmas/New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

FEBRUARY

5-7 Pastors and Wives Retreat, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wis.

11-18 TCMBA Mission Trip – North Carolina

MARCH

6-7 Empower Conference, Green Lake Conference Center, Green Lake, Wis.

15-31 Liberia Mission Trip

APRIL

3 Good Friday – **MWBC Office Closed**

10-11 Equip NextGen Conference, Southtown Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn.

24-25 MWBC Executive Board Meeting, Rochester, Minn.

30 MWBC Lottie Moon Offering Cutoff

MAY

25 Memorial Day Observed – **MWBC Office Closed**

29 New Pastor Orientation – Rochester, Minn.

NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association
SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association
TCMBA: Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association

JUNE

7-10 Southern Baptist Convention – Orlando FL

12-20 Guyana Mission Trip

TBD Hands of Hope – Location TBD

30 MWBC Annie Armstrong Offering Cutoff

JULY

4 Independence Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

17-31 SEA Mission Trip - Thailand

AUGUST

14-22 Argentina Mission Trip

SEPTEMBER

1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions

7 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

11-12 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.

18-20 Called Out Youth Conference, Baraboo, Wis.

OCTOBER

22 Church Planter Forum, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.

23 Pastor's Conference, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.

23-24 MWBC Annual Meeting, Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Wis.

26-27 Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Mo.

NOVEMBER

15-17 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, Waco Convention Center, Waco, Texas

26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

DECEMBER

24-31 Christmas/New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

MWBC

Mission Gifts from the Churches

MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM/OFFERING RECEIPTS

January - October 2025

Cooperative Program Budget 2025 Year to Date	\$534,187.50
Cooperative Program Receipts 2025 Year to Date	\$507,463.47
Under Budget Year to Date	\$26,724.03

NAME CP YTD

BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible	\$1,200.00
Appleton, Fox Valley Hmong Baptist	\$500.00
Appleton, Living Water	\$725.13
Appleton, Valley	\$61,950.70
Clintonville, First Baptist	\$2,879.93
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$5,718.80
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$41,028.91
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$3,611.35
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist	\$2,186.40
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$2,042.46
BLBA TOTAL	\$121,843.68

LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Community	\$3,895.00
Brookfield, Redemption	\$8,475.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$1,500.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$1,200.00
Kenosha, Amistad Cristiana	\$600.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$5,517.81
Kenosha, Redeemer Parkside	\$4,500.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$719.74
Milwaukee, Hmong First Baptist	\$600.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Su Presencia	\$566.82
Milwaukee, Jericho Church Without Walls	\$500.00
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$10,365.58
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,050.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$60.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,030.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$300.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$1,500.00
Milwaukee, Northwest Baptist	\$10,000.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish Church	\$800.00
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministries	\$1,089.50
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$7,871.15
Pewaukee, Crossroads	\$3,653.26
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie Baptist	\$3,007.65
Racine, Hope Community	\$2,053.12
LBA TOTAL	\$71,754.63

NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist	\$1,340.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe	\$4,950.00
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$1,200.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Baptist	\$2,250.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist	\$1,000.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$532.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist	\$3,136.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist	\$2,690.70
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,201.78
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$2,399.35
NWBA TOTAL	\$20,699.83

NAME

CP YTD

TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amery, Journey Church	\$5,000.00
Bloomington, Hope of Nations Fellowship	\$986.16
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean Baptist	\$1,000.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$9,843.53
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$1,800.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center Baptist	\$3,689.17
Burnsville, Berean Baptist	\$1,000.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$3,000.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist	\$600.00
Eagan, Good News	\$4,850.00
Lino Lakes MN, Bethel Moldovian Baptist	\$800.00
Little Canada, Our City-Our Neighborhood	\$100.00
Maple Grove, Northwood	\$900.00
Maple Grove, Unlock	\$900.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples	\$4,320.00
Minneapolis, New Hope Baptist	\$500.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$700.00
Monticello, Grace Bible	\$1,000.00
New Hope, Westview	\$1,500.00
New Prague, Calvary	\$18,705.83
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$2,083.30
Richfield, Richfield Bible	\$600.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$3,200.00
Roseville, Twin City Hmong	\$1,606.00
Sartell, Faith Journey	\$6,256.83
St. Cloud, Calvary Community	\$1,000.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian Evang.	\$500.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00
St. Paul, Cities	\$10,000.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$9,885.00
St. Paul, Hmong Unity Christian	\$200.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$1,800.00
St. Paul, Vertical	\$298.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$6,000.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$600.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus	\$1,750.00
White Bear Lake, Faith Fellowship	\$2,880.00
TCMBA TOTAL	\$111,653.82



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Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD	NAME	CP YTD
GREATER WISCONSIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION		SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION	
Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$938.28	Austin, Austin Baptist	\$2,481.30
Janesville, Resonate	\$10,318.59	Eyota, Hmong Baptist	\$3,000.00
Kieler, Kieler Community	\$2,014.74	Mankato, Great Oaks	\$1,200.00
La Crosse, Crossway	\$1,800.00	Mankato, Hope Baptist (Gospel Joy)	\$748.00
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	Marshall, Radiant Life	\$2,737.46
Madison, Antioch Fellowship International	\$600.00	Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley Baptist	\$4,349.50
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,500.00	Rochester, Chester Woods Community	\$4,707.10
Madison, Doxa	\$16,200.00	Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$19,501.19
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$7,610.00	Rochester, Emmanuel en Espanol	\$181.20
Madison, Emmanuel	\$981.00	Rochester, Redemption City	\$21,882.96
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$2,350.44	Rochester, Rochester Community Baptist	\$800.00
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$4,299.00	Viola, Viola Bible	\$1,610.15
Madison, Midvale Baptist	\$7,953.14	Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$3,850.00
Madison, Red Village	\$8,500.00	SMNBA Total	\$67,048.86
Madison, Shalom Christian Assembly	\$500.00		
Milwaukee, Pillar	\$1,600.00	OTHER	
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$5,625.00	Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$6,800.00
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$15,666.60	Eau Claire, One in Christ	\$1,233.31
Rockton, IL Emmaus Community	\$200.00	OTHER TOTAL	\$8,033.31
Sparta, Gospel Baptist	\$2,678.30		
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$1,000.00		
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ Baptist	\$1,923.79		
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$3,026.13		
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$839.84		
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$30.00		
Waterloo, Cornerstone	\$1,100.00		
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$2,000.00		
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$3,824.49		
WI Rapids, First Baptist	\$550.00		
GWBA Total	\$106,229.34	MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED	\$507,463.47

BELIEVE

continued from page four

The Wright brothers became fast friends with the Tate family and the outer banks people, who helped them immensely. Within three years, on December 17, 1903, the Wright brothers lifted into the air. Six years later, Orville Wright circled the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor and the Wright plane flew over the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Aviation was born. The world has never been the same.

Jesus was constantly urging his disciples to think beyond their

limited expectations. Often He referred to the 12 disciples as "you of little faith." He challenged them, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move." (Matt. 17:20).

Jesus chose 12 of the most unlikely men to follow Him. They were common fishermen, common laborers and a tax collector. Without Jesus they would have lived out their lives in their small villages unnoticed. History would have taken no note. But Jesus taught them to believe beyond

the limitations of their day. Armed with faith, confident in the power that raised Jesus from the dead, they turned the world upside down and changed the course of human history.

"Nothing," Jesus said, "is impossible with God."

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.

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THRIVE

continued from page five

Galatians 6:6 Retreat for Couples in Ministry. Special breakouts at EMPOWER will feature and demonstrate these THRIVE

resources as well.

Clint Calvert is leadership development consultant for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Back to the beginning

A GIFTED RETREAT FOR PASTORS AND WIVES 2026

galatians 6:6 Retreat
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