

Bethel Missionary Baptist Association

66th Annual Session



Meeting Held With:
Freedom Missionary Baptist Church
Indianapolis, IN

Friday, September 13th and Saturday, September 14th, 2024

66th Annual Session

of the

Bethel Missionary
Baptist Association

held with

Freedom
Missionary
Baptist Church

2024 Association Officers

Moderator: Elder Jeff Moran

Clerk: Brother Chris Harper

Treasurer: Brother Cory Houchens

In 2025 the Association will be held at

Harvest Missionary Baptist Church

beginning on

Friday, September 19th, 2025 at 10 AM,

Friday, September 19th, 2025 at 7 PM,

and

Saturday, September 20th, 2025 at 10 AM.

Please send all correspondence to:

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Franklin, IN 46131

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Articles of Faith

I. Of the Scriptures:

¹We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and it is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; ²that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, ³and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; ⁴that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; ⁵and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, ⁶and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

Scriptures: ¹*II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21; 2II Timothy 3:15, I Thessalonians 2:13, I Peter 1:9-12; 3Proverbs 30:5-6, II Peter 1:20; 4Romans 2:12, Romans 2:16, John 12:48; 5Philippians 3:16, Matthew 24:35, Amos 3:3; 6I John 4:1*

II. Of the True God:

¹We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, ²an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, ³the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; ⁴inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; ⁵that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, ⁶and executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

Scriptures: ¹*Isaiah 45:5, Deuteronomy 4:35, Jeremiah 10:10, I Corinthians 8:4-6; 2Psalm 147:5, John 4:24, Psalms 83:18; 3Romans 1:20, Hebrews 3:4; 4Exodus15:11, Isaiah 6:3, I Peter1:15-16, Revelation 4:6-8, Mark12:30, Revelation 4:11, Matthew10:37, Jeremiah 2:12-13; 5Matthew 28:19, I John 5:7; 6I Corinthians12:4-6, John10:30, Philippians 2:5-6, John 5:17-18, John 15:26, Acts 5:3-4, I Corinthians 2:10-11, Ephesians 2:18, Revelation 1:4-5, II Corinthians 13:14*

III. Of the Fall of Man:

¹We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, ²but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; ³in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; ⁴being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; ⁵and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

Scriptures: ¹*Genesis 1:27, Genesis 1:31, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Acts 17:26-29, Genesis 2:16-17, Galatians 3:10, Romans 3:19; 2Genesis 3:6-24; 3Romans 5:12, Romans 5:15-19, Galatians 3:22, Ezekiel 18:19-20; 4Psalms 51:5, Romans 8:7, Isaiah 53:6, Genesis 6:12, Romans 3:9-18, Ephesians 2:1-3, Galatians 3:10; 5Romans 1:18-32, Romans 2:1-16, Romans.1:20*

IV. Of the Way of Salvation:

¹We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; ²who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; ³honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; ⁴that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven; ⁵and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Saviour.

Scriptures: ¹*Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 18:11, Acts 15:11, Hebrews 12:24;* ²*I John 4:10, John 3:16, John 1:1-14, Hebrews 4:14, Philippians 2:5-7, II Corinthians 5:21, Psalms 89:19;* ³*Isaiah 42:21, Galatians 4:4-5, Philippians 2:8, Romans 3:21, Isaiah 53:4-5, Matthew 20:28, Hebrews 2:9&14;* ⁴*Romans 4:25, Colossians 3:1-4, Hebrews 1:3, I Corinthians 15:3-4;* ⁵*Hebrews 7:25-26, Romans 3:21-26, Hebrews 2:18, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 1:8, Hebrews 9:13-15*

V. Of Justification:

¹We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; ²that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; ³that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; ⁴by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; ⁵that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

Scriptures: ¹*Acts 13:39, Isaiah 53:11-12;* ²*Romans 5:1-2, Romans 5:9, Zechariah 13:1, Matthew 9:6, Acts 10:43, Romans 5:17, I John 2:25, Romans 6:23;* ³*Titus 3:5-7, Romans 4:4-5, Romans 3:24-26, John 1:16;* ⁴*Romans 5:21, Philippians 3:7-9, Romans 5:19, Romans 4:23-25, Romans 8:1;* ⁵*Romans 4:4-5, Romans 5:11, I Corinthians 1:30-31, Matthew 6:33*

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation:

¹We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; ²that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial penitent, and obedient faith; ³and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; ⁴which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Scriptures: ¹*Isaiah 55:1, Revelations 22:17;* ²*Romans 16:25-26, Mark 1:15, Romans 1:15-17, Luke 14:17;* ³*John 5:39-40, Romans 9:30-32, Matthew 23:37, Proverbs 1:24, Acts 13:46;* ⁴*John 3:19, Matthew 11:20, II Thessalonians 1:7-8*

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration:

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that it's proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith and newness of life.

Scriptures: *John 3:3; John 3:6-7; I Corinthians 1:14; Revelations 8:7-9; Revelations 21:27; II Corinthians 5: 17; Ezekiel 36:26; Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:28-29; Romans 5:5; I John 4:7; John 3:8; John 1:13; James 1:16-18; I Corinthians 1:30; Philippians 2:13; I Peter 1:22-25; I John 5:1; Ephesians 4:20-24; Colossians 3:9-11; Ephesians 5:9; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:15-23; Ephesians 3:14-21; Matthew 3:8-10; Matthew 7:20; I John 5:4 & 18*

VIII. Of Repentance And Faith:

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Saviour.

Scriptures: *Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; I John 5:1; John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 16:30-31; Luke 18:13; Luke 15:18-21; James 4:7-10; II Corinthians 7:11; Romans 10:12-13; Psalms 51; Romans 10:9-11; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14; Psalms 2-6; Hebrews 1:8; Hebrews 8:5; II Timothy 1:12*

IX. Of God's Purpose Of Grace:

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel, that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and desires the utmost diligence.

Scriptures: *II Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; I Peter 1:1-2; Romans 11:5-6; John 15:16; I John 4:19; Hosea 12:9; II Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16; Matthew 20:16; Acts 15:14; Exodus 33:19; II Timothy 1:9; Romans 11:32-36; I Corinthians 4:7; I Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 3:27; Romans 4:16; Colossians 3:12; I Corinthians 3:5-7; I Corinthians 15:10; I Peter 5:10; Acts 1:24; I Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 2:9; Luke 18:7; John 15:16; Ephesians 1:16; I Thessalonians 2:12; I Timothy 2:10; I Corinthians 9:22; Romans 8:28-30; John 6:37-40; II Peter 1:10; I Thessalonians 1:4-10; Isaiah 42:16; Romans 11:29; II Peter 1:10-11; Philippians 3:12; Hebrews 6:11*

X. Of Sanctification:

¹We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; ²that it is a progressive work; ³that it is begun in regeneration; ⁴and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means – especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.

Scriptures: ¹*II Corinthians 7:1, II Corinthians 13:9, Ephesians 1:4, I Thessalonians 4:3-4, I Thessalonians 5:23-24, I Peter 1:14-16;* ²*Proverbs 4:18, II Corinthians 3:18, Philippians 3:12-16, Heb 6:1; II Peter 1:5-8;* ³*Romans 8:5, Philippians 1:6, I John 2:29;* ⁴*Matthew 26:41, Luke 9:23, Luke 11:34-36, II Corinthians 3:18, II Corinthians 13:5, Ephesians 4:11-12, Ephesians 6:17-18, Philippians 1:9-11, Philippians 2:12-13; I Thessalonians 4:3-4, I Peter 2:2, II Peter 3:18*

XI. Of The Perseverance Of Saints:

¹We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; ²that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; ³that a special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Scriptures: ¹*Job 17:9, John 5:24, John 8:31, Philippians 1:6, I Peter 1:22-23; ²John 6:35-40, John 10:27-30, Romans 8:1, I Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 4:30, I John 2:19, I John 2:27-29, I John 4:4; ²John 6:35-40, John 10:27-30, Romans 8:1, I Corinthians 1:4-8, Ephesians 4:30, I John 2:19, I John 2:27-29, I John 4:4; ³Psalms 121:3, Jeremiah 32:40, Lamentations 3:22-23, Matthew 6:30-33, Romans 5:1-2, Romans 8:28, Philippians 2:12-13, Hebrews 1:13-14, Hebrews 13:5, I Peter 1:3-6, Jude 24-25*

XII. Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel:

¹We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; ²that it is holy, just, and good; ³and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; ⁴to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law is one great end of the gospel and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

Scriptures: ¹*Matthew 5:17-18, Luke 16:17, Romans 3:19-20; ²Psalms 119:137-142, Romans 7:7, Romans 7:12,14,22, Galatians 3:21; ³Joshua 24:19, Jeremiah 13:23, Romans 8:7-8; ⁴John 6:44, Romans 3:31, Romans 8:2-4, Romans 10:4, II Corinthians 5:18-21, I Timothy 1:5, Hebrews 8:10, Hebrews 12:14*

XIII. Of a Gospel Church:

¹We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; ²observing the ordinances of Christ; ³governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; ⁴that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistle to Timothy and Titus.

Scriptures: ¹*Corinthians 1:1-13, Matthew 18:17, Acts 5:11, Acts 8:1, Acts 11:22, I Corinthians 4:17, I Corinthians 14:23, III John 9, I Timothy 3:5, II Corinthians 8:5, Acts 2:47, I Corinthians 5:12-13, I Corinthians 12:14; ²Acts 2:41-42, I Corinthians 11:2, I Corinthians 11:23-34, Matthew 28:20; ³II Thessalonians 3:6, Romans 16:17-20, Matthew 18:15-20, I Corinthians 5:5-13, II Corinthians 2:5-8, John 14:15, John 15:12, I John 4:21, John 14:21, I Thessalonians 4:2-12, II John 6, Galatians 6:2, Ephesians 4:7, I Corinthians 14:12, Philippians 1:27; ⁴Philippians 1:1, Acts 14:23, Acts 15:22, I Timothy 3, Titus 1, Acts 6*

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper:

¹We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; ²to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; ³that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; ⁴and to the Lords Supper in which the members of the

church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Scriptures: ¹Acts 8:36-39, Matthew 3:5-6, John 3:22-23, John 4:1-2, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12, Acts 16:32-34, Acts 18:8, Acts 10:47, Galatians 3:26-28; ²Colossians 2:12, I Peter 3:20-21, Acts 22:16; ³Acts 2:41-42, Acts 8:12-13, Acts 9:1-31; ⁴Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-25, Luke 22:14-20, I Corinthians 11:17-30, I Corinthians 5:1-8, I Corinthians 10:3-32, John 6:26-71

XV. Of the Christian Sabbath:

¹We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath; ²and it is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; ³and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Scriptures: ¹Acts 20:7, Genesis 2:2-3, John 20:19, I Corinthians 16:1-2; ²Colossians 2:16-17, Mark 2:27, Exodus 20:8, Revelation 1:10, Isaiah 58:13-14, Isaiah 56:2-8, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 11:26, Acts 13:44, Leviticus 19:30, Luke 4:16, Acts 17:2-3, Psalm 26:8; ³Hebrews 4:3-11

XVI. Of Civil Government:

¹We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; ²and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; ³except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

Scriptures: ¹Romans 13:1-7, Deuteronomy 16:18, II Samuel 23:3, Exodus 18:19-23, Jeremiah 30:21, Matthew 22:21, Titus 3:1, I Peter 2:13; ²I Timothy 2:1-8; ³Acts 5:29, Matthew 10:28, Daniel 3:15-18, Daniel 6:7-10, Acts 4:18-20, Matthew 23:10, Romans 14:4, Revelation 19:16, Psalm 72:11, Psalm 2, Romans 14:9-13

XVII. Of the Righteous and the Wicked:

¹We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; ²that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; ³while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

Scriptures: ¹Malachi 3:18, Proverbs 12:26, Isaiah 5:20, Genesis 18:23, Jeremiah 15:19, Acts 10:34-35, Romans 6:16, Ecclesiastes 3:17; ²Romans 1:17, Romans 7:6, I John 2:29, I John 3:7, Romans 6:18-22, I Corinthians 11:32, Proverbs 11:31, I Peter 4:17-18, I John 5:19; ³Galatians 3:10, John 3:36, Isaiah 57:21, Psalm 10:4, Isaiah 55:6-7, Proverbs 14:32, Luke 16:19-31, John 8:21-24, John 12:25-26

XVIII. Of the World to Come:

¹We believe that the end of this world is approaching; ²that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to the final retribution; ³that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be ad-

judged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; ⁴and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

Scriptures: ¹*I Peter 4:7, I Corinthians 7:29-31, Hebrews 1:10-12, Matthew 24:35, I John 2:17, Matthew 28:20, Matthew 13:39-40, II Peter 3:3-13;* ²*Acts 1:11, Revelation 1:7, Hebrews 9:28, Acts 3:21, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 24:30-31, I John 2:28;* ³*I Thessalonians 5:1-11, Acts 4:15, I Corinthians 15:12-58, Luke 14:14, Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, John 6:40, John 11:25-26, Acts 10:42, Matthew 13:49, Matthew 13:37-43, Matthew 25:31-46, Revelation 22:11;* ⁴*Mark 9:43-48, II Peter 2:9, Jude 7, Philippians 3:19, Romans 6:22, II Corinthians 5:10-11, John 4:36, Romans 3:5-6, II Thessalonians 1:6-12, Hebrews 6:1-2, I Corinthians 4:5, Acts 17:31, Romans 2:2-16, I John 4:17*

XIX. Of Marriage:

¹We believe that marriage is a divinely established union. That it is defined in the Holy Scriptures as being between one natural born man and one natural born woman. ²Marriage is the foundational relationship of the natural family. The Scriptures teach that it was instituted to combat loneliness through companionship, to prevent sexual immorality and to populate the earth. ³That it is for the mutual benefit of the man and the woman and is intended to give glory to God. ⁴We believe that it is a lifelong union. ⁵That the ultimate purpose of marriage is to reflect the relationship that Christ has with His bride, the church and to pervert this relationship is to distort the gospel message.

Scriptures: ¹*Genesis 2:23-24, Mark 10:6-8;* ²*Genesis 1:27-28, Genesis 2:18 & 21-22, Psalms 127:3-5, I Corinthians 7:2, Hebrews 13:4;* ³*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, Ephesians 5:28-29, Revelation 4:11;* ⁴*Matthew 19:6-8, Romans 7:2-3, I Corinthians 7:39;* ⁵*Ephesians 5:22-32*

XX. Of The Sanctity of Human Life:

¹We believe that mankind was made in the image and likeness of God and that human life is sacred and holy. ²In the creation, mankind was given dominion and priority over the animal kingdom. ³Human life is highly valued by God and should therefore be protected in every stage. ⁴We believe that life begins at conception and ends at a time appointed by God. ⁵We believe that mankind was created with the purpose of glorifying God and that innocent human life should not be devalued or destroyed. In every stage it should be protected and nurtured to fulfill the purpose for which it was originally created.

Scriptures: ¹*Genesis 1:27, Genesis 9:5-6;* ²*Genesis 1:28-29, Genesis 2:19;* ³*Exodus 21:22-25, Psalms 106:37-40, Matthew 10:29-31, Matthew 12:11-12. John 3:16;* ⁴*Job 14:5, Psalms 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5, Acts 17:26;* ⁵*Deuteronomy 27:25, Proverbs 6:16-17, John 9:1-3, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Revelation 4:11*

Constitution

Article I: This body shall be known as the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association.

Article II: These Associations shall be composed of members duly chosen by regular and orderly Missionary Baptist Churches.

Article III: The letters from the Churches to the Association shall give the number of members in fellowship, received by experience and baptism, received by letter, restored, excommunicated, and dead, since last annual meeting and mission work supported with financial information. (Amended in 2011)

Article IV: Each Church shall be entitled to six messengers or alternates who shall serve in the absence of messengers. (Amended in 1984)

Article V: These Associations shall elect annually as officers, a Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer, chosen from their memberships, whose duties shall be to serve their brethren in their several capacities.

Article VI: These Associations shall never interfere with the independence of any Church, or claim any ecclesiastical power or rights of supervision over any of the Churches.

Article VII: It shall be the object of these Associations to promote the union of the faith of the gospel with our educational and mission interest.

Article VIII: These Associations shall meet annually on the Friday before the third Sunday at 10 a.m., Friday evening at 7 p.m. and Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at a location agreed upon by the Association.

Article IX: Messengers from one third of the Churches shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business at any regular meeting.

Article X: These meetings shall be missionary.

Article XI: New Churches shall be admitted into this Association, who shall petition by letter and messengers, and on examination, if found orthodox and orderly, may be received and made known by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship to the messenger or messengers present.

Article XII: The Association may exclude from the union any Church or Churches that are heterodox in principle or disorderly in practice.

Article XIII: The Association at its sitting may admit any visiting brethren and sister, from sister churches present, to sit with them, who shall have liberty to discuss any question and give their views, but not to vote except upon subjects of general union.

Article XIV: Any alteration may be made to the constitution at any regular meeting by a two thirds majority vote of members present.

Article XV: That all questions arising before this Association be decided by a greater number of the vote of the messengers present, including the reception of Churches into our Fellowship. (Amended in 1963)

Motions Passed at Previous Sessions That are Still in Effect

Fifth Session

-Petitionary Letters from sister churches should be presented after the seating of messengers.

Ninth Session

-Be it resolved that any Church having been admitted into the membership of the Association, if said Church fails to present a letter to the Association for three consecutive years, that said church shall be removed from the membership of the Association.

Tenth Session

-Those assigned to a subject will prepare it, or the Moderator be allowed to appoint a committee to write one to read before the Association.

Eleventh Session

-In the electing of officers, if anyone elected to an office or to preach a sermon does not have an assistant or alternate, one shall be appointed by the Moderator.

Twelfth Session

-That the Clerk have the authority to print the obituary and picture, if the family so desires, of deceased members in the fellowship of the Association in the minutes from this time on.

-In the seating of visitors, the Moderator has the right to question them as to their acceptance of alien immersion, and to deny them the privilege of being seated if they do accept or fellowship alien immersion.

Eighteenth Session

-The Clerk has the authority to dispose of the handwritten copies of our minutes after being kept a minimum of two years.

Nineteenth Session

-The time spent reading associational letters be shortened by reading the greeting from the first letter and omitting all addresses and the list of ordained and licensed preachers.

Thirty-Fourth Session

-Messengers voted to reduce the number of subjects from six to five.

-Messengers voted to discontinue reading the financial information from each churches letter

Thirty-Seventh Session

-That a report, presented in writing, concerning the status of missions, missionaries, their addresses, their financial needs and progress of their work be always included in the list of subjects for discussion.

Thirty-Ninth Session

-Association recommends to the churches that they send male messengers only.

Forty-Third Session

-Churches shall write information about missions from their churches to be read during the mission report.

Forty-Sixth Session

-Word limit for subject reports shall be increased from 1,200 to 2,500 words.

Forty-Seventh Session

-No proceedings shall be had against any Church, except of charges preferred by a sister church, which shall first have attempted reconciliation before bringing the issue before the Association.

Fifty-Fourth Session

-The letters from the Churches to the Association shall give the number of members in fellowship, received by experience and baptism, received by letter, restored, excommunicated, and dead, since last annual meeting, and mission work supported with financial information

Fifty-Sixth Session

-Word limit for subject reports shall be increased from 1,200 to 2,500 words

Fifty-Seventh Session

-No preacher shall preach two years in a row.

Fifty-Ninth Session

-New American Standard version of the Bible be recommended as an alternate version for study/reference

Sixtieth Session

-The Associational Clerk's contact info to be included in the minutes.

-The pastor of the host church shall not be named as the chairman of a subject committee.

-In the Order of Business, the item of prayer shall always be listed as the first item for each service

- Doctrinal Sermon shall be given immediately after the Missionary Collections that is split between the mission efforts of the Association

-Website budget be increased from \$50 to \$200 a year.

Sixty-Second Session

-Subject committeemen will submit their report to the clerk in an electronic format within one month of the Association, and the minutes will be printed and distributed within six months of the Association.

Rules of Decorum

I: The Association shall be opened and closed in prayer.

II: Only one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise and address the Moderator by the appellation of Brother Moderator, and shall, while speaking, confine himself to the subject under discussion and shall not be interrupted unless he digresses from the subjects, and shall in no wise reflect on any other speaker, so as to make remarks on his slips, failings or imperfections, but shall fairly state his views without sophistry or criticism.

III: No member shall absent himself from the Association without leave of the Moderator.

IV: No member shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the body. The chairman of each subject shall have an opening speech of ten minutes and two other speeches of five minutes each.

V: Each motion and second shall come under the immediate consideration of the Association, unless withdrawn by the one who made it.

VI: All members shall conduct themselves in these sessions in a manner conducive to Godliness.

VII: No member shall address another by an appellation other than that of Brother.

VIII: On the first day it shall be the duty of the clerk to read the Rules of Decorum and call the roll of messengers.

IX: The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privileges of speaking as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but shall have no vote unless the Association is equally divided.

X: Any member violating these rules, or any time manifesting a spirit contrary to the gospel, shall be reproved or such other course taken with him as the Moderator may think proper, either of his own option or the initiation of any other member.

Order of Business

Friday Morning

- _____ Prayer
- _____ Moderator calls Association to order
- _____ Introductory Sermon
- _____ Clerk reads the Rules of Decorum
- _____ Clerk reads Associations Letters and Messengers are seated
- _____ Moderator declares quorum for transaction of business
- _____ Association elects Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer
- _____ Moderator calls for Petitionary Letters
- _____ Association elects preachers for next year's sermons
- _____ Association elects host church for next year
- _____ Moderator recognizes visitors
- _____ Moderator appoints Subject Selection Committee
- _____ Association adjourns for lunch

Friday Afternoon

- _____ Prayer
- _____ Moderator calls Association to order
- _____ Discussion on subjects begin
- _____ Clerk reads minutes of the day
- _____ Association adjourns until 7:00 PM.

Friday Evening

- _____ Prayer
- _____ Moderator calls Association to order
- _____ Clerk calls Roll of Messengers
- _____ Obituary Report and Adoption
- _____ Memorial Sermon
- _____ Association adjourns until Saturday Morning at 10:00 AM.

Saturday Morning

- _____ Prayer
- _____ Moderator calls Association to order
- _____ Clerk calls Roll of Messengers
- _____ Moderator declares quorum for transaction of business
- _____ Moderator recognizes any additional visitors
- _____ Missionary Collection
- _____ Doctrinal Sermon
- _____ Unfinished subjects are presented
- _____ Association adjourns for lunch

Saturday Afternoon

- _____ Prayer
- _____ Moderator calls Association to order
- _____ Mission Report
- _____ Correspondence
- _____ Financial Report
- _____ Old Business
- _____ New Business
- _____ Appointment of subjects and respective committees

Roll of Messengers

Amana

Elder Ryan Morgan

Bethel

Elder Jeff Moran, Brother Larry Jones, Brother Barry Hagan, Brother John Hale, Elder Stephen York

Charity MBC

Elder Brent Summers, Elder Bruce Adamson, Brother Tim Gierke

Faith (IN)

Elder Dereck Mobley, Deacon Chris Harper, Deacon Jeff Brown, Deacon Cory Houchens, Brother Rex Grey, Elder Gary Smith, Brother Andrew Mitchell, Brother Jacob Brown

Faith (MI)

Elder Jason Stotler

Fellowship

Elder Stephen Thompson, Elder Jeremy Collins, Elder Jim Whitney, Deacon Dean Hauskins, Brother Scott Hauskins, Brother Byron Mcullough, Deacon Don Binion, Brother Grayson Hauskins

Freedom

Elder Harold Nolan, Deacon Tim Shoulders, Elder Terry Foster

Friendship

Elder Micah Barber, Elder Delbert Compton, Elder Danny Edwards, Deacon Jeff Thompson, Deacon C.L. Saltsman, Brother Scott Newman, Brother Greg Edwards, Brother Larry Thompson

Harvest

Elder Nick Reuter, Deacon Brett Jones, Brother Stephen Jones, Brother Brian Gregory

Kokomo

Elder Bill Vaughn, Brother Adam Vaughn, Brother Ken Roe, Elder Larry McClain, Brother Donnie Ennis, Brother Jason McClain, Brother Brett Schoffner, Elder Mark Ramey

Macedonia

Elder Melvin Jones, Brother Etsel Davis, Brother Jim Sexton, Brother Ray Sexton, Brother Cooper Rogers

Outreach

Elder Jeremy Miller, Brother Monte Botkin, Brother Danny Barrett

Pleasant Valley

Deacon Steve Woody

Salem

Elder Rich Jenkins, Deacon Tim Spurgeon, Brother Brett Dulworth, Brother Craig Dulworth, Brother Mike Hooten, Brother Gary Phillips, Brother Jeremy York, Brother Brandon Stover, Elder Berlon Roy

Southside

Chose not to seat with the association in 2024

Whiteland

Elder James Whitney

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 13th, 2024

Morning Session

Elder Harold Nolan opened the 66th session of the association with a thanksgiving and blessing upon each of the messengers whom have chosen to convene with Freedom in this rich occasion. After mentioning several accommodations of the church, Brother Nolan turned the service over to 2023 Moderator Elder Jeff Moran.

Brother Jeff also welcomed the association and the churches who have chosen to gather together to worship the Lord. Our chief desire as a gathering of the association should be to worship the Lord. Brother Moran recounted different memories in the association and the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon each of our meetings.

Moderator Moran brought forward multiple prayer requests for the congregation to pray for and opened the floor for additional requests to be known to the gathering. Following the requests for prayer, Brother Jerry Miller led the congregation in prayer.

Following prayer Moderator Moran called the 2024 session of the Association to order. In calling the association to order, he remarked that our first order of business was to relinquish the service over to Elder Harold Nolan to deliver the introductory sermon.

Introductory Sermon

Elder Harold Nolan

Eld. Nolan began the sermon by introducing to us a message of faith and the importance of faith to our walk with Christ. If you think about our forefathers; the patriarchs that have been before us, how they lived by faith, how they lived their lives, and what they have experienced. And think about today, and how it is good to reflect on our history. We should look back and see how they lived by faith, and we need to live by faith today just the same. Eld. Nolan took a reading from **Heb 11:1-3** *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."* We should have faith that we don't just look through our own eyes but through the eyes of faith. We should have a great faith in the Lord. Eld. Nolan stated that he had faith in the Lord and that He saved him through faith. If you are here today and are saved, you are walking by faith as well. God spoke to Noah, and said in **Heb 11:7** *"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."* Noah was a righteous man and when Noah was building the ark it didn't rain from the sky; can you imagine what the people were saying about Noah? They

thought this guy's crazy; he's here building the ark, and it doesn't rain. Then Noah preached to them about the coming rain. People today often say that the Lord won't return. We can confidently say today by faith that yes, he will return. Noah obeyed God's command and God fulfilled his promise and it eventually rained. Can you imagine what those people thought when they heard that first sound of thunder and that rain began to come down and the flood waters began to come up on the earth? It was too late for those who did not hear the warning of God spoken through Noah.

Heb 11:8 *"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."* God called Abraham and said "hey you should go to a place and receive your inheritance" and he obeyed and went out. Abraham didn't stop to think about the Lord's instruction, Abraham stepped out on faith and obeyed God and went out. That is what we need to do today. We need to obey God and step out on that kind of faith.

Heb 11:9 *"By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise"*. God promised Abraham the land of Canaan which was a strange country to him. If you have been saved, we are going to a country we have never seen, and we should be looking forward to that place called heaven.

Heb 11:10 *"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God"*. We are going to a city whose builder and maker is God. We will experience a perfect, majestic place with contentment, joy and peace which will be everlasting. One day after a while we will see this great country. This country gets closer and closer every day. The journey is sweet knowing what is waiting for us that has foundations made by God.

Rev 21:12-14 *"And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."* Today we stand on the foundation of the Lord Jesus. He is our foundation and assurance of eternal life. There is a Prudential Insurance commercial where their slogan is to have a piece of the rock. Today we have the ultimate insurance and stand upon the rock which is our Lord Jesus Christ. God is good and it keeps getting better.

Heb 11:11 *"Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised"* past age because she judged him faithful who had promised". Sara had great faith because even though she was old, she had faith that the Lord would give her a child. God fulfills all his promises.

Heb 11:12-13 *"Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable. These all died in faith, not having received the promises,*

but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” As was already stated, this place is just temporary, and we are like pilgrims and strangers traveling on this earth, this earth which is not our home. This earth is just a temporary dressing place, to prepare us to meet our God.

Heb 11:14 *“For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.”* Do you seek a country today?” There is a promise of eternal life with the Lord Jesus. If we are saved when we close our eyes in death, they will be opened looking at him all through eternity.

Can’t you feel the Holy Spirit today? We should be thankful for his salvation. We don’t have to be like one of those electric cars that have to be plugged in for charging. We receive our charge from the Lord.

Heb 11:15-16 *“And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”* Church, we have got something to be thankful for and I am talking about the redeemed. I have been redeemed by the blood of the lamb.

Rev 7:9 *“After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands”* And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb” And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen”. I'm looking forward to that day, there's a country out there and if you have been blood bought today you have that opportunity to go to glory with God. We need to be thankful that God has given this blessed hope and promise. God makes good on his promise as he did with these patriarchs. By faith I'm going to see that country and I know you will too. We need to love one another, cherish one another, because it's not going to be long before we see that country.

After the sermon, Moderator Moran, spoke to the Faith that is in the Lord is vitally important. In today’s society, without that faith, we would give up. But we have a bright hope that serves to encourage our spirits and allows our eyes to focus on what is ahead. Brother Moran then called upon 2023 Clerk Brother Chris Harper to read the rules of decorum.

Following the reading of the Rules of Decorum, the roll of Messengers was read.

Brother Jeff Moran declared with 14 of the 15 churches present from the association, a quorum for transacting business.

Call for petitionary Letters – Elder Brent Summers came forward to petition the association for Charity Missionary Baptist Church to join the Bethel Association.

Motion and 2nd to recognize Charity Missionary Baptist Church as an orthodox, sound Missionary Baptist church and that we receive them into the fellowship of the association. Motion unanimously carried.

Brother Moran called for Charity’s messengers to be seated with the associational roll. Those in attendance were seated.

Brother Moran then opened the floor for this year’s nominations:

Moderator 2024	Introductory Sermon 2025
Elder Jeff Moran, Elected	Elder Brent Summers, Elected
Elder Jeremy Miller, Assistant	Brother Gary Smith, Alternate
Clerk 2024	Memorial Sermon 2025
Brother Chris Harper, Elected	Elder Bill Vaughn, Elected
Brother Jeff Brown, Assistant	Elder Del Compton, Alternate
Treasurer 2022	Doctrinal Sermon 2025
Brother Cory Houchens, Elected	Elder Dereck Mobley, Elected
Brother Stephen Jones, Assistant	Elder Jeremy Miller, Alternate
Host Church 2025	
Harvest Missionary Baptist Church	
Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church	

Our moderator then recognized the visitors that were present to the association meeting. The visitors were:

Elder Jerry Miller, Lyons MBC Louisville, KY, Moderator of the Siloam Association
Brother Phil Mayle, Freedom MBC Belpre, OH, Siloam Association

Brother Moran then appointed the Subject Selection Committee for subjects to be presented in 2026 to be Elder Rich Jenkins, Elder Jeremy Collins, Elder Jeremy Miller – Chair.

In the conclusion of the service Brother Moran called upon Brother Cory Houchens to lead the congregation in singing while they passed by to welcome the newly joined messengers from Charity MBC and Elder Harold Nolan. Brother Houchens led us in I’ll Fly Away and My God is Real.

A motion and 2nd were made to adjourn for lunch. Motion carried. Called upon Brother Phil Mayle to dismiss the morning session.

Friday Afternoon Session

The Friday afternoon session of the 66th annual Bethel Association reconvened and sang *Bring my Children Home* lead by Brother Cory Houchens with Sister Sandy Roe accompanying on the piano. Brother Cory, Sister Sandy, and Brother Tim Spurgeon then came forward and sang a special, *One Day I Will*. Following the songs, Assistant Moderator Brother Jeremy Miller opened the afternoon session thanking the Lord for the good songs. He called us to prayer requesting Elder Bruce Adamson to lead us.

After prayer, Brother Miller praised Freedom MBC for their work during lunch as well as hosting the associational gathering. He remarked at what a large undertaking it is. Brother Miller then called the association back to order and called upon committee member Brother Jeff Brown, to present the first subject.

THE NEED OF RECORDING LOCAL CHURCH HISTORY INCLUDING TESTIMONIES

Part 1: The Value of Recording our Beliefs, Practices and Sharing Where We Have Been as a Teaching Tool

Imagine a world in which there was no Holy Bible, as we know it. Without this historical treasure, we would have no record of Old Testament events, and more importantly, no insight into the origin and early history of the Lord's Church. Thankfully, God saw fit to inspire and preserve its writings to the present day. Although God's textual inspiration concluded with the Revelation recorded by John, the history of the Lord's Church did not stop there. More than 1,900 years have passed since the last book of the Bible was written, and throughout every subsequent age, the Lord's Church has continuously been in operation. Fortunately for us, there have been individuals along the way with the wisdom and foresight to write about the events of their time, thereby enabling us to piece together a valuable, albeit incomplete, line of history. Because of these records, we have at least a partial understanding of how the Gospel spread through mission work, how Churches were established in various places, what these people believed and practiced, and how they interacted and governed themselves. Thankfully, the often-dark avenue of our past has an occasional "lamppost," erected by past historians, whose writings give us a glimpse into what was going on in their time and place. Should the Lord continue to delay His coming, we have an obligation to provide similar light for future generations who may look back with interest upon this age. Recently, the Missionary Baptist Education Series has helped with this effort, by presenting live-streamed and archived video presentations on a variety of topics. These lessons will not only become part of our history, they are also educating the current generation of viewers about Baptist history, doctrines and practices. Additionally, the histories of many churches have been published in book form, or included as summaries in 20th Century Baptists. These make for interesting reading, but also provide valuable insight into their origins and linkage with regard to church perpetuity. Not only so, but records of the difficulties and controversies of the past are able to help us presently.

Studying how the Lord's churches navigated issues of the past can offer us a "road map" for today. May we be compelled to leave behind such a tool for the use of "a generation to come and children yet to be born" (Ps. 78:6-7).

Part II: The Need to Encourage Interaction between our Young and Aging Members by Sharing Experiences

The question as directed does not ask if there is a need but directs the subject writers to describe the need as fitting to the advancement of the Lord's kingdom. The question must be answered not by our own opinions but through the lens of the Holy ordained word of God. We see from the scriptures there are many examples of older wiser servants of the Lord who fittingly shared their experiences with a younger student or individual. We will use some examples to demonstrate the value of sharing those experiences. We will also provide examples of how those experiences could be shared. Before we begin to define the necessity of sharing experiences, we must ask what experiences are necessary to share from old to young and young to old? Regardless of the age difference between the two parties, the interaction and discussion should be Godly in nature and should always have the intention to promote the advancement of the Lord's kingdom. Interactions can easily be disrupted by negative opinions expressed toward one another's generation or age. Conversations that begin with "You're too young to understand" can quickly diminish the desired results of engagement. The same can be said about statements like "You're too old and don't appreciate my generation and how hard it is." Older and wiser members must also be careful to share experiences and not rely strictly on opinions. Opinions can change over time but life experiences never change and there is great value in sharing those within the context of advancing the Lord's work. We see that the Apostle Peter shared the greatest experiences of his life by allowing John Mark to pen his walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While we do not know the age difference between Peter and John Mark it was significant enough that Peter referred to John Mark as "my son" (I Pet. 5:13). What a lovely example of a relationship that ultimately captured so many great events that Peter witnessed as an eye witness and follower of Christ. We are also well aware that the Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, a young preacher, not only to instruct him in the doctrines of Christ but to also share his experiences as an unbeliever, as in I Tim. 1:13: *"Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief."* Paul shared his experiences with Timothy to warn him of the destruction of sin and to encourage him in the Faith. Paul also provided health advice to his young disciple in I Tim. 5:23, by instructing him not to drink water exclusively but to use a little wine for his stomach ailments. This writer recommends Pepto Bismol. While we have evidence of the need to have interaction between the younger and older members in order to strengthen the body, our churches tend to have difficulty in providing the necessary conduit to promote such interaction. Many times our church community interacts within the confines of

traditional Sunday Morning worship, Sunday evening services, and the occasional mid-week Bible studies. While all of these events are profitable and useful to the Lord's work and edification of the body, we miss the opportunities to allow fellowship between the older and younger members. Do your church fellowship efforts allow for the advancement of interaction between members both young and old? There is a common practice that when there is an event outside of the normal worship services or bible study that the age groups and families tend to associate with one another. While it may be hard for families with small children to be detached during a fellowship meal, it is possible to have older members and younger members to sit together and share experiences during a meal or other organized events. In order to facilitate interaction between young and old members, the local body needs to be purposeful in providing effective methods for the interaction of all members. As Paul told the Church at Corinth, *"But now hath set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him"* (1 Cor. 12:18). So should members desire to be assembled together for the unification of the body.

Part III: The Evangelistic and Encouragement Value of Written Testimonies for Future Generations We affirm there is value in the communication of the testimonies of God's people for future generations. This value is of an evangelistic nature toward unconverted sinners and an encouraging or edifying nature toward those who are in Christ and have tasted that the Lord is gracious (1 Pet. 2:3). This value is magnified to the extent that such testimonies are well-communicated. Modern technology allows for the stories of God's people to be preserved in audio or video format, such as the website, MySalvationExperience.com, which has served as a platform for capturing many of these. While we heartily endorse such formats, the writing of testimonies remains a time-honored and time-tested method. These hand-written testimonies, told by the people themselves, are powerful witnesses, and should be shared at funerals to inform and comfort family members. We also maintain the Scriptures clearly demonstrate the evangelistic and edifying value of the recorded dealings of God with His people. We wish to illustrate this as we consider the passages below. In Ps. 40:1-3, David makes mention of God's delivering him out of a "pit of destruction," from which he was unable to deliver himself. He then declared that God put a "song of praise" in his mouth. Finally, this excerpt from Ps. 40 records the effect of this testimony of David. The Scriptures, which cannot be broken (Jn. 10:35), tell us in Ps. 40:3, *"Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."* Herein, we observe the evangelistic value of a testimony of the "man after God's own heart." David is a centuries-long celebrated king and shepherd of God's people. However, our next Scripture passage clearly shows us God is pleased to use the humblest of vessels to carry the Good News concerning His Son (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

In Jn. 4:28-30 & 39, Christ chose to reveal Himself to a Samaritan - a Samaritan who was a woman. Not only was she a Samaritan and a woman, but she had a lengthy history of broken relationships that likely shrouded her life in scandal.

Yet, we see Christ was pleased to reveal Himself to her and to use her testimony to evangelize “many of the Samaritans.” Furthermore, Providence determined this woman’s testimony would be written down and would outlast heaven and earth (Mt. 24:35). Only in eternity will we fully realize the value of this Samaritan woman’s written testimony. The value of written testimony is not limited to its evangelistic effect. As Christians, we are commanded to see that our words and actions are a source of encouragement for our brothers and sisters in Christ (Eph. 4:29 and I Th. 5:11). When God’s people share their experiences with their spiritual siblings, it can be a source of great encouragement. The Apostle Paul understood the need for this type of sharing, as is evidenced by Rom. 1:11-12. The Bible is itself a treasury of written testimonies of God’s people. In Rom. 15:4, Paul clearly states one of the purposes of the written record: *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of scriptures might have hope.”* God intends for us to draw strength from the recorded history of His faithful dealings with the faithful. This is perhaps most evident as we consider Hebrews chapter 11. The Holy Spirit-inspired author referenced so many testimonies of those “heroes of faith” that he literally said, *“And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me...”* (Heb. 11:32). The author then calls upon us to follow their faithful example, as well as THE FAITHFUL EXAMPLE, in Heb. 12:1-3. It is undeniable that God expects His people to evangelize the unconverted and encourage the saved. We have every reason to believe that the sharing of our testimonies can be used by God to accomplish both. Scripture has set this precedent. Furthermore, we know this intuitively and by experience. How many of us can say we were pointed to Christ by the testimony of a brother or sister? How many of us are currently refreshed and built up by hearing the testimony of another? May God grant us grace and establish the work of our hands as we consider following the example of so many in writing down our testimonies for future generations. *“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...”* (Rev. 12:11).

Respectfully Submitted, Deacon Jeff Brown, Elder Nick Reuter,
and Elder Jeff Moran - Chairman

Following the presentation of the subject, a motion and 2nd were made to adopt. Speaking to the subject were Brother Jeff Brown, Brother Nick Reuter, Brother Del Compton, and Brother Gary Smith. Question called; vote taken. Motion carried.

Brother Miller then called upon Elder Jeremy Collins, to come forward to present the 2nd subject.

“The Value of the Bethel Association to the Churches that make up the Association”

To understand the role of our beloved Association, we need to understand what an association is and also what it is not. Eld. WT Russell gave a clear definition in his essay, The Convention System versus The Scriptures; Touch not, Taste Not, Handle Not:

“...it is a messenger body of representatives from the various churches, which have been duly appointed by the churches for this purpose. The purpose of the association is to study together and consider the general needs of the churches, and is designed to bring about a closer union and fellowship among them to effect a greater and more united effort in the churches in the carrying out of the great commission given to them by Christ their head and founder.”¹

The association as convening body, as stated, fulfills several roles and provides a great opportunity for unity, strength, and fellowship among the members and seeks to only enhance the labors of each church in the cause of Christ. The association as a body is able to admit and exclude churches from its membership upon proper examination of doctrines and practices. Once a church is admitted, she receives all privileges as other member churches, regardless of size or tenure. The association is free to exclude a church from its membership upon discovery of heretical practices according to Article XII of the constitution. The convention system, contrary to the association, established a paid membership system in which delegates per church are based on monetary contributions, leaving smaller churches with less representation than larger bodies. The further description of the association is expressed in what the association is not. Eld. Russell continues in his essay:

“...an association is not a permanent organization. Representing in such a body is purely optional on the part of the local church. No church is brought under any obligation, whatsoever, to represent in any association, this being left entirely to the free will of each church, If, and when, a sufficient number of churches, at their own option, send messengers to a designated place, it is then that such an organization can be effected on a temporary basis. When the business has been taken care of by this body and there is adjournment, there is no association in the sense of an organization. An association is limited to recommendations, and can have no power to usurp authority over the churches.”¹

In our constitution, Article VI states “These associations shall never interfere with the independence of any Church, or claim any ecclesiastical power or rights of supervision over any of the Churches”. The Bethel Association is not a centralized governing body of its member churches and is neither presbyterian nor episcopalian. It is not judicial and does not act as a court of justice or a tribunal. Its only executive powers are within its constitution once convened.

The association is not legislative, for it cannot make and enact laws upon its members, the member churches agree to abide by the constitution and declaration of faith in unity. The churches which comprise the association, continue to legislate their own body according to the laws of Christ, their head. The association merely provides the vessel in which the churches unite together in orderly fashion and in singular purpose. It is on this ground we set a clear distinction between our association and the convention system. In the 1845 founding Charter of the Southern Baptist Convention it states, “...created for the purpose of eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the Baptist denomination of Christians, for the propagation of the gospel.”²

What is the role of the association in our churches?

In Oct. 1957, the churches of Bethel MBC, Faith MBC (IN), North Side MBC, and Kokomo MBC united together to form the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association. In the organization minutes, a Motion and 2nd was made “*That we the churches present, declare ourselves an association of Missionary Baptist churches. That we associate together for the mutual help and benefit of all concerned, for the good of the churches, for the work of the kingdom, and the glory of God*”. This sentiment is recognized in the association constitution, Article VII states “*It shall be the object of these Associations to promote the union of the faith of the gospel with our educational and mission interest.*” The role of the association, “*to promote the union of the faith of the gospel in our churches*”, is accomplished in the sermons preached, the subjects presented and discussed, the collections for missions, and the united worship. The association acts upon the educational interests for the member churches by presenting and discussing topics which will benefit their labors for the Lord and present a unifying message to the churches.

The association must be doctrinal in its substance. To be able to face controversies, the association must continue to promote sound doctrine as a foundation, both in the topics presented and in the doctrinal sermon. Each meeting of the association is an opportunity “*to go onto perfection*”. The sermons and topics must be willing to educate on issues and topics which affect churches of the association, in an attempt to firmly ground those in attendance. In Acts Ch. 15, the meeting at Jerusalem confronted the issue of Judaizers who presented the young churches with the false doctrine of circumcision being required for salvation. The counsel sent correspondence to the churches with conclusions and recommendations to confront the false doctrines. These recommendations were meant to equip the churches in the truth and help them to stand against error with a common message.

We too, as the Bethel Association must be willing to confront controversies facing our churches within and without. Early Baptist associations confronted issues of Campbellism, Pedo-baptism and immersion, slavery, theological and ministerial education, church membership and fellowship, mission-minded and anti-missionary sentiments, etc. The association must not shy away from addressing and educating the churches in societal and cultural trends contrary

to the word of God. These issues affect the communities our churches labor in and eventually they will be forced to take an unpopular stand. The role should be to help the churches understand issues and dangers such as homosexuality, social protests and movements, abortion, political issues, etc. and give a clear overview while presenting what the scriptures say and teach regarding the specific issue. The association should be ready to equip our churches in a unified direction to defend the truth and protect our people from falling into error, especially the younger generations which are the most vulnerable to these sinful trends. There must also be a focus on enabling our people to be able to effectively witness and present the gospel in love to those that may be active participants in the very social issues that confront our churches. The other role of the association is to support and endorse the mission interests and efforts of the churches of the association. The association combines efforts of the missionary spirit, but never directs or controls the missionary, or the independent church's support of their own efforts or their support for other missionaries. The association allows each church to report on the successes and needs of the missions going out from their local bodies. It provides an opportunity to rejoice and support the efforts of those who the Lord has called to both foreign lands and the specific works of outreach at home.

The Value of members of our churches attending the association meeting.

There is great value to the individual members of our churches in attending the associational meeting in the fellowship among the brethren. "Fellowship" is defined by Webster in such terms as: companionship, partnership, joint interest. *"It is a mutual association of persons on equal and friendly terms"*. The Bible spends much time discussing the Christian life as spiritual warfare against a formidable enemy and every Christian brother and sister is also fighting that common enemy. There is great encouragement in hearing news of God's victories, in each other's lives and Christian work. In Acts 21: 18-20, the Apostle Paul travels to Jerusalem after his third missionary journey and meets with the elders and declares to them the blessings God showed to the Gentiles during his ministry and *"They glorified the Lord"* at the news. It is a great encouragement to meet and befriend other people in different states and regions with different backgrounds who worship and serve the same God. We refer to each other as "Brother" or "Sister" to constantly recognize we all have the same Heavenly Father and we are brought together and united in Jesus Christ! It is a blessing to make new and further strengthen existing friendships from other areas of the country. Eld. John Keen Jr. wrote in the History of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association, *"Our association is preaching and subject discussion, but it is also praying and singing. Probably, most of all, it is a coming together of God's people to further our mutual faith."*

Attending the Associational meeting provides educational, worship, and labor opportunities. The topics presented and the associational sermons enlighten in the scriptures, church history, and doctrine. Spiritual worship is part of the

savor of the salt (Mark 9:50) that differentiates the Lord's true churches from counterfeits and is a tremendous blessing to all who partake in it. Spiritual worship at your home church is wonderful and our worship has potential to be enhanced exponentially by worshiping together with sister churches. As churches are made aware of the different community works within the association and missionaries working in different fields, this allows for multiple churches to participate in and contribute resources towards these works and missionaries.

Lastly, attending the associational meeting provides opportunities for gaining experience. Young Christians who attend the associational meeting will be exposed to different approaches to skills they may not have sufficiently experienced. Public speaking and presentation, public prayer and worship, organization of thoughts in writing, researching topics, shape note singing, parliamentary procedure and general social skills are all experienced and exemplified at the annual associational meeting. Those who assist the host church are able to practice the skills of Christian hospitality with their brothers and sisters. Electing younger or inexperienced church members as associational messengers will allow them to gain experience representing their home church and reporting back to the church regarding what occurred at the associational meeting.

The Goal of the Association every year

The Webster 1828 Dictionary defines "goal" as *"the mark, the end or final purpose; the end to which a design tends, or which a person aims to reach and accomplish."* The goal is the end which we aim to accomplish every year. Our goal can be complex and detailed, but the simplest and best goal we can set out for is what our Savior said in *"...if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* (John 12:32). The goal to meet, every time we convene as the Association, is to lift up Jesus. He is the main attraction and forever will be. When Jesus is lifted up, our hearts are stirred to draw nearer to Him, and when He is lifted up, we can find strength and encouragement as God's people. When Jesus is lifted up, we are drawn closer to one-another in Him. When Jesus is lifted up, we will see the complete doctrines we try to establish in our people. When Jesus is lifted up our missionary spirits are enlivened to share the good news. When Jesus is lifted up, we see the completion and fulfillment of all we are trying to do as churches and as an association.

With the main goal of exalting Jesus Christ, the association then aims to provide encouragement to the individual as well as the member churches. The association can be a fountain of water in a desert and a place of refuge found for the people of God. This is accomplished through the interaction of the members from the sister churches. When there is interaction between brothers and sisters in Christ, those of the *"common salvation"* (Jude 1:3), we are able to draw strength from the fellowship that we have with one another. When there is trouble and hardships in our life, it is good to be with God's people who have similar experiences. We can find encouragement in our Christian walk and bear

one another's burdens and pray together. Members in all stations—ministers, babes in Christ, those walking the strait and narrow for decades— can forge friendships and find a brotherhood and sisterhood of support for upholding the doctrines of our Lord. The association aims to encourage using sermons and discussions of the subjects to promote the gospel in each church. The association expands the work of the Lord through the churches by collectively sharing the experiences of the missionaries laboring in the fields where God has called them, and opening our hearts to the understanding that there is a field *"white and ready for harvest"* at home and abroad.

Knowing the goal of the association we ask, "how can we ensure the goal is met during each annual meeting?" There is a personal responsibility in preparation for the Association as we would prepare for our own church services. It should be anticipated with constant prayer that God will bless each time the association comes together; *"...when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."* (Matt. 6:6) Without earnestly praying to God, and seeking after Him, how can we expect His blessings to fall and His Spirit to visit the association? When convened, it is good to anticipate the preached word as the main part, but it is not the only part. There must be a liberty in worship to allow the Holy Spirit of God to move amongst us, whether in singing, reading of the word, through testifying, etc. When God's Spirit moves and people follow Him, all things are done unto the edifying of the assembly and to the exalting of Jesus Christ. We understand the convened association does have business to attend to, but we must not make the gathering strictly business. When God moves, we must move. In Baptist history, when God moved among an association, souls were saved! All of this begins when we strive for the goal every year for the Association, and to lift up the Lord Jesus Christ.

Humbly Submitted: Eld. Jeremy Collins (Chairman), Eld. Jason Stotler,
Eld. Micah Barber

After the presentation of subject, a motion and 2nd were made to adopt. Speaking to the subject were Brother Jeremy Collins, Brother Jason Stotler, Brother Micah Barber, Brother Dereck Mobley, Brother Delbert Compton, Brother Jeremy Miller, Brother Jerry Miller, Brother Phil Mayle, Brother Tim Shoulders, Brother Byron McCoullough, Brother Mike Hooten, Brother Brent Summers, and Brother Gary Phillips. Question called; vote taken. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd were made to suspend any further subject presentation until tomorrow after the doctrinal sermon. Motion carried. Brother Miller then called upon Clerk, Brother Chris Harper to come forward and read the minutes of the day. After the reading of the minutes a motion and 2nd were made to adjourn until 7pm.

As an association we converged in the altar and united our hearts in prayer to dismiss the service.

Friday, September 13th, 2024

Evening Session

The Friday Evening service of the Association opened with Brother Cory Houchens leading *If We Never Meet Again* with Sister Tiffany Mobley accompanying on the piano. Brother Houchens then welcomed some of the children from Faith MBC. Brother Harold Nolan welcomed everyone back to the association meeting and called for the congregation to prayer.

Brother Jeremy Miller assumed direction of the service and called the association to order. As the first order of business, Brother Miller called upon the clerk to read the roll of messengers. With 14 of the 16 churches present our assistant moderator declared a quorum for transacting business.

Brother Miller then called upon Elder Ryan Morgan to bring the Obituary Report. Following the reading of the obituary report, a motion and 2nd were made to adopt the report. Motion carried.

Brother Jeremy Miller then called Elder Ryan Morgan to bring the Memorial Sermon.

Memorial Sermon Elder Ryan Morgan

Eld. Morgan began the message by relating how God had impressed upon him a year ago to “Honor my Children”. He asked the Lord how am I going to do that? Eld Morgan shared a story behind the basis of the message. I like to ride motorcycles and me and a good buddy of mine were riding together and we have a rule of not using GPS. Because of this we get lost a lot. One day while we were in Tennessee, we decided to go to Mount Mitchell (North Carolina) so after looking at the map and picking out some good curvy roads, we went along these roads and found a good path. As we are going along and I'm ahead of him quite a ways, I see a sign that says “pavement ends 150 feet”. As I come up to the end and sure enough, I hit my brakes and there's nothing but a couple old posts that leads straight up a dirt path. The road ended so we had to go a different way. My thought this morning is that we need to think about what happens when the road ends? As I began researching how roads are made, I noticed that there are some key parts. Beginning with the planning and design, the engineers must look at the purpose of the road and the expected traffic. Planning requires site preparation, removing obstructions, grading the ground, stabilizing the soil before work can begin. Once these factors are complete, they can install the base and subbase and then you can begin installing pavement

and compacting the pavement. After the base and subbase are complete, there's a final inspection. How does this preparation compare to God's plan for us? God planned it and designed it; John the Baptist prepared the way, Jesus in the flesh was the base and the subbase, the disciples paved the way for everybody else and then the Holy Spirit performed the inspection. We must ask ourselves what happens when the roads stop being made. At times we ride on the roads that someone else has paved. How better for us to honor these departed Saints than to start building new roads and not just maintaining roads.

Hag 1:2-11 *Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built. Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes. Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD. Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house. Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands. Don't we get wrapped up just riding along the same road? We need to teach the younger members about the consequences when they get to the end of the road. I know what happened when I got to the end of the road on my motorcycle. I had to go a different way. There was a longer way that involved an interstate that wasn't very fulfilling. Think about what happens when we stop making roads! We will go a different way that is not fulfilling. Let's not go the wide, easy path that leads to destruction. Why are people leaving the truth? It is because we have stopped making new roads. We have stopped looking at the plan, the path, subbase, base and have started looking at how we can fill the pews and have stopped preaching the truth. The Lord stated in Haggai "I blew upon it and caused a drought" Lord help us to preach the truth. Compared to the saints we have lost, we have more available to us to preach the gospel and share with others. We must continue the fight, to spread the word. How are we going to honor those who have passed if we ride along on their coattails? Those who have passed would encourage us to build upon those roads that they have paved. Build those new roads with Jesus and the gospel. When you come to the mountain, be encouraged to build a new road regardless of the obstacles. Build through the mountains with God's plan.*

I Cor 3:9-10 *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as*

a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth there upon. Let us honor the saints by continuing to build and to make new roads.”

Eph 2:19-20 *“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;”* There has been a perfect foundation for us to build upon. The truth resonates within us. Let’s not come to an end but persevere through the obstacles. When we are aligned in Gods will, there are no mountains if we have faith in Christ. Stick with the foundation and the plan that has existed before the foundation of the world.

In my days of coaching baseball, I recognized my passion for the sport and dealing with the youth. In coaching high school baseball, I recognize those players who invest in elaborate equipment such as glasses, bats, eye black but they do not want to put in the work to win. These kids want to look good but are not disciplined enough to put in the work to be successful. It is the same with our congregations, the association and how we talk about the lack of membership. We desire to have good numbers and to “look good” but are unwilling to put in the work. Build new roads.

Isaiah 6:8 *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.* Do we have the desire to say to the Lord? Here I am send me! Give me the plan and direction, clear the path for me. We already have a great foundation, and he is working on the other end for us. If there is any hope for future generations, we must build the roads and not take the easy paths. Music can be inviting and more appealing. Be careful of the desire to gain acceptance of bigger churches that have the easy path and not the truth. Those roads will crack and break. Those roads that our saints have paved for us are going to stand. The Lord will walk with us. Let us honor those who have passed before us. Let us put in the work, follow our Lord’s plan and build the roads. Un-sound churches don’t realize that a storm is coming, and their bright and shining highways are going to crumble. The only hope that they have is for us to build the roads with the truth of the gospel.

Asst Moderator Jeremy Miller came forward and praised the Lord for the message. Brother Miller recalled to our memory the work of the people in the book of Nehemiah. Some of those individuals likely were not in glamorous positions, but the work still had to be done. He called us to be workers to labor just as Brother Morgan called us to in the sermon.

The Spirit of the Lord moved throughout the congregation and testimonies were plentiful.

Brother Miller called upon Brother Cory Houchens to lead us in some congregational songs and shake hands with Brother Morgan and each other. Brother Houchens chose *Little is Much when God is in It, What a Day that will*

Be, and Beulah Land. Following the handshake, the congregation continued to worship the Lord.

When the spirit was done with the congregation, Brother Miller entertained a motion and 2nd to adjourn until tomorrow at 10am. Motion carried.

Brother Miller called upon Brother Byron McCoullough to dismiss us in prayer.

Saturday, September 14th, 2024

Morning Session

The Saturday morning session of the Bethel Association opened with Brother Cory Houchens leading the congregation in singing *The Unseen Hand* and *Walking Home*. Brother Jeff Moran accompanied on the piano. Following the songs, Moderator Jeff Moran opened the service by praising the Lord and thanking Him for his power that changes lives. Brother Moran remarked at the excitement he has to hear from the Lord this morning through Brother Stotler in the doctrinal sermon. Brother Moran called for any prayer requests to be known before we approach the throne of mercy. Brother Moran called our hearts to prayer.

At the conclusion of prayer, Moderator Moran called the association to order and asked Brother Jeff Brown, assistant clerk, to come forward and read the roll of messengers. With 42 messengers present from among all 15 of the 16 churches, a quorum for transacting business was declared.

A call for any visitors not already recognized to stand and be recognized. No additional visitors were present.

Moderator Moran then requested Brother Cory Houchens to come forward and lead us in singing to allow time to collect the missions offering. Brother Houchens came and sang *Sheltered in the Arms of God* with Sister Sandy Roe assisting on the piano.

Brother Moran then made way for Elder Jason Stotler to come forward to bring the Doctrinal Sermon.

Doctrinal Sermon

Elder Jason Stotler

Eld Stotler opened the sermon by giving thanks to the Lord and also to the Association for allowing him to preach the doctrinal message. Eld Stotler began the message by reading from **2 Tim 3:10-11** *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience. Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.* The title of this message is Practical Doctrine. According to Webster doctrine means that which is taught. When it comes to the gospel doctrine more specifically means the teachings and principles of Christ and his apostles. Functionally speaking we

know the importance is that doctrine ought to drive how we think, what we say, how we behave, and how we worship. Those are the primary objectives of this message. Paul was saying to Timothy, you know what I believe because of the way that I behaved around you. The way I have lived and the way that I have acted is the point that needs to be driven home. We live in a world of relativism. In a world of relativism, doctrine is a bad word. Especially religious doctrine is not looked upon favorably. I remember about 14 years ago when I was pastoring at my home church at Liberty. There was a woman in our congregation who was a good dear Sister that had moved to a public apartment complex and developed some acquaintances and friendships in that complex. She asked me to come over and hold a monthly Bible study and I was excited to preach at her complex. I met with the management of the apartment complex and while discussing with the apartment manager, he looked at me and said, "I don't care what you preach but I don't want you preaching doctrine". I thought to myself well what am I supposed to preach if not doctrine? When we speak about the Bible, that's doctrine. When we talk about the Holy Spirit, God the Father, redemption, sanctification, The Trinity, repentance, the harmony of the gospels etc. All of these things are doctrine. To understand this principle correctly, this subject is really about a better focus of the Great Commission which says "go you therefore and teach all nations teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you". Twice in the Commission he has instructed his churches, you and me, to go out and teach this world. We have people that don't even understand what doctrine is. Our associational topic focused on the "purpose of the association" and after speaking with others on the subject, the Lord reminded me that every sermon that we preach regardless of the messenger should have a doctrinal focus and content. Ministers' ought to have something to say and have some substance and some application from God's word. We have that responsibility from the Lord. Paul told Timothy to preach the word. **2 Tim 4:2** *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.* Paul told Timothy to herald the word. Proclaim the word of God and when you have scheduled opportunities; that's in season. When you have unscheduled spontaneous opportunities; that's out of season. When you preach, tell them what sin is, tell them gently what things need corrected; that's reproof. The people that have heard more than once, you might want to tell them a little more firmly; that's rebuking. Then exhort them, which means to incite by argument. Not sinful argumentation but by reason and logic and proof of the scriptures.

It seems that our churches are lacking spiritual power. Is that because we are not effectively teaching the principles of God? Our church foundation is the foundation of scriptures which are given by God. The word of God is profitable for doctrine and for teaching. The church should teach the word of God and not focus on traditions. Are our churches addicted to traditions? The reason that churches like and are perhaps addicted to traditions is because it requires no

work. All the people have to do is keep doing the same thing over and over. The problem is that people will be confused on what tradition is and what is doctrine. A bigger problem is that traditions can become a substitute for a dynamic prayer life with the Lord. We need to pray to the Lord for directions in our lives. This requires work. Repentance, confession and laboring with the Lord and waiting for an answer is difficult. In order to change direction away from traditions and to a dynamic prayer life, it requires the pastors, preachers and deacons to lead the way forward with our congregation and family.

Jn 14:6 *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* Our truth is centered in the doctrine of Christ. Jesus told the Samaritan woman in **Jn 4: 24** *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”* There is a practical worship that must be centered in doctrine and truth. He will not fellowship with us if we are stuck in traditions. Our conversations amongst our people should not be centered in worldly events but upon doctrine and the edification of one another and Christ. Paul told Timothy **1 Tim 4:13** *“Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.”* Paul’s instruction to Timothy and to us was to take heed to the doctrine. Would our churches have more power with the Lord if we gave more attention to the doctrine in the scriptures? Pastors and preachers should have a great hand in sound doctrine. The message from the pulpit should have the doctrine to encourage and to convict those who are lost and in need. This foundation should be established before a preacher is ordained. **1 Tim 5:17** *“Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor; especially they who labor in the word and doctrine.”* If you have a teaching pastor, you should hug, thank and encourage him because he is a true gift from the Lord. You should always respect your pastor, but he is worthy of double honor if he is a true seeker of doctrine and study of the word of God. It is a blessing to have a teaching Pastor.

Tit 2:1 *“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:”* Titus is a blueprint to have a sound blessed church. Paul told Titus to demonstrate uncorrupt sincere and brave doctrine through sound speech and good works. The subjects and our actions reflect sound doctrine. Just because we call ourselves old fashioned Missionary Baptist and may have memorized the 20 Articles of Faith along with other scriptures; but are rude, disrespectful, selfish and have no desire to serve our spouse, family, or church, we are not sound but a heretic in doctrine. To believe but to not practice is not doctrinally sound.

Rom 16:17 *“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”* Paul warns us to exclude those people who do not practice sound doctrine. It is time for churches to stop tolerating troublemakers. There should not be small groups that try to dominate the church. To get rid of cancer, you must cut out the cells. When Akin stole from the Lord, He punished the entire nation of Israel until the sin was revealed. Has a lack of discipline in our churches contributed to the lack of power we have with God? God has never blessed sin.

Bad doctrine has no place in the Lord's church. **1 Tim 4:1** *"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils"*. We have devilish Satanic doctrine that is always trying to sneak into our churches. Doctrines forbidding people to marry is a bad doctrine. If a man has never been married before and is called to the ministry, there is no sound doctrine that prevents that man to marry. God has ordained that a man marry his wife so that the bed is undefiled. God will judge the whoremongers and adulterers. There is bad doctrine regarding dietary restrictions. Some religions restrict meat on a certain day or restrict pork to be eaten entirely. Eating something doesn't spiritually defile us. What proceeds out of our mouths defiles us. Jesus told his disciples to beware of the leaven (doctrine) of the Pharisee and Sadducees because they were teaching the doctrines of men and not of God. The Pharisees were self-promoting and the Sadducees rejected the resurrection of Christ or any other person. These were false doctrines and teaching.

In Revelations, Christ revealed to John about the teaching of the Nicolaitans. They promoted to sin in excess, in order to receive more grace from God. Do our churches believe this doctrine because of the way we act? The apostle Paul spoke against sin in a great way. We are called to holiness. We are created in Christ Jesus unto good works. **1 Tim 1:9-10** *realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching*. These are points of bad doctrine which we should be aware of if they are being promoted or practiced.

Here are a few points of good doctrine that need to be emphasized but are not in our 20 Articles of Faith. **Deu 32: 1-3** *"Give ear, O heavens, and let me speak; and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. Let my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, as the droplets on the fresh grass and as the showers on the herb. For I proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God"*. The practical doctrine in these verses is to remind us to dwell upon the greatness of God. This should bring us to a humble place when we think about God. The heavens and the firmament declare the greatness of God. The sun, the stars the rain cycle all demonstrate God and his perfect design. **Gen 1:1** *"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* Moses related the greatness of God in the first verse of the bible. We recognize the greatness of God when studying His attributes. His omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience and His immutability all demonstrate His greatness. God has great and perfect character. **Exo 34: 6** *"And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth."* This verse is practical doctrine because they describe the attributes of God and are witness to His character. The love of God towards mankind was demonstrated before the foundation of the earth when

the Trinity were discussing the fall of mankind. Jesus relates to us His love by becoming the propitiation for our sins and gave his life for sinners. The earth was created for us to give God glory. God's purpose for us is to have eternal life. God's kindness is great, his mercy is great, and that you who know Him, have peace. It is sound doctrine to preach and teach about the greatness of God. Solomon gave instructions to his son about the importance of good doctrine.

Pro 4:1-8 *Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding. For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law. For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honor, when thou dost embrace her".*

Wisdom is a fear of the Lord and a respect of God. We must have a mindset to love the Lord our God and it will be easier to serve Him and to respect him in a greater and more complete way. **2 Jn 1:9** *"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son".* We know the doctrine of Christ to be the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. We must open the gospel of Jesus to sinners. The doctrine of Christ that points sinners to the cross is a good doctrine. We must speak about those things that become sound doctrine. Paul spoke to Titus about how people should be sound minded to the doctrine of Christ. There needs to be a purposeful cohesiveness of older and younger members in the church and the older members should be taking the initiative to encourage and promote that fellowship and sound doctrine. By building a relationship between older and younger members, it will allow the older members to facilitate biblical truths. Do our churches have the family environment that we once had? People that are broken and are looking for better and Godly relationships that includes love should come from our churches. People will see our love for one another or divisions if they exist. Have our churches lost power because we only preach from a few of our Articles of Faith? Are members leaving because they are not being fed sound doctrine? Paul gave an analogy of the church and compared it to the physical body as having different members. If we included that same principle and applied it to preaching, how fit would our bodies be if we only ate our favorite food every day? We should preach the whole council of God. Marriage, Christian Sabbath, Harmony of the Law of the Gospel. Those Articles are important to be taught, and preaching should feed the whole council. Bible studies are an important avenue for teaching the whole council and good doctrine.

Following the word of the Lord being spoken, Brother Moran remarked at the great and needed word that was spoken in the sermon. Brother Moran allowed time for testimony and reflection on the message. Brother Houchens came forward and led *What a Savior* and *Amazing Grace* to allow for fellowship and opportunity to shake hands with Brother Jason. God's people worshipped the Lord and praised Him for the good word that was brought to our ears. During praise, Sister Morgan Collins sang *Goodness of God*. The Lord was good to us in service.

Brother Moran then entertained a motion and 2nd to adjourn for lunch. Motion carried. Brother Moran called upon Brother Ken Roe to pray a dismissal prayer and blessings over the food.

Saturday Afternoon

The Association resumed the Saturday afternoon session with singing *Victory in Jesus* led by Brother Cory Houchens and Hannah Miller on the piano. After the songs, Brother Moran thanked Freedom MBC for their bountiful and wonderful lunch as well as their hospitality in hosting. We were called to prayer by our moderator with Brother Bruce Adamson leading us.

Messengers were called back to order and Moderator Moran directed to the next subject's reading to begin. Elder Dereck Mobley came forward to present the subject.

How do we prepare ourselves and church bodies for persecution of the church?

What we need to look for in our community, state and country?

How to prepare our hearts, to be sound and grounded from attacks against the truth?

How to stand on truth and share it with love in the face of persecution?

When canvassing the maturation and growth of the regenerated, the New Testament is littered with instruction and admonishments which are applicable to every saved individual, and are advantageous for all to bear in the frontlets of our minds. It is evident that there are matters which we as the People of God should be conscience of as we journey in faith towards an eternity with God. In contrast, there are other matters that we should not only be aware, but rather should expect and be prepared for. It is imperative that the regenerated not meander aimlessly through the process of sanctification, but rather walk circumspectly in this current age. We have need to prepare ourselves, our families, and our churches to be able to vigilantly fight against the advancement of our enemy, and to likewise press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, diligently. It behooves us to remember that this enemy has an armory of weapons that we can trust will be discharged

relentlessly against any and all effort to advance the Kingdom of God and bring Honor and Glory His precious and Holy name.

We must be mindful that persecution is not only a possibility, but a surety which we are given clear directive on in scripture, mainly that the aforementioned persecution should not be surprising to the People of God. We ought to prepare ourselves for the reality of righteous suffering, and be READY when the hour comes that we ourselves are faced with any measure or method of retribution. Knowing that this suffering allows saved people an opportunity grow closer to the Lord (Rom 8), and are assured of this valuable truth spoken of Christ when He said, "BLESSED are those who suffer for My name's sake."

- Think it not strange concerning the fiery trials of your faith.... **1 Peter 4:12-19**
- Yea all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.... **2 Tim 3:12-13**
- Be ready ALWAYS to give and answer for the hope that lies within you.... **1 Peter 3:15**
- Blessed are they which are persecuted...**Matt 5:10-12**

How do we then prepare ourselves and our churches for persecution? Where should we be looking for these advancements, and what can be done to ensure we will be well equipped when persecution knocks on our life's door? Let us lay sincere consideration to the topic set before us, and prayerfully labor that it be rooted into our mind and soul.

What we need to look for in our community, state and country.

From the time He called His first disciples, Jesus warned that His followers would endure persecution. It's a repeated subject in the Sermon on the Mount, both expected in the Beatitudes and later when Jesus elevated the commandment to love your neighbor to apply even to enemies and those who persecute you (Mt. 5:44). Jesus further outlined the challenges the disciples would face when He told them He sent them out as sheep in the midst of wolves. He warned that they would be brought before kings and governors for the sake of Christ, and that they would be delivered up to courts and councils to give an account of their faith. However, Christ was clear that this persecution of would only strengthen their testimony. Therefore, Jesus instructed them that when they are persecuted in one city, to flee to the next. All those who sincerely pursue Christ and live according to His word should expect persecution. This once was common place for our forefathers, experienced in numerous generations, and through the rise and fall of many empires. Christians have, for some time, enjoyed peace from fierce persecution, which is a credit to God's grace, and HIS protecting the religious freedom of our country.

Nevertheless, before we can look outward at what we need to look for as signs of coming persecution, we must look inward at what is necessary for us to expect persecution. When Paul reflected on the persecution he had endured,

he concluded it was no more than what should be expected. He reasoned that persecution was evidence of a godly life in Christ. Jesus identified this also when He told His disciples, “I chose you out of the world, (and) because of this the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, A slave is not greater than his master. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you.” (Jn 15:19b-20a).

The darkness of sin will always lash out against the light of the righteousness of Christ. Where righteousness is, persecution will soon follow. Where boldness in the name of the Lord is, persecution will soon follow. The world will grow darker. If our light dims with it, the god of this world scarcely has reason to persecute the followers of Light. To borrow from the old theologian, what worry have we over persecution when we don’t even have the strength to turn off our TVs? Even though it will bring persecution, may God restore us to godliness!

With that addressed, the evidence of impending persecution is a society that grows in its incongruence to the doctrines of Christ. The further out of step our communities, states, and country are with the truth of God’s Word, the nearer persecution imposes itself. It is obvious that this incongruence is growing: from what can only be described as a religion committed to lasciviousness, to a public education system that scorns truth, to a popular culture that is highlighted by all manner of impropriety. While God’s grace has permitted that persecution tarries, we should be vigilant of the following indicators that it is at hand:

- Forcing God out of public arenas (and making it taboo to offer a godly worldview) – Wait, this has already happened.
- Sexual perversion, from promiscuous behavior to the outright rejection of the standards of manhood and womanhood. – Wait, this has already happened, too.
- Hostility toward Christianity and Christian values. – Yes, so has this.
- Faustian bargains whereby society tempts Christians with some perceived value in exchange for acceptance of unrighteous deeds. – This indicator light is on, too.
- Laws that impose upon the liberties of the church. – This one hasn’t happened yet, but it’s coming. It’s likely to start small and innocuous with the imposition of property taxes on our facilities or something of the sort. But will continue to laws dictating what is and is not permitted to be preached in our pulpits.

Note that these are but indicators that persecution is approaching. These indicators may wrench our hearts, but they of themselves are not persecution. Persecution itself will come when believers who defy these societal impositions face arrest, imprisonment, and far worse.

How to prepare our hearts to be sound and grounded from attacks against the truth.

As we prepare for the reality that lies before us, it is important that we are not naïve, but rather hold in confidence the truth which Christ himself shared with His disciples: that, because we are not of this world, we will be hated just as He was. However, we have this great reminder throughout all scripture, that we will never face persecution alone. Not only has it been recorded that the Lord will never leave or forsake us, but that He goes before us, He will be close to us in our trouble, and that we have no need to fear for He will give us strength, and uphold us by His righteous right hand (Isa 41:10). Christ went so far as to say that we need not give thought to the words that will proceed from our mouth, for in our hour of deliverance, He would fill us with appropriate words. There is nothing that can even remotely compare to the strength and surety we can gain if we live in intimate fellowship with God, in light of all the many promises He has made relative to our enduring persecution. So let us walk in confidence (Eph 6:19), and pray as Paul asked, “that utterance may be given to us, that our mouths maybe BOLDLY opened...”

Let us be thoroughly settled on what the Scripture teaches, having rightly divided the word of Truth (2 Tim 2:15), which will render us complete, thoroughly furnished for all good works (2 Tim 3:16-17). We know that His word is not only able to teach, direct, reprove, and rebuke, but it also is the greatest source of comfort and encouragement when trials and persecution occurs. This immersion in the word will never be a result from aimless stumbling or the occasional passive unintentional brush with scripture. It must be an effort to which we earnestly give ourselves if we expect to be able to stand grounded when persecution surfaces.

We ought to bury the Word of God in our heart (Ps 119:11), and never allow the Law of the Lord to depart out of our Mouths. Rather let us meditate on it day and night that our way will be made blessed and successful (Josh 1:8). Innumerable saints have come before us and have faced tense persecution for the cause of Christ. Many have given the ultimate sacrifice that the Gospel would be preserved throughout the ages of time. Let us be sound in the Truth and grounded in the Word that we will be able to confidently contend for the Faith that was once delivered to the Saints (Jude 3).

How to stand on truth and share with love in the face of persecution.

When preparing our hearts for expected persecution, we must never lose sight of the REAL perpetrator. These fiery darts can sometimes look more like snide words, piercing jabs, refused service, social ostracism, or even physical violence. But our focus ought not be on those who carry out these heinous acts, but rather on the mastermind of those attacks. The Scripture teaches us that our enemy uses a multiplicity of forces to perpetrate a calculated besiege of the people of God (For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world,

against spiritual wickedness in high places – Eph 6:12). But we must remember that those who very often are involved in such a trepidation are lost people, void of peace, and ignorant of God. The two best examples of sacrifice and bearing persecution in Scripture both saw this reality for what it was.

Christ when being sacrificed as the one perfect sacrifice (Mal 1:10-11), endured the pain and punishment of the Cross (Heb 12:2). The extent of His persecution, despite efforts to articulate its nature and numerous cinematic adaptations, our finite human mind cannot fully understand. Yet, when at the pinnacle of persecution, as He was lifted up, hanging between the Heavens and the Earth, HIS love for those persecuting him was on full display when he lifted His voice to the Lord, and amplified this powerful statement, “Forgive them Lord, for they know not what they do!” (Luke 23:24) Not laying shame or blame to their efforts, but recognizing rather that they acted ignorantly in their effort to reject and thwart the only begotten son of God.

Similarly, Stephen - the preaching deacon of the Book of Acts - is given an opportunity which can only be seen as the providence of God. He, being delivered before the Sanhedrin Court in Acts 7, preaches the most comprehensive and exhaustive message of the Gospel, from the Garden to the grave, all the way through the resurrection and subsequent ascension. I trust that Stephen knew the reception of such a profound and strong message was likely not going to be warmly received. Yet He spoke in the power of the Holy Ghost and refused to cower from the repercussions which soon followed. The method of the day was stoning, a prolonged and painful method of execution. Yet, similar to Jesus, almost as to quote verbatim, He in his last breaths shares nearly an exact sentiment, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge”.

When persecution comes at any level or rate, we as the Children of God must hold this truth: it is not solely the executors of persecution that are at odds with God, His people, and HIS Gospel. It is that one that was cast down, that serpent of the garden, the Father of Lies. Therefore, let us prepare our hearts to show love and compassion as Christ did (1 Pet 2:21). Holding it not as an offense from one man to another, but rather an opportunity to show the LOVE of Christ, even in the midst of treachery and evil. Let us rejoice if we are counted worth to suffer for the cause (Acts 5:40-41), and pray that the same that was true for Christ and Stephen could likewise be true for us. There was a young man who sat watching at the time of Stephens stoning by the name of Saul. While in that place, He heard the Gospel preached, and He witnessed Loving sacrifice, which no doubt created palpable impact in His heart. God used the last words of Stephen to bring conviction and realization in the Heart of Saul, who as we know was eventually converted on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9).

Neither Christ nor Stephen spurned their opportunity to suffer. When reviled, they reviled not again (1 Peter 2:23). Neither of them faltered in their presentation and preservation of TRUTH! Let us stand firm therefore in the truth of the Word of God, wavering not, and always abounding in the work of

the Lord (1 Cor 15). Let us be assured that the truth will and does stand at odds with this carnal, unregenerated, sin-sick world.

Let us prepare our hearts to know our Enemy, being watchful for his advancements, knowing they could appear at any moment at even a moment's notice. Let us ground ourselves in the Truth of God's word (Ps 119:105) that it might guide us, and show us the right way to navigate the seasons of persecution that will come our way. Let us move with confidence, knowing that the Lord brought us to this place, to this time in history, both on purpose and for a purpose (Esther 4:14), and He will not leave us nor forsake us (Duet 31:6). Lastly, brothers and sisters of the Association, let us fiercely love those who might persecute the Saints, for it may be our calm, loving, and meek demeanor that the Spirit of God uses to reach their lost and dying soul.

Prayerfully submitted - Elder Andrew Horton, Elder Dereck Mobley,
Deacon Jason Elliott

Following the presentation of the subject, a motion and 2nd were made to adopt the subject. Speaking to the subject were Brother Dereck Mobley, Brother Jeremy Collins, Brother Cory Houchens, Brother Tim Shoulders, and Brother Del Compton. Motion carried.

Next, the moderator called upon Brother Stephen Thompson to present the Missions report to the Association. A motion and 2nd were made to adopt the report. Speaking to the mission's report were Brother Cory Houchens, Brother Steve York, Sister Morgan Collins, Brother Tim Gierke, Brother Phil Mayle, Brother Del Compton, Brother Brent Summers, Brother Jeremy Miller, and Brother Melvin Jones. Question called and vote taken. Motion carried.

Brother Chris Harper was then welcomed to present the correspondence subject and report.

Subject 5: Correspondence

The Value and Purpose of Correspondence between the Association,
Missionaries, churches and Associations.

As I began to examine the desire behind this subject, I am quick to recognize the difference in communication from today's 2024 society and what communication looked like 10, 20, or even 50 years ago. No matter what time period we look to, we find communication is a cornerstone of effective evangelism and Christian fellowship. For the Bethel Association, maintaining open and purposeful correspondence with fellow churches in the association, missionaries, and external churches and associations is essential. This report summarizes the value and purpose of such correspondence, highlighting how it strengthens relationships, enables collaboration, and enhances the overall mission of the association.

Strengthening Relationships

Correspondence to and from the association is vital as it fosters unity and mutual support. Regular communication, both with sister Associations and churches, allows the association to communicate the wonderful experiences, successes, and challenges we face. This shared dialogue inspires mutual encouragement and helps to build a sense of community and solidarity.

Examples could include letters of invitation to churches without an association, letters to sister associations expounding upon the events of the associational meeting, topics discussed, lessons learned, and encouragement to visit in the future, letters to missionaries inviting them to update us in person.

Communication and or correspondence among the association also allows an exchange of valuable resources and knowledge not known by our association. This might include advice on administrative practices, ways and means to encourage better engagement, or topics and discussions that might be edifying to our cause. By sharing these and other matters, we can avoid duplication of work or efforts and instead focus more of attention on reaching the world.

Enabling Collaboration

As the clerk of the Bethel Association, one of the primary purposes of the work that is done is to both coordinate and compile our efforts together as one association. One hinderance that I have seen over the past five years of these efforts is our lack of communication with each other surrounding our support of missionaries. As an association, we can improve our help to missionaries by reaching out to the mission efforts, both within the association and outside, to coordinate our efforts together in support and enable the association to formulate a plan how best to help them. This correspondence or communication must be reciprocated by the missionary as well. Timely updates on their work, needs, and prayer requests will always assist in enhancing their cause.

Enhancing the overall mission of the Association

Communication and corresponding with one another plays a pivotal role in enhancing the collective mission we have before us congregations. What is that mission? As has already been discussed this weekend, and in our original minutes "to associate together for the mutual help and benefit of all concerned, for the good of the churches, for the work of the kingdom, and for the glory of God." While we are all independent, local bodies of baptized believers, it does us good to hear of good news from our sister churches and sister associations. It causes us to pause and reflect on how good the Lord is to us and renews in us a sense of desire to be a part of those blessings that are poured down upon his people. What blessings we are missing out on because our lack of communication.

In summary, we must work to do better in sharing the good news and blessings the Lord graces us with. Let us also not be shy to share the times of turmoil that we are facing as a reminder that we do not stand alone in this fight. I believe this subject was selected to cause our association to pause and reflect on the

value and encouragement that communication can bring to our brothers and our sisters. Let us forge forward our mission as this association in reaching a lost and dying world and providing a mutual help and benefit to all concerned.

After hearing the report, a motion and 2nd were made to adopt the subject and outgoing correspondence. Speaking to the subject was Brother Chris Harper, Brother Jeff Moran, and Brother Del Compton. Motion carried.

Our treasurer, Brother Cory Houchens, presented the financial report. Following the reading, a motion and 2nd were made to approve the report. Motion carried.

Old/Unfinished Business

A motion and 2nd were made to open discussion on the website. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd to end discussion and return to regular business were made. Motion carried

New Business

Brother Scott Hauskins was asked to come forward and present the list of subjects for 2025. A motion and 2nd to adopt the subjects as presented was put forth. Motion carried. (2025 Subjects on page 44)

A motion and 2nd were made to authorize the clerk to purchase a new computer to assist in compilation of the website and clerk work with a budget of \$1200. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd to authorize Brother Del Compton to compile a list of readings to assist in understanding Baptist history and to include it on our website. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd to open discussion on selecting subjects. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd were made to close discussion and return to regular business. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd authorize the moderator to appoint a committee to examine the subject selection process and report back on ways to improve the process at the 2025 session. Motion carried. Appointed were Elder Jeremy Miller, Elder Jeremy Collins, and Elder Rich Jenkins.

A motion and 2nd to move selection of a subject selection committee be moved in 2025 from Friday morning to Saturday during new business. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd that the moderator and clerk draft a letter on behalf of the association to Freedom MBC and Southside MBC, expressing our love for both churches and encouraging them to swift reconciliation. Motion carried.

As no other new business was present, Brother Moran called for the clerk to read the minutes of the day. Following the reading, a motion and 2nd to approve the minutes as read and give the clerk authority to make corrections as needed. Motion carried.

A motion and 2nd were made to adjourn until 2025. Motion carried.

2025 Bethel Missionary Baptist Association Subjects

Subject 1:

If or when it becomes desirable for two or more churches to merge their congregations, how could this best be accomplished, and what are the related details that would need to be considered and addressed?

Elder Del Compton (Chairman), Elder Bill Vaughn, Elder Gary Smith

Subject 2:

Qualifications for the full work of the ministry

- What is the full work of the ministry according to the scriptures?
- Who qualifies a man to be ordained to the full work of the ministry?
- Do the scriptures teach that one qualification listed in Timothy or in Titus is more important than the other?

Elder Jermy Miller (Chairman), Elder Jermy Collins, Elder Steven Thompson

Subject 3:

How should we respond to people who disagree with our belief that homosexuality is wrong, in a way that provides scriptural evidence of our view, but that does not turn those people away from God?

Elder Melvin Jones (Chairman), Bro. Ray Sexton, Elder Brent Summers

Subject 4:

Missions report

Elder Ryan Morgan (Chairman), Bro. Barry Hagan, Bro. Monte Botkin

Subject 5:

Correspondence

Deacon Walt Miller (Chairman), Brother Mike Hooten

Respectfully Submitted,

Brother Scott Hauskins (chairman), Elder Rich Jenkins, and Elder James Whitney

Reports

Treasury Report

Ending Balance as of 2023		Contributions 2024		
\$4,571.45			Printing Fund	General Fund
Disbursements		Amana	\$110.00	
Clerk	\$500	Bethel	\$125.00	\$50.00
Printing	\$1087.73	Faith (IN)	\$100.00	
USPS Shipping	\$20.90	Faith (MI)		\$250.00
Wix Web Hosting	\$378	Fellowship		\$185.00
Beginning Balance for 2024		Freedom	\$100.00	\$150.00
\$2,584.82		Friendship		\$150.00
Total Contributions for 2024 - General Fund		Harvest	\$75.00	\$200.00
\$1,910.00		Kokomo		\$250.00
Total Contributions for 2025 - Printing Fund		Macedonia	\$250.00	
\$860.00		Outreach		\$150.00
New Balance		Pleasant Valley		\$100.00
\$5,179.82		Salem		\$200.00
Missions Collection/Disbursement		Southside		\$225.00
The Well - \$564		Whiteland	\$100.00	
Pleasant Valley Food Pantry - \$564				

Correspondence

Outgoing Correspondence to Our Sister Churches:

To the Churches of our Sister Associations:

Blessings from the churches of the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association. It is our prayer that the fruits of your labor in the Lord have been bountiful and your fields are white for harvest!

The 66th annual session of the Bethel Association was hosted by Freedom Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Lord met with us in our session as we heard and witnessed the praising of the Lord through preaching, song, testimony, and presentation of subjects. We were blessed as Charity Missionary Baptist Church, who was organized in 2023, petitioned and joined the fellowship of the Bethel Association.

We were grateful to have visitors join us in session and pray you will consider visiting us in our 2025 session held at Harvest Missionary Baptist Church in Avon, Indiana on September 19th and 20th, 2025. The session will begin at 10am EDT with Elder Brent Summers preaching the Introductory Sermon.

We will reconvene Friday evening at 7pm for our Memorial service with Elder Bill Vaughn preaching. On Saturday Morning, we will again meet at 10am with Elder Dereck Mobley to bring the Doctrinal Sermon.

Please remember our efforts in your prayers. We look forward to hearing good news from your associations as well!

With Christian Love,

Elder Jeff Moran – Moderator

Deacon Chris Harper – Clerk

Incoming Correspondence from Our Sister Associations:

Bethel Missionary Baptist Association:

Greetings from the Churches that make up the Southwestern District Missionary Baptist Association. It is our prayer that the fruits of your labor in the Lord have been most productive. As we met for our one hundred seventy fifth annual session October 06-07, 2023, 20 churches reported 15 baptisms with a total membership of 1,766.

At the past session, the messengers of our association elected Eld. Andrew Stokes as our moderator. Bro. Ray Smith was elected as the Assistant Moderator, his 70th time being elected as an officer of our association. Bro. Trey Crews was selected as the assistant clerk. God blessed us again with the visitation of His Holy Spirit. We are thankful for those who were able to visit with us during the 2023 session and pray that you found it an uplifting visit.

We want to remind you of the association website. On this site you will find audio sermons and topics along with minutes. You may visit our website at www.swdmba.org. We would like to invite all to join us for the 2024 session to be held with Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church in Huntingdon, Tennessee. The sessions will be held October 11-12, 2024, starting at 10:00 am. Eld. Randy Thompson will be preaching the Introductory Sermon on Friday, and Eld. James Keen will be preaching the Doctrinal Sermon on Saturday. Please remember our efforts in your prayers, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

May the Lord bless you in your efforts to serve Him.
Under His Wings,

Eld. Scott Carter, Clerk

400 Chickasaw Drive

Huntingdon, TN 38344

Cell: (731) 415-1688

E-mail: clerk@swdmba.org

Obituary Report

Bethel

Brother Don Strathman

Brother James Gravens

James E. Gravens, 72, of Trafalgar, IN departed this earthly life to begin an eternal life with his Lord and Savior on April 29th, 2024. He was born December 10, 1951 in Indianapolis, IN to the late James Ernest and Lavetric (Kathleen) Gravens. He was married to Rometta Gail Gravens for 28 yrs. who preceded him in death. He was a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Jimmy was known as "Pappy" to his family and friends. He worked as a mechanic for several businesses through-out his career and owned Pappy's Automotive Sunoco. He was an avid tinkerer and loved building cars "hot rods" (Pontiac GTOs and Chevys) in which he built/restored several during his life, as well as, helped several of his friends with their car projects. He was also preceded in death by his sister Frances Joyce Sizemore. He is survived by his brother John Gravens (Julie) of Greenwood IN. and their children Zane and Rachel Gravens, as well as, his sister's daughter, Brandi Rachelle Sizemore and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Sister Margaret Gray

Margaret L. (Harrison) Gray, 92, passed away August 6th, 2024. She was born September 9th, 1931, in Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky to parents Clovis Harrison and Dorothy (Robertson) Harrison. On December 24th, 1948, she married the love of her life, Charles W. Gray. They shared 58 wonderful years together. Charles passed away June 21st, 2007. Margaret began her career in accounting for the State of Indiana. She served as a supervisor at Marion County Voter's Registration, and later, as an auditor for probate courts until she retired. She was a valued member of Old Bethel Missionary Baptist Church. Margaret was a beloved Girl Scout Leader in Warren Township for several years. Left to mourn her loss are her children, Charles D. (Darlene Z. Zwissler) Gray of Salvisa, Kentucky, Larry A. (Lisa) Gray of Atlanta, GA, Cynthia L. Gray of Scottsdale, AZ, and Lisa K. (The Late Dr. Stephen M. Spaethe) Gray of Greenfield, IN; grandchildren, John M. Gray, Elizabeth N. Schloss, Christina A. James, Megan S. Kaye, Ashley M. Rooney, Amanda M. Johnson, Sarah L. Dipple, Tyler S. Spaethe, Emilee C. Geyman, Andrew W. Spaethe, B. Hayden Myers, W. Hunter Gray; 23 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Betty J. Cloyd. She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles; her parents; siblings Ruby Harrison, Edgar Harrison, Shirley Ann Harrison, and James Harrison.

Faith (IN)

Elder Glen Yaden

Glenn Harold Yaden passed away at the age of 91 on December 22, 2023 in Franklin, Indiana. Glenn Yaden was born October 20, 1932 in Casey County Kentucky to Flex E. Yaden and Myrtle (Roy) Yaden. He Married Essie (Brown) Yaden on June 26, 1954 at the Johnson County Courthouse, in Franklin Indiana. Together during their 65 years of marriage, they fostered hundreds of children instilling faith and hard work in each of them. He was an ordained minister and pastored Whiteland, Salem, and Youngs Creek Missionary Baptist Churches in Johnson County Indiana and Yosemite Baptist Church in Casey County Kentucky. He was a member of Faith Missionary Baptist Church in Franklin, Indiana. He enjoyed spending time with family, traveling with his wife, Essie, and three daughters, renovating properties, farming and making others laugh. He was preceded in death by his parents Myrtle and Flex Yaden; stepmother, Ida Yaden; sister, Maxine (Yaden) Wilson; six brothers, Vernon Yaden, Roy Yaden, Curtis Yaden, Kenneth Yaden, Paul Yaden, Lancer Yaden, and his wife, Essie Yaden. He is survived by his brother, Jerry (Doris) Yaden; three biological daughters, Glenda (Kenneth) Yaden Gilbert, Brenda (Bobby) Yaden Ralph, Sherry (Robert) Yaden Matthews; grandchildren, April Phillips, Andrea (Randy Phillips) Blackwell, Bob (Mandy) Ralph, Rachel (Reggie) Jackson. Laura Elijah, Mary Shull; nineteen great grandchildren; two great great grandchildren. Glenn also was a father, grandfather and mentor to many.

Faith (MI)

Brother William "Larry" Fleming

William Larry Fleming, 84, of New Haven, MI died March 3rd, 2024. He was born in Wingo, Kentucky on November 1st, 1939, to Ralph and Mildred Fleming. Everyone who knew him and loved him called him by his middle name, Larry. Larry attended school at Lincoln High School in Warren, MI before entering the Air Force in August of 1957. He completed his period of active duty in August of 1961 having achieved the rank of Airman 2nd Class. Larry went to school for and prepared taxes for H&R Block. Larry continued his education at Macomb Community College and retired from Ford Motor Company as an Experimental Engineer. Larry was preceded in death by his parents, sister Judith Smith, brother Carl Fleming, first wife Annette Fleming, son-in-law Gary Gager, and stepson James Hayes. He is survived by his wife Sandra Fleming, children Linda Gager, Dale (Kristin) Fleming, Allen (Dawn) Fleming, Lora (Tony) Roberts, and Steven (Colleen) Fleming, step-children Jesse (Renea) Hayes, Brenda Chouinard, Donny (Janelle) Hayes, many grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Fellowship

Sister Hellen Cox

Hellen Cox, Indianapolis, passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024. She was 89 years old. Hellen was born in Macon County, TN to her parents Burl and Essie

Marsh. Hellen married her husband, Isom Paul Cox, on February 4, 1983 and together they shared 39 years of marriage until Isom passed away on October 25, 2022. Hellen worked on the assembly line for Western Electric and retired in 1987 after 30 years of service. Hellen was a member of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. As a younger woman, Hellen made the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Israel and was able to visit multiple religious hotspots during her trip. Hellen enjoyed fishing, gardening, mowing the grass and shopping. She enjoyed canning tomatoes, green beans, and beets. Hellen was a fantastic cook who leaves behind memories of her delicious mashed potatoes, mac and cheese, and salmon patties. Hellen was also fond of baking; chocolate pudding and pie, jam cakes, prune cakes and coconut pie. Hellen never met a stranger and loved to talk with her family on the phone. Her outgoing and funny personality will be dearly missed by those she leaves behind.

Freedom

Elder William Shoulders

William Lee Shoulders was born on May 14, 1931, the first-born son of sharecroppers in Gallatin, Tennessee. Depression-era Gallatin was hilly farmland occupied by barns, cattle, one room homes and anything you could grow out of the soil. Bill had three brothers: Ray, Wayne, Bobby, and a sister: Marjorie. Being a sharecropper's kid was a hard life with a lot of toil from a young age with very few comforts. As a child and young adult Bill worked the land with his mules and plow and he and his siblings milked cows in the morning before they went to the school house. Bill completed the third grade in elementary school, but that was all for his secular education. Bill's calling would be more of a spiritual one. On a June day at age 17, Bill attended a Baptist mission meeting in a schoolhouse. The Holy Spirit was moving that day and Bill found the Lord, a relationship that would define the rest of his life. Two years later, on May 20, 1950, Bill married his sweetheart, Ruby Dee Troutt. Bill recalled fondly rigging up the family car for cross town trips to visit her. The car didn't have a muffler, and the family couldn't afford to replace it. To avoid a run in with the local police, those trips required one steel can tied to the exhaust each way. Bill and Ruby were loving parents of three children, Carol, Kenneth and Timothy. Bill's brothers left Tennessee in the 1950's, heading north to the land of factory jobs, searching for an escape from poverty. They settled in Indianapolis, Indiana and after a short time Bill and Ruby moved their young family there too. Bill had quite the knack for carpentry, honing that skill while working at a door and trim company Woodfinco in Brownsburg Indiana. This is where he would work until his retirement from physical labor, in 1996 at the age of 65. His spiritual work would go on much longer. In 1960, Bill was baptized into Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was at this church during the following few years where he felt the Lord call him to preach the Word. He was ordained to preach and Pastor at Bethel in 1963.

Bill's service to the ministry defined his life. He told of the miracle of the birth and resurrection of Jesus and the hope that these events offer humanity in over 3,500 sermons across 6 decades. From 1966-2013 Bill pastored five different Missionary Baptist Churches: Southside, Bethel, Freedom and Macedonia in Indianapolis, IN and Faith in Detroit, Michigan. As a pastor, he presided over weddings and funerals and baptized many friends and family members into the Church. On most Saturdays during his ministry, he would tend his garden and lawn, work on a project at his house, and then spend a few hours huddled over a desk he made himself, studying his Bible and preparing the sermon for the next day. If he took a vacation or some time to relax, he was probably fishing with his friends. Bill rose through the ministry to be one of the most respected Elders of the church. He presided over the Bethel Missionary Baptist Association as Moderator for 14 years in the 1990s and 2000s; helping interpret God's word and build relationships amongst the churches in the association. Bill's secular education was short, but his religious education was long and his knowledge of scripture was deep. His sermons were known for utilizing his expansive knowledge of the Bible and his sense of humor, often including experiences on the farm as a child and with quotes and lessons from preachers from that era of his life. Bill and Ruby's children gave them many grandchildren and great grandchildren. During holidays their small westside, Indianapolis home was filled with love, good southern food and laughs. Their large family would gather there and share presents and memories.

Ruby passed away 7 years ago after a decade long struggle with Alzheimers. This was the time that Bill's work at the church was winding down and he spent his days ministering to her needs. He would often say that his prayer each day was to live long enough to care for her until God called her to Heaven. Bill succeeded in this goal, demonstrating the same loyalty and devotion to Ruby that she showed to him during the previous 50 years of marriage when his ministry took him from place to place and his secular and religious work kept his hands and mind busy. Since Ruby's passing on September 19, 2016, Bill would often share that he felt his life's mission complete and he longed to join her again. On December 22, 2023, Jesus called for Bill to come home. His body lays to rest, but his Spirit is reunited with Ruby's and he walks with his Lord and Savior. All those spiritual questions that he studied on Saturdays during his life have answers. Bill's eternal life is only joy.

Bill is survived by his brother, Ray Shoulders and his sister Majorie Sullivan, his children Carol Shoulders and Timothy Shoulders and seven grand and twenty great grand children. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Ruby, his son Kenneth Shoulders, his brothers Wayne and Bobby and his parents, Robert Earnest Shoulders and Georgia Gladys Parker Shoulders. Bill would want you to know that Jesus loves you and he died for your sins. Through prayer and repentance Jesus can forgive you for your transgressions, no matter how many or how severe. As long as you are alive, it is never too late to make your peace with God. If you would like to learn more about Jesus and the blessings that knowing

him can offer you, the congregation at Freedom Missionary Baptist Church 350 N. Fuller Drive, Indianapolis, IN would welcome you to their Services at 10am each Sunday.

Pleasant Valley

Sister Dana Perdue

She was born May 21, 1945 in Jasper, AL to Henry and Clara (Sanford) Short. She married Harold Perdue on April 20, 1968 in Eureka, IL. He survives along with four sons: Doug (Lorraine) Perdue of East Peoria, Scott (Irma) Perdue of East Peoria, Tim (Tracy) Perdue of Tremont, Todd (Donna) Perdue of East Peoria, eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one brother, Tom Short, and one sister, Linda Whitten both of Tennessee. She is also survived by her two favorite Pug dogs; Joe and Bailey.

Dana was an Assistive Technology Professional working at Apria Home Health Care and the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Peoria. She was a member of the Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Washington.

Whiteland

Sister Martha Patterson

Martha Mitchell Patterson, 88 of Martinsville, gained eternal rest after battling failing health for the past year at 10:18 am on Tuesday, January 23rd, 2024, at the McCormick's Creek Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Spencer, Indiana. She was one of six children born to the late Wade Andrew and Ruby Elsie (Cox) West. Martha's life began on Friday, April 19th, 1935, in Franklin, Kentucky. At age fourteen, Martha married her soulmate, Robert Howard Mitchell, on June 4th, 1949. The lovebirds moved to Indiana from Kentucky in 1952, eventually moving to Martinsville in 1969, where they lived the remainder of their lives. Robert preceded her in death after forty-six of marital bliss on September 24th, 1995. After Robert's passing, Martha married Billy Ray Patterson and he also preceded her in death on March 4th, 2008.

She had worked for several years at RCA in Bloomington during the 1960's and 1970's and a short time at the Morgantown Nursing Home in Morgantown, Indiana. Martha was a longtime member of the Whiteland Missionary Baptist Church in Whiteland, Indiana. Aside from working and dedicating her life to her family, Martha cherished time spent with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed doing crossword puzzles and had a love for animals, especially her two dogs and three cats. She will be remembered for her legacy of love by her family and friends including her sister, Joyce Herrington of Franklin, KY; eight grandchildren, Shannon Wood, Amanda, Jeremy, Jason, Mesha, Joseph, Lacey and Morgan Mitchell; fourteen great grandchildren and four great great grandchildren. Along with her parents and husbands, Martha was preceded in death by her three sons, Michael Howard Mitchell, Robert Dwight Mitchell and Jeffrey Wade Mitchell; one grandson, Mike Mitchell; two brothers, Willie and Henry West; and two sisters, Lena Bunton and her twin, Mary Porter.

2023-2024 Membership Report

Church Data			Received by				Dismissed by			Current Attendance	
Name	Organized	Last Year's Membership	Restorations				Deaths			Present Membership	Sunday School
			Baptisms	Letters	Statements	Expulsions	Letters				
Amana	1966	24	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	21	N/A
Bethel	1944	202	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	201	15
Charity	2023	17	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	14
Faith (IN)	1956	174	2	2	0	0	9	1	0	168	45
Faith (MI)	1949	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	15
Fellowship	1957	71	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	71	10
Freedom	1961	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	79	N/A
Friendship	1952	83	1	2	0	0	4	0	0	82	20
Harvest	1990	28	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	29	N/A
Kokomo	1952	105	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	110	N/A
Macedonia	1986	29	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	29	10
Outreach	2001	48	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	47	N/A
Pleasant Valley	1961	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	38	N/A
Salem	1967	102	1	13	0	0	1	2	0	113	N/A
Southside	1959	224	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	224	35
Whiteland	1970	57	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	56	N/A
Totals		1310	9	26	0	0	25	3	8	1312	164

Meeting History

Year	Location	Moderator	Clerk	Introductory	Memorial	Doctrinal
1958	Bethel	H.B. Eaton	Milburn Calvert	Odus Cummings		W.T. Taylor
1959	Kokomo	H.B. Eaton	Milburn Calvert	Ben R. Taylor		L.H. Parker
1960	Harmony	M.V. Hammack	Billy Moran	Othneil Finley		M.V. Hammack
1961	Bethel	Othneil Finley	Finis Jent	H.B. Eaton		W.T. Taylor
1962	Kokomo	L.C. Long	Finis Jent	H.B. Eaton		W.T. Taylor
1963	Faith	H.B. Eaton	Odus Cummings	Othneil Finley		Billy Adamson
1964	Grace	H.B. Eaton	Billy Moran	C. C. Gregory	Othneil Finley	W.T. Taylor
1965	Bethel	H.B. Eaton	Billy Moran	Richard Huskins	Mitchell Smith	Billy Moran
1966	Kokomo	M.V. Hammack	Jack Kidwell	Earl C. Coker	Mitchell Smith	Othneil Finley
1967	Faith	M.V. Hammack	Jack Kidwell	Billy Moran	Edward Bradley	Mitchell Smith
1968	Harmony	Kenneth Morgan	Jack Kidwell	Othneil Finley	H.B. Eaton	M.V. Hammack
1969	Bethel	H.B. Eaton	E.H. Carter	D.C. Russell	Paul Kinnard	Mitchell Smith
1970	Kokomo	D.C. Russell	Edd Sanders	Richard Huskins	Odus Cummings	M.V. Hammack
1971	Southside	D.C. Russell	Edd Sanders	Wm. Marvin	Lewis Holland	D.C. Russell
1972	Faith	Lewis Holland	Edd Sanders	Lewis Holland	Richard Huskins	Hugh Hudson
1973	Rossville	Odus Cummings	John Keen Jr.	Berlin Roy	Clellon Buster	Billy Moran
1974	Liberty	Hugh Hudson	John Keen Jr.	Jimmy Parker	Bill Martin	Mitchell Smith
1975	Harmony	Hugh Hudson	John Keen Jr.	John Keen Jr.	Lewis Holland	Billy Moran
1976	Bethel	Hugh Hudson	John Keen Jr.	Marvin Emberton	Oliver Day	Hugh Hudson
1977	Southside	Hugh Hudson	John Keen Jr.	Glen Yaden	Lewis Holland	Mitchell Smith
1978	Fellowship	Calvin Perrigo	John Keen Jr.	Calvin Perrigo	Nathan York	Kenneth Massey
1979	Grace	Calvin Perrigo	Jeff Moran	Billy Moran	James Jones	Hugh Hudson
1980	Freedom	Calvin Perrigo	Jeff Moran	Odus Cummings	Ron Galloway	John Keen Jr.
1981	Bethel	Calvin Perrigo	Jeff Moran	Tim Binion	Billy Moran	Calvin Perrigo
1982	Fellowship	Calvin Perrigo	Jeff Moran	Steve Perrigo	Don Watts	John Keen Jr.
1983	Southside	Odus Cummings	Terry Lyles	Del Compton	Nathan York	Odus Cummings

Year	Location	Moderator	Clerk	Introductory	Memorial	Doctrinal
1984	Salem	Calvin Perrigo	Jeff Moran	Eugene Brown	Hugh Hudson	James Lones
1985	Kokomo	Calvin Perrigo	Del Compton	Dan Edwards	Roy Brooks	Dwayne Greer
1986	Bethel	Odus Cummings	Kenneth Roe	Nathan York	Don Watts	Eugene Brown
1987	Freedom	Odus Cummings	Kenneth Roe	Jerry Patterson	Don Watts	Roy Brooks
1988	Faith (IN)	Odus Cummings	Kenneth Roe	Larry Taylor	Ronald Cook	Roy Brooks
1989	Pleasant Valley	Odus Cummings	Kenneth Roe	Garfield Saylor	Dexter Bacon Jr.	Terry Foster
1990	Fellowship	Odus Cummings	Jeff Moran	Jerry Miller	Jerry Patterson	Jerry Patterson
1991	Southside	Odus Cummings	Kenneth Roe	Danny Edwards	Nathan York	Larry Taylor
1992	Bethel	Odus Cummings	Kenneth Roe	Larry McClain	Dexter Bacon	Terry Lyles
1993	Kokomo	Larry Taylor	Kenneth Roe	Monty Shoulders	Larry Taylor	Don Watts
94	Friendship	Larry Taylor	Kenneth Roe	Bruce Adamson	Lewis Holland	Dexter Bacon
1995	Faith (IN)	William Shoulders	Kenneth Roe	Brad Foster	Carlos Gammon	Don Watts
1996	Faith (MI)	William Shoulders	Mike Jackson	Randy Thompson	Jerry Patterson	William Shoulders
1997	Freedom	William Shoulders	Mike Jackson	Chris Jones	Jerry Miller	Terry Foster
1998	Fellowship	William Shoulders	Mike Jackson	Bart Jones	Nathan York	J.R. Thompson
1999	Whiteland	William Shoulders	Mike Jackson	James Keen	William McElroy	Monty Shoulders
2000	Bethel	William Shoulders	Bart Jones	Matt Patterson	Michael Adamson	Jerry Miller
2001	Southside	William Shoulders	Bart Jones	Michael Jackson	Don McDonald	John Keen Jr.
2002	Outreach	William Shoulders	Bart Jones	Mark Greer	Chris Jones	Bruce Adamson
2003	Friendship	William Shoulders	Bart Jones	Jerry Miller	Del Compton	Nathan York
2004	Bethel	William Shoulders	Bart Jones	Gary Smith	Terry Foster	Don Watts
2005	Kokomo	William Shoulders	Jeremy York	Richard Jenkins	Ron Stott	Jerry Miller
2006	Fellowship	William Shoulders	Brad Farris	Lance Jackson	Nathan York	Kenneth Davis
2007	Salem	William Shoulders	Brad Farris	Jeremy Miller	Doug Skinner	Jimmy Whitney
2008	Whiteland	William Shoulders	Brad Farris	Stephen York	Aaron Hood	Chris Jones
2009	Faith (IN)	Chris Jones	Bradley Hicks	Jeff Moran	Stephen Thompson	Bruce Adamson
2010	Freedom	Chris Jones	Bradley Hicks	Kent Welch	Stephen York	John Keen Jr.

Year	Location	derator	Clerk	Introductory	Memorial	Doctrinal
2011	Southside	Chris Jones	Bradley Hicks	Jeremy York	Rick Huskins	Aaron Hood
2012	Kokomo	Chris Jones	Bradley Hicks	Matthew Rickett	Nathan York	Jeff Moran
2013	Bethel	Chris Jones	Bradley Hicks	Dereck Mobley	Bradley Hicks	Nathan York
2014	Whiteland	Chris Jones	Nick Reuter	Jonathon Elliott	Nathan York	Jeff Elliott
2015	Fellowship	Chris Jones	Nick Reuter	Charles Pratt	Jeff Elliott	Bradley Hicks
2016	Harvest	Jeff Moran	Noah Adamson	James Whitney	Jeff Moran	Dereck Mobley
2017	Faith (IN)	Jeff Moran	Noah Adamson	Jerry Burke	Scott Hauskins	Charles Pratt
2018	Friendship	Jeff Moran	Jeremy York	Andrew Horton	Stephen York	Monty Shoulders
2019	Salem	Jeff Moran	Chris Harper	Jeremy Miller	Stephen Thompson	Jonathon Elliott
2021	Bethel	Jeff Moran	Chris Harper	Jeremy Collins	Nick Reuter	Bruce Adamson
2022	Faith (IN)	Jeff Moran	Chris Harper	Micah Barber	Jason Stotler	Stephen Thompson
2023	Faith (MI)	Jeff Moran	Chris Harper	Jeremy Jenkins	Melvin Jones	Andrew Horton
2024	Freedom	Jeff Moran	Chris Harper	Harold Nolan	Ryan Morgan	Jason Stotler

Directory

Amana Missionary Baptist Church

1202 S. Calumet St. Sunday: 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Kokomo, IN. 46902

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Ryan Morgan	138 N 400 E, Kokomo, IN 46901	765-432-7759	Rynomorgan11@gmail.com
Clerk	Nancy Morgan	138 N 400 E, Kokomo, IN. 46901	765-210-9435	amanachurch11@gmail.com
Treasurer	Robert Keck	5498 Ruhl Garden Dr, Kokomo, IN. 46901	765-457-8860	
Superintendent	Kevin Morgan	10199 W 100 N Kempton, IN 46049		
Ordained Ministers				
Name	Address		Number	Email
Ryan Morgan	138 N 400 E, Kokomo, IN 46901		765-432-7759	Rynomorgan11@gmail.com
Licensed Ministers				
Talon Morgan	11799 E 200 N, Greentown, IN 46936		765-425-0401	

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

222 E. Epler Ave.
Indianapolis, IN. 46227

Sunday: 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

www.bethelmbc.org

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Jeff Moran	6373 Barely Dr Brownsburg, IN. 46112	317-509-5330	jbugsy@sbcglobal.net
Clerk	Rhonda Hunnicutt	12646 Overture Dr Carmel, IN 46033	317-846-8573	rhondahunnicutt@outlook.com
Treasurer	Ronald Stewart	7868 W 21st St, Indianapolis, IN 46214	317-840-1906	rons7868@att.net
Ordained Ministers				
Name	Address		Number	Email
Jeff Moran	6373 Barely Dr Brownsburg, IN. 46112		317-509-5330	jbugsy@sbcglobal.net
Licensed Ministers				
Shawn Martin	4218 W. US 36 Danville, IN. 46122		317-409-9952	

Charity Missionary Baptist Church

1577 North US 231
Greencastle, IN. 46135

Sunday: 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

www.charitymbc.org

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Brent Summers	3062 N CR 325 East Greencastle, IN. 45135	765-719-5040	btsummers98@gmail.com
Clerk	Bruce Adamson	633 W CR 200 N Danville, IN 46122	317-500-1419	Bruce.g.adamson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tim Gierke	1559 N CR 275 E Fillmore, IN 46128	765-720-1400	
Ordained Ministers				
Name	Address		Number	Email
Brent Summers	3062 N CR 325 East Greencastle, IN. 45135		765-719-5040	btsummers98@gmail.com
Bruce Adamson	633 W CR 200 N Danville, IN 46122		317-500-1419	Bruce.g.adamson@gmail.com
Licensed Ministers				
Kenneth Turner	7176 E CR 800 N Bainbridge, IN. 46105		765-522-1207	

Faith Missionary Baptist Church (IN)

1400 Graham Rd,
Franklin, IN. 46131

Sunday: 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

www.faithindiana.com

Preferred Mailing Address: 1400 Graham Rd, Franklin, IN 46131

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Dereck Mobley	5925 W 125 S Bargersville, IN 46106	317-625-1120	mobleydereckd@gmail.com
Clerk	Chris Harper	2030 Gosling Ct Franklin, IN. 46131	317-410-2568	clerk.faithmbc@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jeff Brown	5213 Rocklane Rd. Greenwood, IN. 46143	317-997-5779	ljeffrey.brown@att.net
Superintendent	Jacob Brown	5213 Rocklane Rd. Greenwood, IN. 46143	317-997-5779	
Ordained Ministers				
Name	Address		Number	Email
Dereck Mobley	5925 W 125 S Bargersville, IN 46106		317-625-1120	mobleydereckd@gmail.com
John Thompson	16102 E Lake Shore Dr. South, Hope, IN 47246		812-390-0921	jwtcbt@yahoo.com
Gary Smith	840 W Gerking Dr Nineveh, IN 46164		812-344-8532	smitty8762@hotmail.com
Ordained Deacons				
Jeffrey Brown	5213 Rocklane Rd. Greenwood, IN. 46143		317-997-5779	ljeffrey.brown@att.net
Cory Houchens	5440 E Neitzel Rd Mooresville, IN 46158		317-938-1326	houchenscory@yahoo.com
Chris Harper	2030 Gosling Ct Franklin, IN. 46131		317-410-2568	clerk.faithmbc@gmail.com
Licensed Ministers				
Kevin Jones	622 E 10 th St Apt 209 Indianapolis, IN 46202		317-412-0904	mavsfans@sbcglobal.net

Faith Missionary Baptist Church (MI)

39401 Townhall St.
Harrison Township, MI. 48045

Sunday: 10:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Wednesday: 6:00 PM

www.faithmb.org

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor				
Clerk	Pamela Hohf	46354 Chalmers Dr. Macomb, MI 48044	586-944-9812	Pamhohf1009@gmail.com
Treasurer	Mike Baker	15871 Torraine Ct. Clinton Twp, MI. 48038	586-212-6491	bakerjim2@bignet.net

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email

Ordained Deacons

Mike Baker	15871 Torraine Ct. Clinton Twp, MI. 48038	586-212-6491	bakerjim2@bignet.net
Eric Hohf	46354 Chalmers Dr. Macomb, MI. 48044	586-201-2826	erichohf22@gmail.com
Donald St. Clair	42045 Montroy Dr. Sterling Heights, MI. 48313	586-739-8569	donaldandiris@att.net
Jimmie Thompson	1530 Green Meadow Court Bowling Green, KY 42104	270-782-0410	trevajimwc@twc.com

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church

1032 S. Holmes Ave. Sunday: 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM

Indianapolis, IN. 46221 Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Stephen Thompson	3642 Ironwood Dr Columbus, IN 47203	317-767-5097	sgthomps1963@gmail.com
Clerk	Scott Hauskins	7626 Firewalker Ln. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-502-1846	hauskins3@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Don Binion	6913 S. Franklin Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46259	317-373-7566	dbin6913@icloud.com
Superintendent	Don Binion	6913 S. Franklin Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46259	317-373-7566	dbin6913@icloud.com

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email
Jeremy Collins	5373 Dollar Forge Court Indianapolis, IN 46221	615-423-9132	Jeremycollins81@gmail.com
Stephen Thompson	3642 Ironwood Dr Columbus, IN 47203	317-767-5097	sgthomps1963@gmail.com
Jim Whitney	5867 E. Cr. 150 N. Avon, IN. 46123	317-531-1114	jwhitney100@yahoo.com
Mick Woodard	204 Sequoia Dr Springfield, TN 37172		mickwoodard@bellsouth.net

Ordained Deacons

Don Binion	6913 S. Franklin Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46259	317-373-7566	dbin6913@icloud.com
Dean Hauskins	2644 Big Bear Ln Indianapolis, IN. 46259	317-672-8393	deanoh155@yahoo.com

Licensed Ministers

Scott Hauskins	7626 Firewalker Ln. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-502-1846	hauskins3@hotmail.com
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Freedom Missionary Baptist Church

350 N. Fuller Dr.
Indianapolis, IN. 46224

Sunday: 9:30am

Preferred Mailing Address:

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Harold Nolan	9917 Fulbrook Dr, Apt E Indianapolis, IN. 46229	317-313-0640	haroldnolan1959@gmail.com
Clerk	Bethany Toler	1211 Old Vines Tr Greenwood, IN. 46143	317-918-8190	bethshoulders10@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tim Shoulders	10884 E. Cr. 700 S. Camby, IN. 46113	317-319-9241	toolman94@aol.com
S. S. Super	Tim Shoulders	10884 E. Cr. 700 S. Camby, IN. 46113	317-319-9241	toolman94@aol.com
Ordained Ministers				
Name		Address	Number	Email
Terry Foster		1152 Wood Sage Dr. Avon, IN. 46123	317-383-1110	elderterry@aol.com
Harold Nolan		9917 Fulbrook Dr Indianapolis, IN. 46229	317-313-0640	haroldnolan1959@gmail.com
Ordained Deacons				
Tim Shoulders		10884 E. Cr. 700 S. Camby, IN. 46113	317-319-9241	toolman94@aol.com

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

5520 E. Base Rd.

Sunday: 10:00 AM,

Columbus, IN. 47203

6:00 PM

friendshipmbchurch.com

Preferred Mailing Address: 16102 E. Lakeshore Dr, Hope, IN 47246

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Micah Barber	2811 Poplar Dr Columbus, IN 47203	615-504-0051	bmicah57@gmail.com
Clerk	Jeff Thompson	16102 E. Lakeshore Dr. S. Hope, IN. 47246	812-390-0701	jsusa84@reagan.com
Treasurer	Gail Lawles	112 E. 550 S. Columbus, IN. 47201	812-342-6624	
Superintendent	Greg Edwards	3233 S CR 710 E Seymour, IN 47274	810-287-0684	Gme002@yahoo.com

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email
Micah Barber	2811 Poplar Dr Columbus, IN 47203	615-504-0051	bmicah57@gmail.com
Danny Edwards	PO Box 373 Taylorsville, IN. 47280	812-526-2973	
Delbert Compton	2130 S Riley Hwy Shelbyville, IN 46176	317-412-2644	delbertLcompton@gmail.com

Ordained Deacons

C.L. Saltsman	4941 Cottonwood Ct. N Columbus, IN 47203		
Jeff Thompson	16102 E Lake Shore Dr. S Hope, IN 47246	812-390-0701	jsusa84@reagen.com

Licensed Ministers

Scott Newman	13300 W Old Nashville Rd, Columbus, IN 47201	812-447-4519	snewman13300@gmail.com
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Harvest Missionary Baptist Church

4285 E. Main
Avon, IN. 46123

Sunday: 10:30 AM,
6:00 pm

www.harvestmbc.org

Preferred Mailing Address: 6731 Woodridge Dr, Avon, IN, 46123

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor				
Clerk	Brett Jones	6731 Woodridge Dr. Avon, IN. 46123	317-600-8331	Jonesofavon@gmail.com
Treasurer	Stephen Jones	6095 Timberbend Dr Avon, IN 46123	317-361-3345	jonesjax@bellsouth.net
Ordained Ministers				
Name	Address		Number	Email
Nick Reuter	480 Wayles Dr Pittsboro, IN. 46167		317-437-0650	nmreuter@gmail.com
Ordained Deacons				
Brett Jones	6731 Woodridge Dr. Avon, IN. 46123		317-600-8331	jonesofavon@gmail.com
Mark Adamson	1814 S. Avon Ave. Avon, IN. 46123		317-839-7568	maadamson@aol.com

Kokomo Missionary Baptist Church

1723 N. Lindsey
Kokomo, IN. 46901

Sunday: 10:00 AM,
6:00 PM

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Bill Vaughn	1724 N Lindsey Kokomo, IN 46901	615-405-3576	Williamgvaughn@gmail.com
Clerk	Jason McClain	13651 S. Cr. 950 E. Galveston, IN. 46932	765-434-9291	jasonmcclain75@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Brandy McClain	13651 S. Cr. 950 E. Galveston, IN. 46932	765-434-9292	
Superintendent	Curtis Ward	609 Sante Fe Blvd Kokomo, IN 46902	765-457-3759	

Ordained Ministers			
Name	Address	Number	Email
Mark Ramey	1508 Linwood Dr. Kokomo, IN. 46902	765-437-7393	
Larry McClain	2311 W Carter St Kokomo, IN 46901	765-252-7111	
Bill Vaughn	1724 N Lindsey Kokomo, IN 46901	615-405-3576	Williamgvaughn@gmail.com

Ordained Deacons			
Donnie Ennis	8465 E. SR-18 Galveston, IN. 46932	765-271-2245	

Licensed Ministers			
Dan Willis	1022 N. Forest Dr. Kokomo, IN. 46902	765-419-0128	

Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

1009 S. Cr. 100 E.
Greenfield, IN. 46140

Sunday: 10:00 AM

macedoniambcgreenfield.com

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Stephen York	6037 Riva Ridge Dr Indianapolis, IN 46237	317-289-5742	yorkstephen@yahoo.com
Clerk	Megan Schulz	1208 Fairview Dr Greenfield, IN 46140	317-525-0026	Jones.megan.13@gmail.com
Treasurer	Zora Sexton	1901 N 600 E Greenfield, IN 46140	317-965-0941	zsexton@comcast.net
Superintendent	Ray Sexton	2398 E 500 N Greenfield, IN. 46140	317-315-0415	

Ordained Ministers			
Name	Address	Number	Email
Stephen York	6037 Riva Ridge Dr Indianapolis, IN 46237	317-289-5742	yorkstephen@yahoo.com
Melvin Jones	3601 S State St, Greenfield, IN 46140	317-727-2181	eldermel@att.net

Ordained Deacons			
Billy Walden	4594 N. 25 W. Greenfield, IN. 46140	317-326-2946	
Roger Elamon	210 Jackson St, Fairland, IN 46126	317-835-4706	

Licensed Ministers			
Etsel Davis	2254 Redstone Dr. Greenfield, IN. 46140	317-318-9832	etseldavis878440@att.net

Outreach Missionary Baptist Church

7544 E. Hadley Rd.
Camby, IN. 46113

Sunday: 10:00 AM

www.outreachmbc.org

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Jeremy Miller	390 Shadow Rd. Greenwood, IN. 46142	317-473-5246	jbmillier2@gmail.com
Clerk	Jeremy Miller	390 Shadow Rd. Greenwood, IN. 46142	317-473-5246	jbmillier2@gmail.com
Treasurer	Peggy Botkin	5151 N. Frontage Rd. Fairland, IN. 46126	317-695-4039	monteppeg@yahoo.com

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email
Jeremy Miller	390 Shadow Rd. Greenwood, IN. 46142	317-473-5246	jbmillier2@gmail.com

Licensed Ministers

Don Parkker	1302 Pin Oak Ct Martinsville, IN 46151	317-442-9608	don@beckydon.com
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Pleasant Valley Missionary Baptist Church

301 Bittersweet Rd.
Washington, IL. 61571

Sunday: 10:00 AM

pleasantvalleymb.com

Preferred Mailing Address: P. O. Box 329, Washington, IL 61571

Church Officers				
Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor				
Clerk	Sandi Kneer	402 Redbud Dr. Washington, IL. 61571	309-635-4798	kneersj@comcast.net
Treasurer	Steve Woody	1605 Barton Dr. Washington, IL. 61571	309-275-9573	swoody51@msn.com
Superintendent	Kathy Springer	811 Woodland Knolls Rd, Metamora, IL 61548	309-339-2106	kspringer@aol.com
Ordained Deacons				
Jim Dailey	102 Peachtree Ln. Metamora, IL. 61548		309-645-5150	jmdailey47@yahoo.com
Steve Woody	1605 Barton Dr. Washington, IL. 61571		309-275-9573	swoody51@msn.com
Mike Kneer	402 Redbud Dr. Washington, IL, 61571		309-265-7376	mdkneer@comcast.net

Salem Missionary Baptist Church

4121 W. Whiteland Rd.
Bargersville, IN. 46106

Sunday: 11:00 AM

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Rich Jenkins	1279 N. Banta Rd. Bargersville, IN. 46106	317-345-4388	rjenkins@winsupplyinc.com
Clerk	Barb Jenkins	1279 N. Banta Rd. Bargersville, IN 46106	317-345-4399	b.jenkins1279@gmail.com
Treasurer	Frances Denney	730 N. Forsythe St. Franklin, IN. 46131	317-902-5988	frannyx50@gmail.com
Superintendent	Mike Hooten	6861 Bannock Dr Indianapolis, IN 46221	317-403-4496	carol.hooten@comcast.net

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email
Rich Jenkins	1279 N. Banta Rd. Bargersville, IN. 46106	317-422-1517	rjenkins@winsupplyinc.com
Berlon Roy	236 Pineview Dr Mooresville, IN 46158	270-670-4464	

Ordained Deacons

Darrell Cochran	580 Ott St. Franklin, IN. 46131	317-736-8155	darrellcochran@gmail.com
Raymond Grace	3714 Winchester Dr Indianapolis, IN 46227	317-881-8815	
Tim Spurgeon	1701 N 400 West Bargersville, IN 46106	317-601-0896	Timspurg21@gmail.com

Licensed Ministers

Craig Dulworth	233 Mooreland Dr. Whiteland, IN. 46184	317-677-3910	Dulworthcraig@gmail.com
Jeremy York	961 Wilson Way Franklin, IN 46131	317-273-9088	Jeremy.york30@gmail.com

Southside Missionary Baptist Church

1850 E. Sumner Ave.
Indianapolis, IN. 46227

Sunday: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

www.southsidembc.org

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor	Andrew Horton	1811 Friendship, Dr. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-373-7332	mahorton62@gmail.com
Clerk	Katrina Patterson	429 W. Banta Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-435-5978	Katrina.patterson78@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jason Elliott	822 Boulder Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-640-1619	
Superintendent	Hayden Patterson	953 Timber Creek Ln Greenwood, IN 46142	317-709-7926	haypatt96@gmail.com

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email
Andrew Horton	1811 Friendship, Dr. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-373-7332	mahorton62@gmail.com

Ordained Deacons

Jason Elliott	822 Boulder Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-640-1619	
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Licensed Ministers

Brian Debolt	345 E. Edwards Ave. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	804-380-5709	bdebolt@amfbakery.com
Matt Patterson	429 W. Banta Rd. Indianapolis, IN. 46217	317-435-5979	
Hayden Patterson	953 Timber Creek Ln Greenwood, IN 46142	317-709-7926	haypatt96@gmail.com
Chris Fulmer	6720 Troon Way Indianapolis, IN 46237	317-775-3296	

Whiteland Missionary Baptist Church

210 Front Street
Whiteland, IN. 46184

Sunday: 11:00 AM

Church Officers

Position	Name	Address	Number	Email
Pastor				
Clerk	Daniel Rich	934 Constellation Way Franklin, IN. 46131	317-840-4133	danrich46184@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Walt Miller	663 W 500 North Franklin, IN 46131	317-417-2273	miller1992@embarqmail.com
Superintendent	Billy Lacefield	206 Washington St Franklin, IN 46131	317-736-6151	

Ordained Ministers

Name	Address	Number	Email
James Whitney	336 Main St Hope, IN 47246	317-695-7494	brotherwhitney@gmail.com

Ordained Deacons

Mark Rich	119 Ardmoor Dr. Whiteland, IN. 46184	317-523-7989	mark.rich64@yahoo.com
Walt Miller	663 W 500 North Franklin, IN 46131	317-417-2273	miller1992@embarqmail.com