



BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION OF NORTH CAROLINA

SEVEN PILLARS FOR MINISTRY

Biblical Concepts for a Christ-Centered Vision

"BY GOD'S GRACE, WE WILL
BECOME THE STRONGEST FORCE IN
THE HISTORY OF THIS CONVENTION
FOR REACHING PEOPLE WITH THE
MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL OF THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST."

— MILTON A. HOLLIFIELD, JR.

“These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

I Timothy 3:14-15



FELLOW BROTHERS
& SISTERS IN **CHRIST,**

Since 1830, God has chosen to do many wonderful things through the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Today more than four thousand North Carolina Baptist churches cooperate together and participate in the work of Christ in fulfillment of the Great Commission of our Lord and Savior.

Through different seasons of this convention's history the focus of our cooperative efforts between churches, Baptist Associations and the Convention have varied while our purpose has remained solid and unchanged. The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina exists to assist autonomous churches in fulfilling the mission God has charged them to accomplish.

Cultures change, people change, churches change, associations change, conventions change, but the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ never changes. Methodology in ministry and missions may change, but our bedrock message must always remain "we preach Christ crucified, dead, buried, resurrected and coming again."

God is calling the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina to become the strongest force in the history of this convention for reaching people with the message of the Gospel. This is a noble and attainable goal. Opportunities are before us like never before in our history to achieve this vision for the glory of God. More than 180 languages are now spoken throughout the state, and demographic studies indicate that 79% of North Carolina residents are not actively participating in any church.

The document in your hand highlights seven Biblical concepts of a Christ-centered vision for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. These are the core values for the work of this Convention and establish the direction for our focus for the years ahead as we labor together in the name of Christ. By God's grace and for his glory, join us in our pursuit of service to Christ and his church.



Milton A. Hollifield, Jr.
Executive Director-Treasurer



PRACTICE FERVENT PRAYER

Prayer is the key indicator of the passion of a redeemed heart to worship God and work for His harvest. The call to pray for a fresh movement of God that will usher in a season of spiritual awakening and evangelization establishes direction for ministries of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Such prayer will precipitate a burden in the hearts of God's people to pray toward His passion for a spiritual movement to sweep across this state and nation. Kingdom-focused prayer that glorifies God must become a priority in the life, home and church of God's people.

“The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

Westminster Catechism



PROMOTE EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH

This denomination of churches will fail to accomplish her task if people are led to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but are not encouraged to mature in their walk with Christ because conversion is only the beginning of their spiritual journey. Those who do not know Jesus as Savior must be reached for Christ and assimilated into the fellowship of a healthy church environment that is conducive for good spiritual development. Baptism numbers have declined across our nation and Southern Baptists are not even reaching our children with the Gospel. This must change! Collegiate ministry is another critical function of this state convention because thousands of young adults attend educational institutions where a seedbed of unbelief and antagonism toward the Gospel of Christ is present. The concentrated populations of the inner cities must also be reached for Christ. North Carolina Baptists must utilize all available means to sow and cultivate the seeds of the Gospel as we prepare for a great harvest of souls.

*“Southern Baptists are a harvested-oriented denomination
in the midst of an unseeded generation.”*

*Charles S. Kelley, Jr., Th.D., President,
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary*

STRENGTHEN EXISTING CHURCHES



Many older churches are declining and some have died. Henry Blackaby has rightly said, “Discover where God is working and join with Him.” Spiritually healthy churches will discover new life when they launch contextually relevant ministries and challenge their members to live in daily worship and communion with God. North Carolina Baptists must embrace new ministry concepts and share what is learned with others. Local churches and Baptist Associations can help other congregations through the establishment of networks and affinity based ministries. Refreshing and exciting ways of accomplishing the task of Acts 1:8 missions can be initiated and sustained by existing congregations when they cooperate with others in church planting, saturation evangelism, partnership missions and disaster relief.

“Our goal is to point the way back to healthy church life by calling attention to the timeless Biblical priorities, principles, and methods that God has ordained for the maturity of the local church - God’s work, God’s way.”

*Mark Dever, Senior Pastor
Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.*



PLANT NEW MULTIPLICATION CHURCHES

The state of North Carolina is exploding in population growth and vast ethnic diversity. Although there is still a monumental need and wonderful opportunities for existing Baptist churches to grow, many newcomers to North Carolina from other countries and other states will never be reached by some of our existing congregations because of language and cultural barriers. Some people possess preferred styles of worship while others want to find groups of Christians who have similar interests such as cowboys and motorcycle enthusiasts. Healthy New Testament churches must ensure that their ministry DNA includes the intention and goal to start other new churches somewhere. This is the same method used by missionaries in other countries to reach unreached people groups. It is natural for churches to give birth to new congregations and celebrate what God will do through that new unit. The financial resources required to plant new churches come from existing congregations. Most new churches reach and baptize more lost people and experience growth faster than existing congregations. It is not about competition between churches, but it is all about the growth and expansion of God's Kingdom.

“How did Christianity change from a faith spread primarily through church planting to a faith in which church planting became an unusual practice? As the church became established, it began to protect its establishment. Existing churches began to see a church plant as a competitor.”

*Ed Stetzer, Ph.D., Director of Research
LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN*

INCREASE WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



The staff of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina must reflect the ethnic diversity of the state of North Carolina. More than 180 languages are now spoken within the boundaries of North Carolina, and abundant opportunities exist for Christians to teach English as a Second Language (ESL). This ministry and others like it will open avenues for new relationships and evangelism. Many internationals are very religious, but they do not possess a living faith relationship with Jesus Christ – the only way to God. We must be good stewards of the opportunities for ministry around us because God is bringing the world to our doorstep. The face of North Carolina is much different than it was twenty five years ago and it will never return to that former appearance. Years ago, someone helped each of us learn how to develop new friends and what it meant to be a responsible person in our community. Someone we trusted cared enough to help us discover a personal relationship with Jesus. Are you willing to do the same with others?

“And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings.”

Acts 17:26

ESCALATE TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS & UPGRADE THE WEB SITE



The Information Services team of the BSCNC has been renamed the Information Technology/Information Systems team. The Web site for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will no longer be our only means of communication with North Carolina Baptists and all other publics. Convention staff is creatively utilizing new technologies as they seek to both connect and communicate with associations, churches, and individuals to resource one and all with tools necessary to communicate the Gospel. To assist in these endeavors, the BSCNC website has undergone an entire revision and re-launch based on accurate statistics and precise strategies designed to reach new audiences with the Gospel of Christ as well as strengthen and equip local churches as they obey the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. The internet will become a primary way for communicating with people as it is already for many of those in a younger generation.

“Web technology now enables us to reach people for Christ in ways not conceived just five years ago.”

*K. Allan Blume, Senior Pastor
Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Boone NC*



RECLAIM THE
**YOUNGER
GENERATION**
OF CHURCH LEADERS

Most “revolutionaries” in church life do not recognize the need to network beyond affinity groups that are much smaller than the SBC. These church leaders are intellectually astute, highly motivated and suspicious of most people over 50 years of age. They take advantage of living in the information age and believe most resources are available via the Internet. They receive most of their information about Baptist life by reading Internet blogs of pastors and others who spend hours writing for cyberspace audiences. Familiar with the methodologies of other churches, many regard much of the North Carolina Baptist religious system as archaic and meaningless. Waiting for a slow process to yield results is almost unthinkable. A new generation of Baptists is coming of age, and the BSCNC must learn from church leaders who are young, effective, enthusiastic and greatly devoted to Christ. They can help bridge the generation gap and work toward a renewed vision of collaboration and vitality among the churches of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Connecting with this generation of church leaders is critical for our future existence as a vital convention of Baptist churches.

“Are we a denomination of Pauls and Timothy’s or are we becoming more generationally fractured to the point where there is decreasing cooperation in reaching people for Christ?”

*Thom S. Rainer, Ph.D., President & CEO
LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN*





North Carolina Baptists
Caring. Sharing. Daring.

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