

**SECTION II**

**ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM**

**Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania/South Jersey**

**November 2-3, 2017**

**CONVENTION OFFICERS**

**2016-2017**

President..... Dr. Kevin Roberts  
First Vice President.....Rev.George Tynes  
Assistant Recording Secretary ..... Ms. Antoinette Buie  
Historian.....Dr. Fred Boehlke  
Parliamentarian .....Mr. Jeff Slagle

**PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

Jerry Cowan ..... Central Region  
Tim Dedman ..... Central Region  
Don Foose ..... Central Region  
Jake Pressley ..... Philadelphia Region

THE BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK

**ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**2017**  
KINGDOM LIVING  
MATTHEW 6:33

November 2-3, 2017 · Wyndham Garden · York, PA

2017 Annual Meeting Program

# WELCOME

I'm so glad you're here. Welcome to York, PA! Every year we gather at this time to celebrate and encourage one another as fellow Southern Baptists in Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. This year, 2017, marks our 47<sup>th</sup> year gathering as a convention and network family. Personally, this is my first Annual Meeting as I'm starting my journey as your new Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist Resource Network. I've already learned and gleaned much in my first nine months in serving as your Executive Director. I am so blessed by this call and the confidence entrusted to me by our Executive Board. I am also humbled at being allowed to serve and lead in this capacity.

My hope for you during this gathering is that you will hear, understand, and be encouraged by the journey we will be embarking on in the years to come. My greatest desire is that we will be a Kingdom family of believers who are committed to serving together in fulfillment of the commission that comes from our King, Jesus. That is why we are focusing on "Kingdom Living" and Matthew 6:33 during our time together over the next two days. My hope is that we will always be a network of churches that first and foremost filter what we do through the lens of what our Lord Jesus Christ challenged us to become. I awake every day with the reality that the Gospel needs to be delivered to over 14 million people within Pennsylvania and New Jersey who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Now is our time to respond and do together what our King asked us to do!

Every session at our gathering is designed to unpack the strategic initiative that will unfold in the years to come. As the new leader of our organization I will lead the BRN in seeing our churches become healthy churches that reproduce and multiply disciples, leaders, ministries, and new churches in order to impact the lostness of people who live within the bounds of our geographic context. The BRN's task moving forward will be to assist and encourage our churches to practice the foundational biblical behaviors that you will hear about in our time together at this gathering. As we leave this meeting, please know that everything we will do within the BRN will move to champion these behaviors amongst our churches. I've learned from years of ministerial experience that practicing healthy behaviors ALWAYS produces healthy results. It's time for us to encourage and champion getting as healthy as we can for the cause of getting the Gospel to all people within our two states.

Thank you for taking the time and spending the resources it takes to attend this gathering. We at the BRN look forward to serving you and your church to help build a very strong network of churches, which will be committed to reaching people with the Gospel, making new disciples, developing leaders, and expanding His Kingdom through new ministries and churches. I look forward to working together with you so that we can "make Jesus famous" throughout all of PA and SJ.

Your Missionary to PA/SJ,



Dr. Barry E. Whitworth  
Executive Director-Treasurer

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **Childcare**

Childcare is in the **Duke of Somerset room** and will be offered at the following times:

- Breakouts – drop off at 9:50 a.m.; pick up by 12 noon (before lunch)
- Afternoon General Session – drop off at 1:20 p.m.; pick up by 4 p.m. (before dinner)
- Evening General Session – drop off at 6:15 p.m.; pick up by 8 p.m. (before the reception)
- Friday Morning General Session – drop off at 8:50 a.m.; pick up by 11:30 a.m.

## **Displays**

Lobby and hallway areas with registration.

## **General Sessions**

Ballroom of the Roses

## **LifeWay Bookstore**

First Capital Room

Cathy Underwood, manager of LifeWay Christian Resources in Harrisburg, PA and LifeWay representative for the BRN, set-up a LifeWay bookstore for your convenience. We certainly hope you'll stop in to meet Cathy and do some shopping while you're here.

## **WorldCrafts** – unique gifts that make a difference

Executive Board Room

WorldCrafts, a division of Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), develops fair-trade businesses among impoverished people around the world, with the aim to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life. Currently, WorldCrafts partners with numerous artisan groups in thirty countries. When you shop WorldCrafts, you not only receive beautiful and unique products you won't find anywhere else, you also contribute to the Kingdom ministry of reaching the world with the Gospel. Don't miss this opportunity. Do your Christmas shopping in our WorldCrafts store today!

# THURSDAY

## NOVEMBER 2, 2017

**8:30 a.m. .... Registration Opens**

**10 a.m. .... Pre-conference Breakout**

Descriptions and locations on page 8. Leader information on pages 10-13.

**11 a.m. .... Pre-conference Breakout**

Descriptions and locations on page 8. Leader information on pages 10-13.

**12 noon .... Lunch on your own**

See page 23 for off-site restaurant suggestions.

**1:30 p.m. .... General Session**

Ballroom of the Roses

**5 p.m. .... Dinner on your own**

WMU Annual Meeting & Dinner in the Crystal Ballroom\*

General Buffet Dinner in the York/Elizabeth/Tudor Room\*

See page 23 for off-site restaurant suggestions.

\*pre-purchased ticket needed for entry

**6:30 p.m. .... General Session**

Ballroom of the Roses

**8 p.m. .... Fellowship Time**

Crystal Ballroom

**FRIDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 2017**

**8:30 a.m.....Registration Opens**

**9:00 a.m.....General Session**  
Ballroom of the Roses

**11:30 a.m. ....Dismissal and lunch on your own**  
See page 23 for off-site restaurant suggestions.

# BREAKOUT DESCRIPTIONS

## **Church & Spiritual Health Assessment Tools**

Rev. David Ludwig

*Thursday/10-10:50 a.m./The Susquehanna Room*

When was the last time you had a spiritual check-up? We take our cars to inspections to make sure they are safe to drive; we go to the doctor to make sure our health is in the safe zone; and in the same way we periodically need a check-up of our spiritual health. The Baptist Resource Network has created a new tool to measure your individual spiritual health, and another to help you examine the health of your church as it relates to key biblical behaviors that are found in healthy churches. You will learn the specifics of these tools during the breakout.

## **What's Your S.H.A.P.E.?**

Mrs. Beth Whitworth

*Thursday/10-10:50 a.m./Executive Board Room*

(This breakout is for women only.)

Ladies come and identify the five ways you are shaped for ministry.

## **Intentional Discipleship**

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez

*Thursday/11-11:50 a.m./Executive Board Room*

Intentional Discipleship happens when an *Intentional Leader*, in a *Relational Environment*, with *Biblical Foundations*, in a *Reproducible Process* and with an *Aligned Team*, will produce Disciples. The goal is to establish them in the *Word of God*, in the *Fellowship of Believers*, in the *Local Church* and in the *Ministry of Christ*. This will result in *Healthy, Growing and Multiplying Disciples and Churches*.

## **Evangelism**

Mr. Thomas Toone

*Thursday/11-11:50 a.m./The Susquehanna Room*

“God conversations,” “sharing the Gospel,” “talking about Jesus.” Call it whatever you want. The real question remains: Is evangelism at your church R.I.P. (Resting in Peace) or is it R.I.P. (Relational, Intentional, and Prayerful)? This session will share simple, effective ways to promote a culture of evangelism at your church. The emphasis will be on how to get church members to step out of their comfort zones, get on their knees in prayer, and to intentionally walk with the lost. We do not need more “events” or “programs” to share the Gospel. We need all our church members to foster genuine relationships with the lost that lead to Gospel conversations!

# BREAKOUT LEADERS, GUESTS & SPEAKERS

## **Dr. Mark Croston**



Mark holds a doctor of ministry degree from Virginia Union University in Richmond, with a concentration in Christian education in the African American church. Croston has worked as LifeWay's national director of Black Church Partnerships since November 2013.

Prior to taking the position he was pastor of East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, VA for 26 years and former president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia [2011]. It is this pastoral experience that leads Mark to see the value of his LifeWay position.

## **Rev. David Ludwig**

David loves his God and loves his family. He is a husband, father, and grandfather. He is the Associate Director of Healthy Churches, and has served with the state Convention in different capacities since 2003, as a consultant, and now on staff since September 2013. David has served churches in Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and South Jersey. He is passionate about relational discipleship and seeing the church be healthy and reaching the lost for Jesus.



Along with his knowledge of Natural Church Development (NCD), David is certified by LifeWay as a Transformational Church Consultant and has assisted churches across our Convention with church health assessments.

## **Mr. and Mrs. Matt and Erin Malone**

Matt became a born-again believer during his freshman year at Va Tech. Upon graduation he entered the U.S. Navy as an officer and served for six years. He then entered seminary at Columbia International University in SC where he received a Master's in Teaching English as a Foreign Language and worked in SC as an English teacher in a ministry to internationals.

Erin graduated from Messiah College with an Elementary Education degree then spent one year in TX learning intensive Spanish. She transferred to Caracas, Venezuela to teach first-graders and after three years was accepted into the Masters in International Studies program at Columbia International University in SC, where she met Matt.



Matt and Erin worked together at the English school for internationals in SC for one year. At the end of that year, they were accepted by the IMB to serve as missionaries in Thailand and they also started their family. They now have seven children.

For the past 15 years Matt and Erin have served Thailand in evangelism/church-planting/teaching roles in rural areas and in the capital city. They currently serve in Bangkok as church-planters with the “City Team” in which English teaching is used as a means of sharing the Gospel with Thais and in encouraging them to join our church-plant.



### **Rev. Buff McNickle**

Buff married Cissy in 2007; they have three children. Buff and Cissy have always told the Lord that “YES” was always on the table for whatever He would call them to follow Him in doing. After five years on staff at Idlewild Baptist Church in Lutz, FL, it wasn’t a surprise for them to be willing to be the pioneers of church planting for the church. The McNickle family moved to the Jersey Shore in July 2013.



Life change happens when you leave everything to follow Jesus, and that is what motivates them to bring the good news to the Jersey Shore. In a state that is less than three percent evangelical and has a population of almost nine million, the fields are truly ripe for the harvest.

### **Mr. Greg Murphree**

Greg Murphree serves as Executive Director of Send Network of the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Prior to working at NAMB Greg served in various church-planting roles in the Baptist Convention of New York for over eight years. He has also served as pastor and in other staff member roles of churches.

Greg’s wife, Debby, and their four children, have served alongside him in ministry and on the mission field.



## **Dr. Frank Page**



Dr. Page has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee since October 1, 2010. In his current role he oversees the convention work of 46,000 plus churches and over 16 million members.

Dr. Page is married to the former Dayle Gibson. They have three beautiful daughters and are also blessed to have four grandsons and one granddaughter.

Follow Dr. Page on [Facebook](#) (Frank S. Page) and [Twitter](#) (@frankpagesbc).

## **Rev. Samuel Rodriguez**

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez was born in Honduras where he gave his life to the Lord as his personal Savior at an early age. He then dedicated his life to the ministry at age 17. Samuel studied theology, ministry and journalism in Honduras, specializing in evangelism strategies, leadership training, and church planting.

He was president of the Baptist Convention of Honduras and the Association of Evangelical Pastors of Tegucigalpa. He started and was the Director of the School for Church Planters, whose participants planted more than 100 new traditional churches and house churches between 1999-2004. Samuel has visited 24 countries on three continents, where he has served as an evangelist and trainer for church planters and evangelists.

Samuel is currently serving with NAMB and the BRN as a Church Planting Catalyst in South Jersey. Sixteen new churches are currently being planted.



Samuel has been married to his wife Dilcia for almost 32 years. They have three children and currently live in Vineland, New Jersey.

## **Dr. Kevin Roberts**

Kevin began his academic journey at Clearwater Christian College. Many years later he finished his course of study with the Southern Baptist Church Study Program in which he earned the degrees of a Bachelor of Arts in 2014, a Master's Degree in 2015. After 2014 and 2015 he went on to complete his Doctorate with the Open Bible Institute in 2010. Kevin attributes the ease of his academic journey to the training and mentoring that he received from his father, the late Rev. William J. Roberts.



Kevin has a heart to see communities impacted for the Kingdom. He has served as the pastor of the Community Baptist Church in Charleroi since December 2003. He has worked with his church family to think and labor outside the box when it comes to reaching folks for Jesus. During his time at Charleroi he has been a part of Southern Baptist life serving on the executive board for the BRN as well as holding a position on the leadership team in the Southwestern Pa Baptist Association. Kevin has also served two terms as the Convention First Vice President and is the current Convention President.

### **Mr. Thomas Toone**

Tom is a sinful man whose life has been transformed by the blood of Jesus. He is also a husband to Debbie (35 years), father of four, cancer survivor, retired school principal, counselor, and teacher, Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Hospital and Disaster Relief Chaplain, passionate evangelist, and a forlorn Philadelphia Eagles fan.



### **Dr. Barry Whitworth**

Barry has served in ministry for almost 30 years. He's been an associate pastor, pastor, and church planter. Before his calling as Executive Director of the BRN this past February, he was a church planting missionary and served as the Director of Multiplying Churches for PA/SJ.



In May Barry received an honorary doctorate degree from Davis College. The Doctor of Divinity degree is conferred on individuals who have distinguished themselves in Christian ministry and leadership. Barry's life and service in ministry exemplifies the college's mission of impacting the world for Jesus Christ. Barry was specifically chosen because of his dedication and leadership with the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, resulting in many churches planted. Davis College concurs with Barry's vision for the local church and encouraging of local congregations, something the college is also passionate about.

**Mrs. Beth Whitworth**

Beth is the wife of Barry, our Executive Director of the BRN. Married for 39 years, they are the parents of two grown daughters, two sons-in-love and six grand-children. Having been a PK as a youth and in ministry for almost 30 years, she is passionate about caring for the wives and family of ministers, and has served for 13 years in this ministry in PA/SJ. She is also a prayer warrior who believes constant communication with the Father is vital for the disciple of Jesus Christ.



# KINGDOM LIVING

“BUT SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD, AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS;  
AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU.” MATTHEW 6:33



**Session One – Thursday Afternoon, November 2, 2017, 1:30 pm**

Dr. Kevin Roberts, Presiding

Ballroom of the Roses

Worship

Welcome & Prayer.....Rev. George Tynes

Call to Order ..... Dr. Kevin Roberts

Credentials and Enrollment Report.....Rev. Sam Wells

Program and Arrangements Report ..... Rev. Jerry Cowan

*All motions and new business must be presented to the Recording Secretary in writing  
before the Thursday evening session.*

Election of Officers

Executive Board Report with 2018 budget..... Rev. Brian Harrison, Rev. John Weathersby

Presentation of Executive Board Certificates

Nominating Committee Report..... Rev. John Toone

Committee on Committees Report..... Rev. Jim Herbert

Charge and Prayer for 2018 Officers

Worship

President’s Address: Leadership Development ..... Dr. Kevin Roberts

A Leadership Development Story

Recognition of BRN Consultants & Retirees

Worship

Closing Prayer.....Pastor Philip Pham

**Session Two – Thursday Evening, November 2, 2017, 6:30 pm**

Dr. Kevin Roberts, Presiding

Ballroom of the Roses

Worship

Welcome & Prayer.....Pastor Jim Quoss

An Intentional Discipleship Story

Executive Director's Report: Intentional Discipleship .....Dr. Barry Whitworth

Worship

New Workers

Closing Prayer.....Rev. Peter Yanes

*~ Please join us for a time of fellowship in the Crystal Ballroom ~*

**Session Three – Friday Morning, November 3, 2017, 9:00 am**  
Dr. Kevin Roberts, Presiding

Ballroom of the Roses

Worship

Welcome & Prayer..... Rev. Jim Herbert

What our SBC Partners & Family are Doing

Video Greetings from Dr. Kevin Ezell, North American Mission Board (NAMB)

Report from NAMB.....Rev. Ken Cordray & Mr. Greg Murphree

Great Movements Begin with Prayer

Report from IMB Missionaries .....Mrs. Nancy Patrick & Matt and Erin Malone

Report from LifeWay.....Rev. Robert Turner & Dr. Mark Croston

Video Greetings from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Greetings from our Partners (agencies, trustees, guests)

Video Greetings from Mrs. Sandy Wisdom-Martin, Woman's Missionary Union (WMU)

Report from the Executive Committee ..... Dr. Frank Page

Prayer ..... Dr. Jerry Dixon

Convention Sermon: Missional Engagement.....Rev. Buff McNickle

A Missional Engagement Story

Worship

Closing Prayer..... Rev. Samuel Rodriguez

## **Program Participants**

Rev. Ken Cordray, Pastor, Living Faith Community Church, Coraopolis, PA  
Rev. Jerry Cowan, Pastor, Valley Baptist Church, Middletown, PA  
Dr. Mark Croston, National Director, Black Church Partnerships, LifeWay Christian Resources  
Dr. Jerry Dixon, Prayer Coordinator, Hanover, PA  
Rev. Brian Harrison, Pastor, East Shore Baptist Church, Harrisburg, PA  
Rev. Jim Herbert, Pastor, Emmanuel Christian Fellowship, York, PA  
Mr. and Mrs. Matt and Erin Malone, International Mission Board  
Rev. Buff McNickle, Pastor, Grace Falls Church, Absecon, NJ  
Mr. Greg Murphree, Send Network Executive Director, North American Mission Board  
Dr. Frank Page, President and Chief Executive Officer, Executive Committee, Nashville, TN  
Mrs. Nancy Patrick, Layperson, Living Legacy Church, Hershey, PA  
Pastor Philip Pham, Pastor, Vietnamese Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA  
Pastor Jim Quoss, Pastor, Freedom Biker Church, York, PA  
Dr. Kevin Roberts, Pastor, Community Baptist Church at Charleroi, Charleroi, PA  
Rev. Samuel Rodriguez  
Rev. John Toone, Associate Pastor, East Shore Baptist Church, Harrisburg, PA  
Rev. Robert Turner, Director of Collegiate Ministries, North American Mission Board  
Rev. George Tynes, Pastor, Truth Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA  
Rev. John Weathersby, Pastor, Transcend Church, Harrisburg, PA  
Rev. Sam Wells, Pastor, Crosspoint Baptist Church, Souderton, PA  
Dr. Barry Whitworth, Executive Director-Treasurer, Baptist Resource Network,  
Harrisburg, PA  
Rev. Peter Yanes, Church Planting Catalyst, North American Mission Board



## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

Session One – Thursday Afternoon, November 2, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Kevin Roberts, Presiding

Ballroom of the Roses

Kingdom Living, Matthew 6:33

Opening session Praise and Worship was lifted by the Lifepoint Church Worship Team. Rev. George Tynes extended the welcome to all the messengers and guests. He followed the welcome address with an opening prayer. President Dr. Kevin Roberts called the 2017 BRN Annual Meeting to order.

Rev. George Tynes gave the Credentials and Enrollment Report. Rev. Tynes moved that messengers and guests be seated as well as those messengers and guests subsequently registered.

Rev. Jerry Cowan gave the Program and Arrangements Report and moved the program be approved as printed. He reminded those in attendance all motions and new business must be presented to the Recording Secretary in writing before the Thursday evening session and as appropriate, will be included in the Friday morning business meeting. Rev. Cowan moved that we approve the 2018 Annual Meeting scheduled to be held November 1-2 in York, Pennsylvania. A specific location will be announced later. The motion carried.

Election of Officers for Convention President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President was conducted by Rev. George Tynes and Dr. Kevin Roberts.

In his comments to the congregation representing the Executive Board, Rev. Brian Harrison spoke about the Board's values to serve not just church planters but to serve all pastors and churches. The BRN PA/SJ branding tagline has been changed to read "Healthy Churches Start Here." The BRN strategic objective will be based on the three areas of "Missional Engagement," "Intentional Discipleship" and "Leadership Development."

You will hear these terms over and over and over again until you will be able to recite them in your sleep. During Barry's message you will hear more about advancing, engaging and developing. He will go into depth about what healthy churches look like and how these objectives will strengthen our churches, leaders and members.

Rev. John Weathersby covered the Executive Board Financial Report. He directed the congregation to the Program Booklet pages 19 and 20. He drew attention to Item #3, the Cooperative Program. PA/SJ giving increased 2.31% over the previous fiscal year. Annie Armstrong Easter Offering had a tremendous increase of 21%! Lottie Moon Christmas Offering increased 1.7%. Numbers are boring, but this is a celebration! He shared with the congregation outcomes like these are the reason he is a Southern Baptist. He told his church members look at the impact they had without selling baked goods or a piece of furniture. The 2018 Proposed Budget anticipated income is \$2.9 million, and the anticipated expenses are \$2.9 million. Every dollar will be used to build healthy church plants, pastors and churches that will do Kingdom Building. Cooperative Program giving will increase even more. John said, "great things are to come!" He asked for a motion to approve the 2018 Proposed Budget and the increased giving.

President Roberts made the motion to accept the Budget as presented. The motion carried.

Then Rev. Brian Harrison and Dr. Barry Whitworth made Executive Board certificate presentations. Each Board member serves a three-year term. Brian extended his thanks to the awardees for their faithful service. Barry stated that he didn't have the words to express his deepest appreciation and how much it meant to him to have this Board during the first nine months of his tenure. The awardees are Pastor Robert Fontell, Mr. Richard Goforth, Mr. Donald Lowery, Rev. Darius Nable and Mrs. April Betner. They were greeted with resounding applause.

John Toone was called to the stage to give the Nominating Committee Report. He directed our attention to the Program Booklet page 22. Executive Board, Constitution & By-Laws Committee and Convention Officers for 2018 are the slated positions with terms expiring in 2020. John moved the Report be accepted as written. The President took the vote. The motion carried.

Rev. Jim Herbert followed with the Committee-on-Committees Report. He welcomed the Convention to York PA and directed our attention to the Program Booklet page 21. He moved the Report be accepted as written. The President took the vote. The motion carried.

Deacon Mike Haskins from Ezekiel Baptist Church issued the charge to the 2018 elected officers and lifted a prayer on their behalf. He charged the officers to (1) Stand courageously on God's Word; (2) Function as good stewards over BRN resources entrusted to them; and (3) Implement and execute plans approved by BRN PA/SJ. The congregation interceded in prayer and then applauded.

Lifepoint Church led the congregation in another Praise and Worship segment.

Dr. Kevin Roberts' message on "Leadership Development" was taken from text 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also." He asked that the congregation join hands and pray corporately that we might have the right frame of heart. He posed the question, "who are you pouring into?" He shared that his father was his pastor, mentor and teacher. He bragged on his father who could read scripture in Greek and recite it in English! Dr. Roberts' father did not tell him that he was teaching and training him. He taught him by how he lived. And he does not remember everything that his father, Sunday School teachers and professors taught him. But he learned from his father to be faithful to your calling or ministry no matter the circumstances. He was taught that if he ever got into trouble, go the Word of God. As Paul trained and developed Timothy, church leaders must identify, bring along side and training future leaders. Invest your time in someone's life. Dr. Roberts said that if it's in the Word of God, then we must do it! We cannot deny God. Churches today spend too much time with traditions and programs. He witnessed the ill effects of church traditions wear his father down. We are not here to maintain traditions. The church is here to do more! Follow the examples of Jesus, Paul and others who followed Christ in the Bible. We must learn as Paul taught Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2 to seek and identify the faithful, commit to pouring into them and stay the course. We must commit to learning and repeating it! Invest in others. Because we are not going to be here

forever. Dr. Roberts said that we must tell the story that Jesus WINS! And we are destined for greatness! However, we are not going to get there by doing it the old way.

Following Dr. Roberts' message, a video on Leadership Development featuring Dr. Larry Anderson, Dr. Kyle Canty and Pastor Hal Hopkins was shown. Anderson, Canty and Hopkins then shared their personal feelings and comments on their experience. Pastor Hopkins then lifted a heartfelt prayer over Dr. Anderson and Dr. Canty. Dr. Canty continued in prayer for the BRN churches to teach, train and make disciples.

Dr. Barry Whitworth, Rev. Cliff Jenkins, Dr. Larry Anderson and Dr. Pam Smith took the stage to recognize and award the BRN PA/SJ Missional Living and Healthy Churches consultants. Dr. Barry Whitworth asked for applause for the Senior Leadership Team on stage and asked each member of the team to share some comments. Dr. Pam Smith stated that God inhabits those behaviors of missional engagement, intentional discipleship and leadership development. She welcomes the challenge of working with the women, the "sleeping giants" of the church. Rev. Cliff Jenkins was pleased with the upcoming conversation on race moderated by Barry. Dr. Larry Anderson expressed his excitement about serving and strengthening PA/SJ churches to tackle the lost. The awardees were called and asked to stand in front of the stage to receive their awards and the congregation held their applause until all present came forth. Missional Living consultants included Kyle Canty, Kevin Roberts, and Kenton Hunt; Healthy Churches consultants included Robert Fontell, Kim Grueser, Madeline Harris, Randy Johnson, Gerald Mounce; Regional Team Leader in Philadelphia included Hal Hopkins.

Barry then asked Kenton Hunt to remain on stage to give an update on Disaster Relief. PA/SJ has 700 trained volunteers. They were stretched with three hurricanes: Harvey, Irma and Maria. Volunteers were deployed to Texas (shower unit); Cape Coral, Florida (chain saw clean-up and food distribution); Puerto Rico (chain saw clean-up and food distribution). Kenton was astonished by PA/SJ's \$42,000 to Disaster Relief. He was thankful to the Lord for the doors that were opened to minister by the storms.

In the coming days, three volunteers are deploying to Puerto Rico and additional volunteers are deploying to Houston, TX. He asked any volunteers who had recently served to stand. Kenton stated each one had stories to share and he encouraged the congregation to talk with them during the conference. Barry thanked Kenton for his leadership.

In the next segment, two couples retiring from ministry, Gerald and Mary Mounce and Anatoly and Lilia Moshkovsky were asked to come forward to be honored. Barry invited Gerald and Mary, who just retired prior to the meeting, to the stage. The couple faithfully served the Lord throughout PA/SJ for 20 years in many capacities. Barry read the gift plaque, expressed his thanks and offered his congratulations along with messengers and guests. Mary was given a beautiful floral bouquet. Barry prayed for the Mounce's and how they would serve the Lord in the future.

Barry then invited Anatoly and Lilia Moshkovsky to the stage. The Moshkovsky's came to the U.S.A. in 1990 with three children, \$200 and no English-speaking skills. They began their affiliation with BRN in the early 1990s. Anatoly faithfully served the Lord in various roles over the years. The Moshkovsky's will be retiring in 2018. Barry read the gift plaque, expressed his thanks and offered his congratulations along with messengers and guests. Lilia was given a

beautiful floral bouquet. Barry prayed for the Moshkovsky's and the next phase of their service to the Lord.

Both couples were escorted to the conference registration area to be greeted by the congregation.

The final Praise and Worship segment for Session I was led by Lifepoint Church. Pastor Philip Pham lifted a stirring, closing prayer.

Session I adjourned at 4 p.m.

**Session Two – Thursday Evening, November 2, 2017, 6:30 p.m.**

Dr. Kevin Roberts, Presiding

Ballroom of the Roses

Session II opened with a video entitled “At Our Church” featuring the Freedom Biker Church Worship Team. Praise and Worship was led by the Freedom Biker Church Worship Team singing “Lord I Need You.”

Pastor Jim Quoss from Freedom Biker Church welcomed the congregation and lifted a prayer.

Pastor Buff McNickle lifted a stirring prayer followed by Pastor Jay Francoeur's introduction of the video “An Intentional Discipleship Story.” Jay shared his coming-to-faith in Christ, maturing in Christ and becoming a discipler testimony. He encouraged others to start on the road to Intentional Discipleship. Jesus is here. He rose from the dead. Jesus is Lord. He's empowering us to make disciples daily. And Jay thinks the story of on-fire disciple-making is just beginning. That will make a marked difference in Kingdom Building. Pastor Buff's touching prayer concluded this segment.

Pastor Brian Harrison, President of the BRN Executive Board introduced Dr. Barry Whitworth, BRN Executive Director-Treasurer. Brian shared his view of Barry Whitworth the friend, the strategic planner, the church planter, innovator, administrator and leader. When our convention needed an Executive Director, he wasn't really sure if Barry wanted the job, but he wanted Barry to serve in that role because he knew what kind of man he was. He has a single vision to disciple 14.2 million unsaved people in PA/SJ. Brian said, “Nine months in Barry has worked him to death and he hasn't gotten a t-shirt out the deal yet.” (laughter) But he is proud to work alongside and to introduce Barry.

Barry asked Tiffany to remind him to give Brian a Penn State t-shirt. (laughter) Barry prefaced his report by promoting the BRN exhibit where free BRN mugs were available and everyone can

subscribe to the BRNUnited e-letter. He also mentioned the 2018 Refresh Conference giveaway sign-up; registration for 2018 Refresh was available online.

Barry humbly thanked his wife, Beth, children and grandchildren. He also thanked the BRN Team, Tiffany, Andy, Fanny, Elizabeth, Debbie, Mark, Larry, Cliff, Pam, for all their hard work in putting together the Annual Meeting. And he extended his thanks and appreciation to the directors for their service and support.

This evening's meeting is being live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube and the BRN website.

Barry gave a shout-out to Pastor Chuck Kieffer and petitioned God to touch, heal, bless and restore him after his surgery and give his wife, Joy and their family peace, joy and comfort.

Tonight, Barry began his message to the convention by stating it's been a great start to a new journey. He wants to leave us with where BRN PA/SJ is headed and to talk about Intentional Discipleship. He considers himself a missionary to BRN PA/SJ rather than the title he holds. This is his mission field, he loves serving where he's planted, and hopefully he will die in this capacity he has undertaken.

Barry spent a few minutes talking about who he is as a person and what he believes. He sees himself as a conventional Christ follower. By that he means "do what Christ says." He believes the Bible cover to cover. He believes the Word of God is true. And he wants BRN PA/SJ to affirm the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. He believes Matthew 6:33; paraphrasing "Seek His Kingdom first and Christ will build the church." Barry has a Kingdom engine and a Holy Spirit octane. And he loves to put his foot on the pedal and let it burn for Jesus. He's a committed realist. He doesn't believe in hiding things. If change is necessary, simply say so and do it. He loves to empower people. Barry sees himself as a strategic visionary and he believes everybody is important no matter the diversity. He's adventurous by nature and likes to explore. Barry wants to create a wake-up call to BRN churches and their members. Hopefully it will lead to a fire among the BRN PA/SJ convention. We need a fresh wind and a fresh fire. Do we believe that we will stand before Christ? If so, we have to do what Jesus wants us to do. He is King Jesus; King of all Kings and Lord of all Lords. There's no other name above His name.

BRN PA/SJ has the third highest number of lost people in the SBC convention, 14.2 million. It's our time to put a dent in that number. The BRN cannot accept that as the status quo.

Since 2001, the BRN planted 300 new churches and lost 288 churches. That's a net gain of 12 churches. That is unacceptable! Since 2011, baptisms have declined by 26%. Worship service has declined by 25%. Bible Study and Sunday School have declined by 25%. Lostness increases about 2% across PA/SJ; we are declining. We have a discipleship crisis!

We can go the old way or the new way. The Scriptures say in Matthew 9:17, “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out and the skins are ruined. But they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.” Barry stated, “we are not about to put a new strategy into an old system.” That’s a violation of a biblical principle. Burst means split. Barry said that we have got to create a new strategy and a new system. If you don’t create change, change will create “you.” Our mantra moving forward is “ONE TEAM!” We’re committing to do better.

The BRN 2018 Budget was reduced from seven pages to two pages. The operating budget will consist of three categories: (1) Giving, (2) Personnel, (3) Church services and resources. Barry pledged 70.5% of the 2018 budget will be Missions and Servicing Churches. The Executive Board voted to increase Cooperative Program giving by 1.2% in 2018 and 5% within the next five years. Also, the Executive Board voted to tithe on any financial gifts received by our convention. He shared a “secret” with the congregation that during the Friday Morning Session, the BRN will present Dr. Frank Page, President and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, with a check for \$14,500 to Cooperative Program from a recent building sale.

What’s our vision moving forward? We want every church in PA/SJ to be a healthy, multiplying church. Healthy means reproducing. It’s in the Bible. “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” Matthew 28:19. We have been designed to be reproducers. We are going to reproduce new ministries and new churches. Reproduction is a sign of healthy churches. It’s all about healthy churches! Our main goal is healthy churches. Our focus is His Kingdom and Prayer. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33. We’re going to be talking a lot about His Kingdom and prayer. That needs to be our filter in everything we do. So, our strategic approach is to train and assist churches in applying and practicing these Biblical behaviors: (1) Missional Engagement, (2) Intentional Discipleship, (3) Leadership Development.

While working in church planting and multiplying churches, our church planting team studied groups of successful, reproducing and multiplying churches and these three behaviors were common. Churches that reproduce and multiply routinely practice these three biblical behaviors:

- 1) ENGAGE THE LOST; THEY GO AFTER THE LOST/UNSAVED
- 2) INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP; HAVE A DEFINITIVE CONTINUOUS PROCESS TO MAKE DISCIPLES
- 3) LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT; PASTORS ALWAYS HAVE YOUNG MEN TO TRAIN AND TO SEND

It’s not LifeWay, or some other way, this is Jesus’ way. Jesus and his disciples modeled the process in the Bible. Therefore, we must get our churches strong and healthy to practice these behaviors.

We need to work hard on this. We want to encourage your churches to take the Church Spiritual Health Assessment (SHA). We've been teaching church planters these church metrics; Disciples/Missional Engagement; Disciple Makers/Intentional Discipleship; New Ministries & Groups/Disciple Makers, Disciples, Leadership Development.

So, what we've been asking our babies to do we are now asking existing churches to embrace these behaviors.

We have been trained to set up churches and "to do" church, but we have not been trained to practice these Biblical behaviors. So how are we going to get there? We have designed a Spiritual Health Assessment (SHA) to measure churches specifically in the three areas: (1) Missional Engagement, (2) Intentional Discipleship, (3) Leadership Development. It's a simple, homegrown tool. Its only 10 questions that ask your church members if they are growing in these three areas. Please contact BRN regarding the SHA. We would love to present it to you and your members.

What do we envision in five years? Thirty (30) new church plants yearly; thirty new healthy churches yearly; three (3) new multiplying churches yearly; thirty men (church planters) and women (missionaries) TO SEND yearly; 3,000 missionaries SENT yearly; one new community ministry center yearly. Barry asked, "would you be willing to do that?" Then step up and make it happen!

How do we get where we need to go? The heart of our new strategy is "Intentional Discipleship." Follow Jesus. "And He saith to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19. Follow Jesus. He can supernaturally transform us into fishers of men to become His vessels, His tools. A disciple is simply a follower of Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul said "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" 1 Cor 11:1. When following a disciple who follows Christ then you learn, and you know how to disciple. A disciple is not a church member. A disciple is not a pew sitter.

Barry challenged church leaders. "Do you have a plan to make disciples? Does it work?" "Do you have a plan to mature disciples? Does it work?" Intentional Discipleship is not a class, not a Bible study, not an option. Ask God in prayer are you willing to make the necessary changes to make and to mature disciples? Are you willing to create a culture of discipleship?

True disciples of Jesus practice five things. (1) Jesus first, Mark 8:34, Matthew 6:33; (2) I follow, John 8:31; (3) I bear fruit, John 15:18; (4) I'm fond of others, John 13:34; (5) fervor and passion, Acts 1:8.

14.2 million lost people in PA/SJ and five (5) people dying without Christ in PA/SJ every minute is unacceptable! The BRN wants every church in our convention, present tonight or not, to become healthy. We know personally and spiritually that being healthy works! Unite our hearts in prayer and pray that we (the BRN PA/SJ) become healthier than ever.

Do you want to make Jesus famous? THEN LET'S GO MAKE DISCIPLES!!

Following Dr. Barry Whitworth's profound message, the Freedom Biker Worship Team led the congregation in worship and singing. Barry asked new lead pastors and new church planters and their wives to stand and follow Tiffany and Beth to the Crystal Ballroom for a reception in their honor. He said that we're going to "party" as a family and eat like Baptists. Please fellowship with the honorees and get to know them by name.

Pastor Peter Yanes lifted the closing prayer and dismissed the congregation.

**Session Three – Friday Morning, November 3, 2017, 9:00 a.m.**

Dr. Kevin Roberts, Presiding

Ballroom of the Roses

Session III opened at 9 a.m. with a call to worship led by Noel Geniza. The congregation sang, "The Eyes of My Heart" followed by "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus." Jim Herbert extended the welcome and prayed from Acts 1:8.

Dr. Barry Whitworth introduced the Southern Baptist Conference (SBC) Partners Video presentations segment that began with NAMB President, Kevin Ezell. Ezell extended an invitation to the congregation to stop by the NAMB exhibit and also commit to the "Gospel Conversation Challenge" initiative by visiting [GCChallenge.com](http://GCChallenge.com).

Pastor Ken Cordray then introduced Pastor Kevin Marsico, founding pastor of North Star Community Church and NAMB Northeast Region Mobilizer. North Star Community Church (10-year old church plant) has a reputation for training and developing church planters who serve nationally and internationally. Pastor Kevin expressed it was a privilege to speak to the conference. He made a contrast between Acts 1:8 and Acts 8:1. Pastor Kevin stated Jesus' mandate in Acts 1:8 was not acted upon until Acts 8:1. He asked how many years had passed between those two verses. Most historians say about six to eight years had transpired. He challenged the BRN congregation to carry out Acts 1:8 in your own personal Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and ends of the earth by choice and not through persecution. He pointed out the church (Acts 2:42-46) was always meant "to send and to go." Kevin encouraged the BRN congregation to pray for those serving on the mission fields locally, nationally and internationally through [prayforplanters.com](http://prayforplanters.com); to engage and to commit individually and church-wide to the Gospel Conversation Challenge (60 seconds chat). Increased gospel conversations lead to more people coming to Christ.

In closing, Pastor Kevin thanked the BRN for their incredible disaster relief responses. Current world-wide disasters have provided SBC Disaster Relief with the largest platform to spread the gospel! "Let's pray, prepare and go because Jesus asked, not because we have no other option."

NAMB's President, Kevin Ezell, returned via video highlighting a free campaign of consistent collective prayer for church planters through [prayforplanters.com](http://prayforplanters.com). The goal is to have 10,000



churches praying for NAMB church planters and other missionaries. “It doesn’t take any money or require additional resources.”

Barry Whitworth then introduced Dr. Frank Page, President and CEO of SBC in Nashville, TN. Dr. Page thanked Dr. Whitworth for altering the program to accommodate his travel schedule and he enjoyed meeting with church planters at a breakfast meeting. Dr. Page apologized for his early departure and thanked Dr. Whitworth for his leadership at PA/SJ. He gave a humorous biography of himself. Then he graciously stated the SBC building may be located in Nashville, TN but the local churches are the “real headquarters” of the SBC. “The SBC is a top-down convention. The top are the local SBC churches. That’s not just a talking point.” SBC is made up of 50,000 churches and congregations across the continent; 33 major ethnic groups; the most ethnically diverse church convention on the North American continent.

Dr. Page extended thanks to PA/SJ, Dr. Barry Whitworth, his wife, Beth, and President Dr. Kevin Roberts. He recognized PA/SJ for giving over \$1 million dollars to Cooperative Programs, Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon campaigns in 2016. Since 1930, PA/SJ has given over \$6.6 million (\$6,641,600) to the SBC Cooperative Programs. “That’s the power of collaboration.” “Whenever the SBC receives Cooperative Programs designated funds, the monies are released weekly. We don’t hold on to God’s money.” The SBC is excited by what the Lord is doing. SBC ended 2016 with a windfall of \$8 million dollars over budget that went straight to the mission’s field. Dr. Page mentioned the SBC reduced its administrative budget from 3.4% to 2.9%. He stated SBC is the only entity in the entire world asking for less money. He thanked God for the BRN. The BRN is making a difference. He also congratulated PA/SJ for setting an example for SBC churches in church planting and ethnic diversity.

Dr. Whitworth asked Mr. Andy Weber (BRN Director of Finance and Operations) and Rev. Brian Harrison (BRN Executive Board President) to join him and Dr. Page on stage. Dr. Whitworth announced that the Executive Board just voted to increase giving to Cooperative Programs by 1.2% in 2018 and by 5% over the next five years. Dr. Whitworth stated that we (BRN) have been given much and want to be givers. The BRN Executive Board also decided to tithe on any future financial gifts received. To a resounding applause and amens, the BRN presented Dr. Frank Page with a check in the amount of \$14,500 for SBC Cooperative Program as a tithe to a property that was recently sold. Dr. Page warmly accepted the generous gift with a hearty “thank you” and jokingly stated that he’ll let us ship the oversized presentation check because he didn’t want to try to board the plane with it.

Continuing the SBC Partners presentations, Nancy Patrick, IMB Trustee for (BRN) introduced Matt and Erin, missionaries of Bangkok, Thailand, serving 15 years. Nancy indicated her availability to visit local churches to share resources to prepare for IMB mission’s opportunities. She is reachable through the BRN as well as social media. Before Matt took the stage, Nancy also introduced IMB missionaries, Mark and Beth (serving 21 years in Taiwan) and asked if there were other IMB missionaries, currently serving or retired, in the audience. Patrick spoke about the “pray and give” missions initiative. She gave a brief testimony about rebellious spirits. Her testimony is “that you cannot out-give God.” (Malachi 3:10).

Matt is originally from New Jersey and Erin is from the York, PA area. They expressed an affinity and a burden for the NE region. They addressed the assembly on some exciting

developments on the IMB missions field – in 2017, 4,550 new churches planted totaling 87,287 new believers; the Bible was translated and printed in a little-known Eastern Europe language for the first time; the first indigenous church was planted among an unreached Muslim people; Syrian refugees are accepting Christ because of the war; 4 new churches planted 2016-2017 in East Asia (no prior Christian presence). IMB became solvent during 2016-2017 through donations of \$153 million to Lottie Moon and \$98 million to Cooperative Programs. Matt shared pathways for sending are” limitless” ---- students, professionals, church planters and retirees. Matt testified of a 96-year old missionary named Lorena who teaches English in Bangkok. She prefers to take the stairs instead of using an escalator at the English Center. Since, there are 2.8 billion unreached people, each of us can take part in the “limitless pathways” to missions for God. Matt made a humorous comment that it would be nice to start a biker’s church ministry in Bangkok. Visit the website [imb.org](http://imb.org) for more information on missions.

Director of BRN Collegiate Ministries, Rev. Robert Turner, introduced and welcomed Dr. Mark Croston back to the BRN to give the LifeWay Report. Dr. Croston, National Director of Black Church Partnerships – LifeWay, is a native Philadelphian, engineer, former pastor for 26 years and an author of “Big Results: Sunday School and Black Church Life.” More recently, he wrote a chapter in a recent SBC publication on race relations outlining “administrative steps to remove the stain of racism” within SBC.

Dr. Croston reminded us that Christians are charged to make disciples (Matthew 28: 19, 20). If you make disciples, disciples will do missions and evangelism. SBC is struggling to recruit people to do missions and evangelism because we have forgotten how to make disciples. He pointed out, based on the NAMB, IMB and WMU reports we have record numbers of new churches and church members, but less members attending Bible Study and Sunday School. Dr. Croston posed the question who discipled you? And he asked the audience to whisper your discipler’s name to the person seated next to you. He pointed out discipleship doesn’t happen from the pulpit. Discipleship happens through personal relationships and small groups. LifeWay believes that fact is essential to the success of churches. LifeWay believes in investing in this generation and generations to come. LifeWay will be relocating to a new facility still in Nashville within a couple of weeks. In 2017, over 133,000 youth attended LifeWay summer camps. Therefore, LifeWay believes in helping churches to be successful in making disciples for Jesus Christ. Dr. Croston concluded his remarks by affirming his allegiance to the Philadelphia Eagles (mentioned earlier) and handed out a few popular LifeWay books and Bible translations. He concluded his remarks by thanking the BRN for their work in PA/SJ.

Other BRN partners and agencies in attendance with exhibits were invited to greet the conference attendees. Davis College; Cathy Underwood, Manager of LifeWay Christian Resource bookstore in Harrisburg, PA; Shawn Dorrough, Guidestone Representative; Jim Bower, Bower and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance; Midwestern Theological Seminary (Stanley Muldon, Board of Trustee member’s wife, Cindy, read his greeting); Dr. Paige Patterson, Southwestern Theological Seminary via video; other BRN partners and agencies trustees were asked to stand and be recognized.

Dr. Pam Smith invited Kathy and Steve Sheldon to the stage to recognize Kathy for her six years of service as State WMU President. Dr. Smith praised the Sheldon’s for their work unto the Lord as Pastor and First Lady of Wrightsdale Baptist of Peach Bottom, PA. Pam thanked Kathy for her honorable leadership and hard work while serving the WMU. Kathy was presented with

a gift certificate to the Battlefield Bed and Breakfast Inn in Gettysburg, PA with several amenities. Dr. Smith shared Steve Sheldon's amusing remark that he hoped Kathy planned to take him! Following the presentation, Mrs. Sandy Wisdom-Martin, now President of the national Women's Missionary Unit (WMU), extended greetings via video.

Dr. Barry Whitworth returned and addressed the conference on the principles of Missional Engagement, Intentional Discipleship and Leadership Development.

Missional Engagement is defined as God's people (Christ-followers and His Church) taking the good news (gospel) of Jesus Christ to a world that is separated from a relationship with a Holy and Eternal God. Engaging people missionally with the gospel involves the church going out to people rather than just reaching out and/or expecting the people to come to them. Biblical References include Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8.

Intentional Discipleship is developing spiritual maturity within Christ-followers through deliberate learning and accountability in peer-to-peer relationships and/or small groups. Intentional discipleship brings the Bible to life in Christ-followers, and what they learn moves from their heads, to their hands, then to their hearts, as it translates into habits that produce growth (spiritual maturity) in their lives. Further, through intentional discipleship, the disciple becomes a disciple-maker who leads others to become and know how to follow Christ. Biblical References are Matthew 4:19, Matthew 28:20.

Leadership Development is the deliberate and systematic activity by church leaders to purposely influence and develop others to become leaders within the Body of Christ. Every church needs leaders, especially for its future. The Kingdom needs leaders to advance the gospel around the world. Leadership development expands the capacity of individual Christ-followers to assume leadership roles within the Body of Christ, both locally and globally. Biblical References are Ephesians 4:11-12, 2 Timothy 2:2.

Dr. Whitworth ask for congregation participation in providing examples for each principle. Participants who gave examples received a t-shirt.

Leadership Development – Ben Murray talked about targeted efforts to develop laymen. Missional Engagement – two examples were given as well as Barry Whitworth challenging us to engage people during the Halloween season. Intentional Discipleship – one-on-one accountable development of church planters and Pastor K. Marshall Williams, Nazarene Baptist, hosts a 6 a.m. Men's Discipleship Breakfast.

Dr. Whitworth thanked the participants and looks forward to more examples of carrying out these biblical behaviors in the coming year.

Pastor Joe Velarde, Riverbend Church, Allentown PA prayed for BRN efforts to grow and to succeed in these areas of Missional Engagement, Intentional Discipleship and Leadership Development.

Noel Geniza led the congregation in two praise and worship songs, "Majesty" and "Draw Me Closer to You."

Pastor Buff McNickle's message text was taken from Matthew 9: 9, 10, 35 and 36. In the verse, Jesus encountered Matthew, the tax collector and said to him "Follow Me." Matthew got up and followed Him. Pastor Buff expressed he was honored to address the conference and spoke of his very humble beginnings in LA, Alabama. He was the youngest of five boys raised by a single Mom who worked two jobs. He called himself a Momma's boy. All the boys embraced sports. Today, in fact, one of his brother coaches at a Division I school. Saturday morning breakfast was a special time in his family. His mother had a staunch rule that everyone needed to be present. They called it "family check-in." At Saturday morning breakfast, Mom could check on how all her boys were doing.

Pastor Buff viewed the BRN Annual Meeting as a "family check-in" of the Lord's servants. He prayed before delving into his message. Pastor Buff said when you follow Jesus, expect the unexpected. He said that Jesus takes full responsibility for the outcomes. He recounted some of his experiences to places where he never expected to travel. While on a 37-day backpacking trip in Europe with his wife and a group of college students, his wife met women caught up in human trafficking and prostitution. Her experience gave birth to a ministry, "Loves Way Out" which has expanded into four states and five cities. Pastor Buff shared how one of his members has created a ministry to reach women on the street and he goes out with her and others to distribute packets of personal-care items. He encouraged the pastors present to teach your members to see people and not projects. Pastor Buff gave leaders three questions to ask themselves.

#1 – What do people that you lead see in you? Are you on the move?

#2 – What moves you in your community? Where can you help in your community?

#3 – When was the last time you received an invitation from God to join Him?

Pastor Buff issued a challenge to leaders.

#1 – Look for a need around you. Ask God to help you "SEE" the need.

#2 – Say "YES" to the need.

#3 – "TAKE ACTION." "MEET" the need.

#4 – "SHARE" what happened with your congregation. Then challenge them to do the same.

In closing, Pastor Buff prayed to the Lord to break our hearts and show us the need.

Following Pastor McNickle's message, a Missional Engagement video was shown featuring Edgardo Paz.

A story was shared about how Jonathan and Clarice got to know the Lord. Jonathan and Clarice began attending church. They later welcomed the pastor to have a Bible study in their home. This led to them accepting Christ. Then they requested the pastor to marry them. Pastor Bob Conrad lifted the couple in prayer.

Praise and worship were again led by Noel Geniza.

Dr. Whitworth thanked Buff for the message, which was also heard by those joining the conference by simulcast. He stated there are 14.2 million unsaved people just in PA/SJ. He referenced and read 2 Chronicles 9:14. Let's have quiet time followed by a prayer of repentance (God forgive us) and ask Jesus for renewal (God help us).

Pastor Samuel Rodriquez led the congregation in a powerful prayer of forgiveness, thanksgiving and praise to be Jesus' church every day as well as for each to practice daily Missional Engagement, Intentional Discipleship and Leadership Development.

Barry thanked all those who participated in the Annual Meeting. He was blessed by the experience. He reminded the congregation about the church health assessment tool and the evangelism grants. He made a pledge to increase church development resources as the Cooperative Program expands. BRN wants to give more to Cooperative Programs as well as to the churches.

Dr. Whitworth made a few quick announcements before drawing the 2018 Refresh Conference winners. The 2018 Refresh Conference will be held on April 8 & 9. The giveaway winners are John Stenberg from Cedar Avenue Church and Brian Harrison from East Shore Baptist Church. Dr. Whitworth requested feedback from the 2018 Refresh Conference winners. 2017 Refresh was packed and phenomenal! One of the pastor's testified he was so blessed and "refreshed by the experience and expressed a strong desire to return in 2018!" Barry really wanted 2018 Refresh to be packed because it was an awesome conference!

Dr. Barry Whitworth called Dr. Kyle Canty to the stage. He announced Dr. Kyle and Pam Canty will be the NAMB City-Send missionaries in Philadelphia, PA to a thunderous applause. Dr. Canty expressed his gratitude, excitement and passion both he and his wife have about this assignment. NAMB representative stated how significant it is to have a "native son" as well as an African-American to serve in his hometown. However, Dr. Canty was selected because he was the best candidate for the position. Yes, his diversity and "heart for God" are to be celebrated! Barry asked Pastor Hal Hopkins to join them on stage. Dr. Canty's parents were present and acknowledged by applause. Barry asked Dr. Canty's father, who is also in the ministry, to join them on stage and pray for his son and daughter-in-law. Pastor Canty graciously lifted a touching prayer for Kyle and Pam while the congregation stood in agreement by extending their hands. This momentous occasion ended in resounding applause!

Dr. Barry Whitworth officially adjourned the 2017 BRN Annual Meeting without a motion at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sister Antoinette Buie  
BRN 2017 Recording Secretary