

SECTION IV

REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

On behalf of your Executive Board, I want to thank you for the trust, support, and prayers that you have given, as we have served you these past two years. It has been a highly productive time for the BRN and its team despite the deep challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to personally acknowledge our board and the BRN team who have been so willing to pivot, adapt, and help lead during these difficult days. We have had to meet and communicate on so many items these past months, and their commitment to serve the churches of the BRN and bring us together around the Great commission is unwavering and it shows in the work that I will highlight in this report.

At the 2019 annual meeting, we voted on and adopted our new Constitution and By-laws. I can honestly say the decision that we, the BRN messengers, made was so critically important as I look back at all that has transpired due to COVID. It provided us the framework to help accomplish so many things that would have been so challenging under the old system. I want to highlight for you some of the great work that has been accomplished on your behalf these past 2 years.

We have been able to help transition the organization to a new system under the new constitution and bylaws. This includes the implementation of the Executive Board Policies and Procedures which you will see some of those even today.

We have been able to meet and navigate through all the challenges of the Covid Pandemic. We had to cut the budget by 40% due to the loss of some partners' funding or freezing of support. We secured additional funding opportunities through continued operations and were able to create contingency plans if needed. We gave the Executive Board Leadership Team the task of helping lead out in any needed financial changes or challenges that might occur based on the ever-changing state of the world. These decisions helped early on to ensure that the BRN and its team would be there for our churches and their Pastors.

I am proud of the fact that we didn't have to let anyone go from the staff and we were able to help navigate the safety of the team and visitors by making sure we had all the up-to-date appropriate safety protocols.

We worked with NAMB on a new strategic funding partnership for evangelism. This led to affirming a new evangelism strategy for the BRN so that evangelism can accelerate in PA/SJ. We were able to affirm and ensure the incredible work continued with Denominee. We affirmed the new mission statement that came directly from the work with Denominee for the BRN – Accelerating Kingdom Movement. We affirmed a new partnership with Georgia Baptist Mission Board, and we are excited about the future as it relates to that partnership.

I am excited to see new churches affiliating with the BRN and we were able to affirm a new, detailed, and clear process for new church plants and established churches that wish to join the BRN. We made

hard decisions like canceling the annual business session last year but affirming an online mini-conference to encourage and assist BRN churches. We were able to affirm the great work our BRN disaster relief does and the partnerships it has made with the Commonwealth of PA.

We are pleased with our progress in addressing issues like sexual abuse and race relations. We have affirmed the healthy steps the BRN is taking as it relates to sexual abuse prevention in our network. We affirmed the ongoing work the BRN is involved in as it relates to racial injustice and its desire for unity. These are hard issues, and I am glad to be a part of a board and network that doesn't look for the status quo but wants to lead.

We have affirmed the #LovePASJ initiative that we pray accelerates Kingdom movement and decreases that 14 million lost one person at a time. We are presenting a budget today that is focused on more funds for church servicing and resourcing. BRN wants every Pastor and church to know they are here, and they care. They have implemented a new database system that has elevated the team's ability to provide top notch customer service.

Barry Whitworth's leadership has been paramount in so many aspects and we are fortunate to have such a great leader. I have had the privilege these past two years to see him lead the BRN and be a champion for the BRN in so many different arenas. He is both a visionary and strategic leader. The Executive Board has seen how some of the things that Barry implemented early on in his tenure, both vision-focused and strategic-focused, have paved the way for us during these challenging times. His heart for the Kingdom, our region, and every one of its Pastors and wives is always at the forefront for him. He and Beth were constantly looking for ways and challenging his team to check on Pastors, their wives, and their churches. He secured funds and we as a board were able to affirm their plan to bless Pastors and their wives in each of our regions this past summer. They helped provide retreats, counseling, and covering for many Pastors and their families. He knows that healthy pastors lead healthy churches.

Who knew that when I was elected President under this inaugural system it would be so challenging? I sure didn't. But I can look back now and know that we have a rich history as the BRN and it is worthy of our celebration and remembrance, but its future is what I am really excited about! I have been honored to serve as your President and I am happy to be a part of the BRN family. Please know that the Executive Board is committed to refining its processes so it can best support the BRN and the churches it serves. Let's keep doing whatever it takes to reach our region for Christ and stay focused TOGETHER.

Chris (Buff) McNickle
BRN Executive Board President
Pastor, Grace Falls Church, Absecon, NJ

FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

The Finance & Operations Committee presented their report during the Business Session. The report can be viewed on pages 2-3 of the Business Session packet in Section II of the 2021 Annual. The 2022 budget was voted on and accepted by the messengers during the Business Session.