

## SECTION IV

## REPORTS

### EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

God's Not Finished With Us Yet!

"I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:6 (CSB Bible)

To our Executive Director, Dr. Barry Whitworth, Executive Board, messengers, and BRN staff, greetings in the name of our LORD and Savior Jesus. This will be the last time I speak to you as President of the Executive Board. Serving these last two years with many godly and committed servants within the BRN has been an honor. During my tenure, working with Dr. Whitworth, Elizabeth, Andy, Shannon, Lori, Debbie, Dr. Anderson, Kenton, and David Ludwig has enriched my life and my ministry.

On January 1, 1958, our state convention was established in three different locations in Pennsylvania. It was a humble beginning; however, those churches had a mission to glorify God through evangelism and church growth. Today, we have a great cloud of witnesses. God has done remarkable things with our convention. Our convention has gone from three locations with over 300 churches participating in the BRN, but God is not done with us yet!

I am convinced of this because Paul, in writing to the church in Philippi, said in Philippians 1:6, I am sure that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. God didn't intend for this passage to be for the Philippians only but for Christ's entire church, of which we are a part. God has grown our convention for sixty-six years, and Christ is not finished with us yet! Therefore, because God is not finished with us yet, let us be bold in serving.

In Hebrews 4:16, the writer tells the listeners to go "boldly" to the throne of grace. A better reading is let us go to the throne of grace with confidence. Why should we go with confidence? We should have great confidence because one day, our God sent His Son to the earth. God's Son had the fulness of God in Him. God's Son preached the Kingdom, healed the sick, raised the dead, fed five thousand with two fish and five loaves of bread, changed water into wine, outsmarted the religiously wise men of the day, was whipped 40 times, carried his cross, hung between two sinners, cried Father forgive them for they don't know what they're doing, promised a sinner hanging next to him, today you will be

with me in paradise, said to the Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. God's Son bowed his head and died. God's Son was dead Friday afternoon and all Friday night, all day Saturday, and a few hours on Sunday, but early Sunday morning, God's Son got up with all power. Hebrews 2:14 further states, "So that through his death he might destroy the one holding the power of death, that is, the devil."

God's Son snatched power back from Satan, then with great boldness, with great confidence, announced to the disciples, Matthew 28:18-20, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

I end with praise and exultation not only because of what Philippians 1:6 says, I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. But also Jude 1:24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen. There's one more verse that gives me boldness found in Paul's final words to Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:12 "Nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day."

Dr. Whitworth, Shannon, Dr. Anderson, David Ludwig, Andy, Elizabeth, Lori, the rest of the BRN staff, and BRN Messengers, be bold and hold on to God's word! Hold on to Christ's promises! Hold on to what you know to be true because God is not finished with the BRN PA/SJ yet! May God bless and keep you all.

## **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 2024 Annual. The 2025 budget was voted on and accepted by the messengers during the Business Session.