



Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.

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Elder Dr. Joe B. Maddox, President
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To: Regional Vice Presidents and Ministry Leaders, Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.

From: Joe B. Maddox, President

Joe B. Maddox

Subject: Working Objectives for the Convention

Date: June 21, 2017

Brothers and Sisters

The following six objectives represent the proposal from a “Vision Clarification” committee that I appointed in February, 2017. I made very minimal changes to the Committee’s proposal and I fully embrace the objectives. I need you to take a critical look at these objectives and provide feedback to me, in writing, by Friday July 7, 2017. Your feedback is important because meeting these objectives will require teamwork with team members that can fully embrace the work. Should there be objectives with which you disagree, let’s see if we can tweak them so that they can be approached with a clear conscious by each of us. For some of the objectives, it is obvious as to what ministry is to take the lead. For others, it may not be as clear. I believe working toward these objectives will pull us together and bring new life to the Convention.

The six objectives and action items for the Convention are as follows:

1. Objective: Equip Convention members.

Action Items

- a. The Convention will make learning resources and educational opportunities available through gathered venues, online resources, and video/recording means locally, regionally, and state-wide.
- b. The Convention will make qualified teachers available to Convention members to assist local churches in needed growth areas, ministry and organizational development, and other areas as specified and requested.
- c. The Convention will develop through our Congress and Missions staff, a certificated curriculum to promote the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ from the members of our pews.
- d. The Convention will target the curriculum toward equipping individuals to evangelize the lost as they go about their daily activities.

- e. The Convention will identify and employ the expertise that is resident in our local affiliated churches as a partner to this process.
- f. The Convention will build all programs on the foundation of “Intentional Missions.”
- g. The Convention will develop a system of timely feedback from our local churches regarding their needs.
- h. The Convention will survey pastors and ministers for the purpose of establishing Congress classes that they are willing to support and attend through their church memberships.

2. Objective: Reclaim the pastors and churches that **used** to be a part of our Convention.

Action Items

Reclamation of those pastors and churches that were, at one time, a part of our Convention should be a top priority.

- a. Regional Presidents and Vice Presidents (under Regional Presidents’ directives) will identify inactive churches by gathering names of inactive churches through each local District Association.
- b. Regional Presidents will assign Regional Vice Presidents to work directly with local Moderators/Districts. Each Regional Vice President will report back to the Regional President as instructed.
- c. Each Moderator/District may use the quarterly Congress as a platform for inviting and encouraging inactive churches to return as active members of the Convention. A question and answer, educational class/seminar, and or lunch and learn period could be made a part of educational courses during each quarterly Congress and any other local gathering.
- d. As reclaiming opportunities are made available, the Regional Presidents, Vice Presidents, and President of the Convention may at times be called upon to provide further assistance in the reclaiming process.
- e. On the state level, reclaiming may be communicated via hard mail, email, social media, and via other technological supports.
- f. Capture, research and archive current/future information gathered as a result of discussions with pastors.
- g. Provide a system of ongoing feedback from these pastors as a conduit of fresh ideas and information.
- h. Follow up with written communications, telephone calls and visits to forge relationships and confidence in achieving the Convention objective of reclamation.

3. Objective: Recruit new pastors and churches to our Convention.

Action Items (Action items listed under objective #2 can also be conducted under objective #3)

- a. Identify all Baptist pastors and churches that have never been a part of our Convention.
- b. Develop a presentation that is intentional in recruitment specifically for them.
- c. Provide a means of feedback as a result of these presentations.
- d. A special committee of **“Older Millennials” (1981-89), “Younger Millennials” (1990-1996) and “Generation Z” (1996-2010)** age pastors that are currently active in the Convention that will develop action plans as to how to recruit other **“Older**

Millennials” (1981-89), “Younger Millennials” (1990-1996) and “Generation Z” (1996-2010) age pastors to become part of the Convention.

Action items from objective #2 can also be used to some degree and may include:

- i. Making class/seminar, lunch and learn and other opportunities available on the local level.
- ii. Providing opportunities for **“Older Millennials” (1981-89), “Younger Millennials” (1990-1996) and “Generation Z” (1996-2010)** age pastors to teach, lecture, and preach.
- iii. Providing opportunities for **“Older Millennials” (1981-89), “Younger Millennials” (1990-1996) and “Generation Z” (1996-2010)** Christians in general to be given roles within the Convention locally, regionally, and state-wide as such opportunities present themselves.

4. Objective: Retain the pastors and churches that are or will become a part of this Convention.

Action Items

- a. Retain pastors and churches by maintaining sound educational, missions, and stewardship programs.
- b. Retain pastors and churches through the ongoing development and maintaining of Christ-centered moral and ethical directives.
- c. Retain pastors and churches by maintaining relevancy as a Christ-centered Convention addressing society and the church where and when needed.
- d. Retain pastors and churches by demonstrating inclusion across demographic lines.
- e. Retain pastors and churches by promoting originality and creativity throughout the Convention.
- f. Retain pastors and churches by developing a schedule that will provide a systematical means of meeting with and listening to pastors.
- g. Retain pastors and churches by identifying issues that are within our Convention that serve as stumbling blocks or hindrances to our Convention.
- h. Retain pastors and churches by developing a strategy for resolution of solvable issues.
- i. Retain pastors and churches by developing strategies to discover and capture from Convention members what the preferable future is for the Convention.

5. Objective: Become a resource for member churches.

Action Items

- a. The Convention will make qualified teachers and a library of resources available to Convention members to assist local churches in needed growth areas, ministry and organizational development, and other areas as specified and requested.
- b. Convention churches will make available local resources and educational information that may support and assist other Convention churches seeking enhanced development in particular areas of church administration, Christian education, proper pulpit practices, and sound biblical preaching.
- c. Identify pastors and churches that have developed great ministries in certain areas that can serve as a resource for other churches.
- d. Partner with those ministries in usable ways that can strengthen the Convention.

- e. Assist other member churches to develop and/or improve their ministries upon request.
- f. Charge appointed leaders to meet with members of their ministries to dialogue and strategize about what your ministry will do to help meet the Objectives of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc.
- g. Identify the necessary budgetary capital needed to implement your strategies and a means of raising needed funds.

6. Objective: Celebrate God's accomplishments

Action Items

- a. Plan a Victory Event for the Convention.
- b. Collect data (new members, baptisms, mission efforts, etc.) from state Associations that can be compiled and translated into a Convention celebration context.
- c. Identify and celebrate pastors and churches that have made impact for the Kingdom of Christ in significant ways.
- d. Highlight and celebrate the significant accomplishments of the young people of our Convention.
- e. Be inclusive geographically (age) when celebrating.
- f. Identify and celebrate measurable milestones that have been met by the Convention (Missions, Congress, and Educational Institution).
- g. Be specific in areas of accomplishment.
- h. Use accomplishment to develop additional things to celebrate.

Vision Narrative

The TBM&E Convention strives toward excellence in providing leadership to its affiliate churches in the teachings of the Great Commission through participatory means. The Convention will be a resource for learning, church development and growth, and carrying out the Great Commission in partnership with Convention churches through sound biblical preaching and teaching. Members of the affiliated churches of the Convention can boldly and confidently take Christ to the world in our everyday walk of life. God is directing the Convention to turn the world upside down through original and creative means of ministry through Christian education and missionary work, cultivating and developing new ideas as we partnership with others.

New leaders are now emerging through our state wide partnerships and the participatory means that are afforded by them. The Convention wants to celebrate God in such a way that it is clear and apparent that we have been with Jesus. We want to report that Churches of the Convention are baptizing new converts in record numbers. As we carry out the espoused vision, the Convention and its affiliate churches will be places where people can love and be loved, know and be known, serve and be served, and celebrate and be celebrated.