

Tar River Baptist Association
194th Annual Spring Meeting

PART

NEERS

IN THE GOSPEL

April 22, 2024

Hosted by Holly Grove Baptist Church

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Agenda	1
Associational Leadership Team Report	2-6
Statement of Faith with Proposed Amendments	7-10
Finance Reports	
Balance Report	11-12
2023 Church Contributions Report	13
2024 First Quarter Church Contributions Report	13
2023 Income & Expense Report	14-16
2024 First Quarter Income & Expense Report	17-18
Acting AMS Report	19-20
Upcoming Events	21-22

Agenda

Recognition of Entity Partners

Call to Order

Hymn

Scripture & Prayer

Organization of the Session

Nathaniel Williams

Recognition of New Pastors

Pastor Appreciation Gifts

Nathaniel Williams

Caleb Gibson

Hymn

Committee Reports

Credentials Report

Finance Report

Irma Boulden

Associational Leadership Team Report

Nathaniel Williams

Acting Associational Missions Strategist Report

Caleb Gibson

Annual Sermon

Ronjour Locke

Adjournment and Benediction

Nathaniel Williams

Hymn

About our Speaker

This year we are honored to welcome Ronjour Locke to deliver our annual sermon!

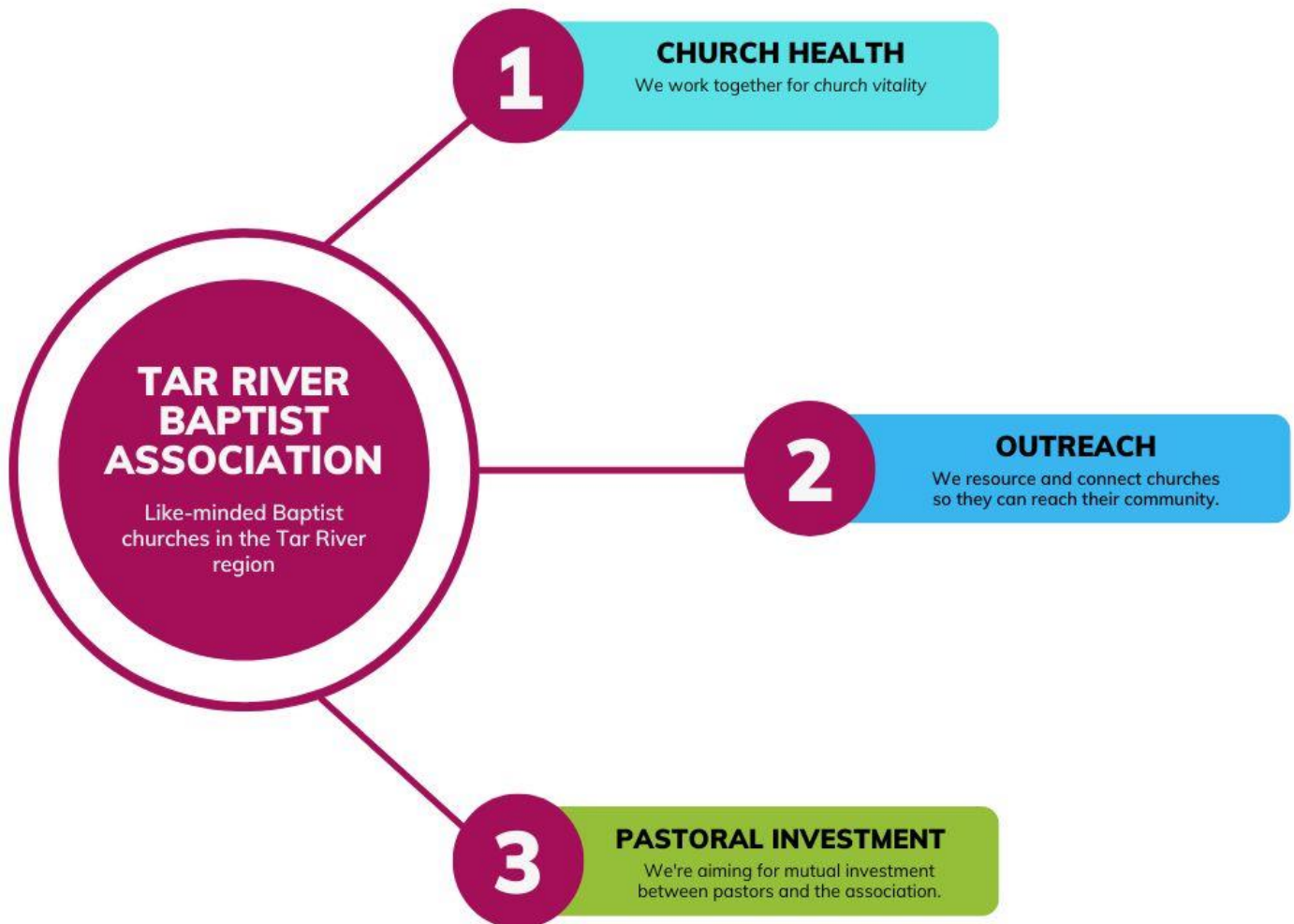
Ronjour Locke serves as lead pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Raleigh. He is professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he has served since 2018. He is a graduate of Washington Bible College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is happily married to Annie, and they have four children.

Associational Leadership Team Report & Recommended Plan

The Association selected a Team (the ALT) to propose a plan on how to restructure the Association to meet the changing needs of our member churches. The following is a summary of how the Team believes God is leading the Tar River Baptist Association to serve his Kingdom:

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE.

Tar River Baptist Association is an association of like-minded Baptist churches in the Tar River region who will cooperate to pursue the spiritual vitality of churches and pastors for the sake of reaching the community for Jesus. The TRBA will focus on three priorities to support to God's church to fulfill her mission: **Church Health, Outreach, and Pastoral Investment.**



WHY DO WE ASSOCIATE?

Jesus established his church and gave us a mission. When God's people make Jesus preeminent and cooperate with one another to fulfill His plan, God uses his people mightily.

We associate first because we are united by *shared convictions* and a *common mission*.

- We unite around the newly updated statement of faith, allowing it to be our guardrails for cooperation.
- We unite around a shared mission, which is reflected in the three priorities we associate around.

We are connected by *geographic proximity*.

- We are at the table together because we serve the same communities in the broader Tar River region.

WHY FOCUS ON CHURCH HEALTH, OUTREACH AND PASTORAL INVESTMENT?

An association can be and do many things. But based on our prayer and Spirit-led conversations with one another and others in the association, we believe we should focus on these three priorities to support the work our member churches are doing.

Here is a summary of the vision of these three areas of focus:

CHURCH HEALTH

We work together for church vitality.

- Our member churches are much like individual people — they often have gifts and skills at which they excel, and they also have areas that can improve. By bringing together areas of strength among those churches that are willing to cooperate, Jesus will be proclaimed and glorified, his Kingdom will be strengthened in the Tar River region.
- We want to help our churches identify their plan for (1) reaching their community and (2) discipling their people.
- We want to see healthy churches characterized by a doctrinal fidelity; kingdom focus; healthy relationships with other churches; and a willingness to cooperate for revitalization and church planting.

OUTREACH

We resource and connect churches so they can reach their community.

- Connecting churches also means connecting resources and ideas — so we can all more effectively proclaim Jesus.
- We believe that the Association should focus on “connecting the dots” between churches and needs, as outreach is a task for local churches. We can also collaborate on mission trips.
- We want to help churches have gospel-focus, community engagement, hospitality, and relevance to their communities.

PASTORAL INVESTMENT

We're aiming for mutual investment between pastors and the association.

- For our churches to be what Jesus has designed them to be, we must cultivate and support church leaders. Ministry leadership is rewarding, but it can be challenging and even overwhelming at times. Bringing pastors together can recharge and inspire them. As pastors and leaders grow, they will bring what they have learned to God's people.
- We want to rekindle and sustain the relationship between the association and pastors.
- **The association invests in the pastors.**
 - This occurs via encouragement, prayer, camaraderie, and support.
 - The association leadership functions like a pastor to pastors.
- **The pastors invest in the association.**
 - No matter what the leadership structure looks like, we want to see pastors have ownership and partnership in the association.
 - Pastors will be liaisons between the churches and the association.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF ASSOCIATING CHURCHES?

- There will be 3 requirements for member churches:
 1. Agree to the Statement of Faith
 2. Give at least annually
 3. Send messengers to one meeting a year
- Churches will be a watchcare member for the first year of membership. Watchcare members will have all benefits of associating except voting during the first year.
- Churches who have been inactive for two years will be brought before the Association for removal.

WHAT ARE OTHER EXPECTATIONS – BUT NOT REQUIREMENTS – TO ASSOCIATE?

- Complete a report each year on the church that will help the association fulfill its mission.
- Cooperate and support other member churches in the Association as the Lord leads.

HOW WILL THE NEW STRUCTURE PROVIDE CLARITY OF RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE CHURCHES FOR THE ASSOCIATIONAL ACTIVITIES?

The following proposed organizational structure intends to provide clarity of responsibilities within the association and accountability to the churches for the associational activities.

The primary recommended change is to move the oversight of the strategic planning, finances, policies and procedures, and overall mission of Tar River Baptist Association to a team of five people, which will be called a Board. The Board will be selected by the member churches, and the Board is accountable to the member churches. The Board will serve as the officers of the corporate part of the Association. The Associational Missions Strategist (AMS) will report directly to and be accountable to the Board. The AMS will be responsible for the day-to-day implementation of the mission of the TRBA.

HOW WILL THE BOARD BE CHOSEN?

The First Board:

It is recommended that at the Fall Meeting 2024, the first Board of the new structure be five members of the current ALT. This will provide continuity as the Board implements the vision that God has laid in their hearts.

Three Year Staggered Terms:

After the initial Board is selected, the Board members will begin rotating off in staggered terms, and new Board members will be elected by the members at the Fall Meeting each year. The first year 1 member would rotate off, 2 the second year, and 2 the third year. The new board members will each serve for three years. Member Churches will provide nominations for the Board to the Board no less than 30 days before the Fall Meeting, and the Member Churches will select the Board members at the Fall Meeting. The terms would begin January 1 after the election.

HOW WILL THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS BE CHOSEN?

The member churches will make nominations to the Board, and the Board will present the committee members to the member churches for affirmation at the Fall Meetings.

HOW WILL THE COMMITTEES WORK WITH THE BOARD AND THE AMS?

The committees will be accountable to the Board and will work under the day-today direction of the AMS.

WHAT IS THE PROPOSED TIMELINE?

At the Spring Meeting 2024, the ALT will present the proposed structure to allow ample time for conversation, communication, and feedback throughout the summer.

The ALT will present the proposed revised documents no later than 60 days before the Fall Meeting to provide ample time for consideration and questions.

At the Fall Meeting 2024, the Member Churches will vote on the on the new structure. This will include the following:

- By-laws
- Statement of Faith
- First Board Members
- Budget for 2025

We humbly welcome your questions and feedback.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathaniel Williams
Vice-Moderator

Tar River Baptist Association Statement of Faith

Proposed Amendments Italicized in Red

In an effort to strengthen relationships among Tar River churches and increase our effectiveness to impact lostness, these generally held beliefs share our common convictions and serve as a basic guide for all who seek understanding about who we are as cooperating churches in the Tar River Baptist Association.

Regarding Confessions of Faith

The sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Confessions are only guides in interpretation, having no authority over the conscience. Confessions are statements of religious convictions, drawn from the Scriptures, and are not to be used to hamper freedom of thought or investigation in other realms of life. Any group of Baptists, large or small, have the inherent right to draw up for themselves and publish to the world a confession of their faith whenever they may think it advisable to do so.

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes and functions, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross, He made provision for the redemption of men from sin.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Tar River Baptist Association Statement of Faith

Proposed Amendments Italicized in Red

Humanity

Humanity is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. In the Garden man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

God's Purpose of Grace

Salvation is the gracious gift and purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. All genuine believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end.

Soul Competency and Priesthood of Believers

Baptists cherish and defend religious liberty, and deny the right of any secular or religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches. We honor the principles of soul competency and the priesthood of believers, affirming together both our liberty in Christ and our accountability to each other under the Word of God.

The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its two scriptural officers are (pastor/bishop/elder), and deacons.

God has uniquely designed and equipped both men and women for service in the Church. In regard to the office of pastor/bishop/elder, the scriptural qualifications limit this office to men only.

Tar River Baptist Association Statement of Faith

Proposed Amendments Italicized in Red

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

Baptism is an ordinance given to the Church by Christ and is therefore a prerequisite for membership within a local church body.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Discipleship, Evangelism & Missions

It is the duty, privilege, and responsibility of every follower of Christ to make disciples of Jesus, strive for Christian maturity, and allow Christ to transform our minds, desires, wills, relationships, and our reason for living. It is also the duty, privilege, and responsibility of every church to foster a culture and environment in which followers of Christ may fulfill this mission.

Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly. The dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. The righteous will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions.

Cooperation

Christ's people should organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations.

The Christian & the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.

Tar River Baptist Association Statement of Faith

Proposed Amendments Italicized in Red

Religious Liberty

Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal.

Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing their lives together, their household and nurturing the next generation. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.

Respectfully Submitted by TRBA Task Force to ALT

Pastor Carlyle Hall, Jr. – Chairperson – Castalia Church

Mr. John Byrd – Duke Memorial Church

Mrs. Carrie Gilliam – NorthStar Church

Pastor Jason Havens – Maple Springs Church

Pastor Melton Tyson – Rock Springs Church

Pastor Earl Roach – Hopkins Chapel Church

Amendments Respectfully Submitted by TRBA ALT

Pastor Charles Haley—Hickory Rock Baptist Church

Pastor Ben McRoy—Faith Baptist Church

Balance Report

Tar River Baptist Association
Consolidated – March 2024

ASSETS		Current Year
BANK ACCOUNTS		
CHECKING ACCOUNTS		
	Premier Business Checking	\$40,212.89
SAVINGS ACCOUNTS		
	Premium Money Market	\$63,843.80
FIXED ASSETS		
LAND		
	Lot ¹	\$30,530.00
BUILDINGS		
	Office Building ¹	\$584,230.00
EQUIPMENT		
	Office Equipment ²	\$15,000.00
	Office Furniture	\$5,000.00
Subtotal Equipment		\$20,000.00
Subtotal Fixed Assets		\$634,760.00
TOTAL ASSETS		\$738,816.69
LIABILITIES		
PASS THRU CONTRIBUTIONS		
	Patsy Cook	\$1,800.00
Subtotal Current Liabilities		\$1,800.00
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
	Copier Lease	\$9,244.33
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$11,044.33
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED		
	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$692,894.19
DONOR RESTRICTED		
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED		
	Baptists on Mission ³	\$1,682.20
	CFM (Toy) Ministry ⁴	\$7,578.24
	Puerto Rico Partnership ⁵	\$8,533.53
	Rebuilding Hope Partnership ⁶	\$3,000.00
	Hispanic Ministry ⁷	\$9,530.41
	Food Ministry ⁸	\$2,728.79
	TRBA Restructure ⁹	\$925.00
	Replenish Grant ¹⁰	\$900.00
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted		\$34,878.17
TOTAL EQUITY	(Total Assets minus Total Liabilities)	\$727,772.36
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	(Total Equity plus Total Liabilities)	\$738,816.69

Balance Report

1. Lot and Office Building – This amount reflects the tax value, not the market value.
2. Office Equipment – This amount includes the copier under lease.
3. Baptists on Mission – This serves as a general fund for Baptists on Mission (formerly Baptist Men) Ministries pursued through TRBA.
4. CFM (Toy) Ministry – These funds were originally collected and designated for use in TRBA’s annual Toy Store Ministry.
5. Puerto Rico Partnership – At the 2017 Fall Meeting, the association voted to enter a partnership through the North American Mission Board following the destruction caused by Hurricane Irma. At the 2018 Spring Meeting, the initial plans for the partnership were described and churches were encouraged to give to the partnership through the TRBA Missions Offering and/or VBS Offerings. These monies were collected through those means, but the plans for the partnership were put on hold indefinitely when Matthew Bowden left the association. This partnership has been renewed, and a vision trip is planned for August 17-23.
6. Rebuilding Hope – This money came through a grant from the Baptist State Convention in 2018-2019. The grant was intended to develop a handy-man ministry in partnership with Rebuilding Hope, an organization in Henderson, NC, but was not interrupted by COVID. Recent efforts have been made to renew this partnership and work is ongoing on that front.
7. Hispanic Ministry – This money was earmarked in previous years to assist churches with Hispanic ministries. These funds are available for churches to request as grants for the creation and execution of Spanish-language ministries.
8. Food Ministry – Most of this money came from the Baptist State Convention and is currently being used as clearing account for churches who are still participating in “shops” at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. FBCENC bills the association, and the association invoices the church for refund of the payment made to the food bank.
9. TRBA Restructure – This money came from the Baptist State Convention through a grant for assistance and support of the restructure process. This money was received in April 2022 and has been used for various purposes associated with the restructure process.
10. Replenish Grant – This money came from the Baptist State Convention through a grant for scholarships to assist pastors and their families in attending the Replenish Retreats hosted by the NC Baptist Church Revitalization Team.

2023 Church Contributions Report

January – December 2023

Envelope Number	Church Contributions
1	\$4,548.39
2	\$5,700.00
4	\$4,887.25
5	\$1,100.00
6	\$1,250.00
7	\$3,550.38
10	\$4,500.00
11	\$3,560.21
13	\$1,651.20
14	\$8,062.86
16	\$750.00
17	\$400.00
18	\$182.85
19	\$750.00
20	\$8,925.00

Envelope Number	Church Contributions
23	\$2,250.00
24	\$1,930.00
25	\$500.00
27	\$650.00
28	\$2,000.18
29	\$4,000.00
31	\$600.00
32	\$3,000.00
33	\$5,000.00
34	\$2,000.00
35	\$1,000.00
36	\$2,106.00
37	\$4,754.00
38	\$3,799.68
39	\$800.00

Envelope Number	Church Contributions
41	\$2,295.15
42	\$2,000.00
43	\$821.29
44	\$250.00
45	\$300.00
46	\$2,310.00
47	\$2,400.00
49	\$250.00
52	\$2,250.00
51	\$720.00
55	\$639.48
56	\$1,000.00
57	\$758.31

Total Church Contributions January – December 2023	\$100,202.23
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2024 Church Contributions Report

January – March 2024

Envelope Number	Church Contributions
1	\$1,048.20
2	\$1,425.00
4	\$1,745.22
5	\$1,000.00
6	
7	\$886.20
10	\$1,125.00
11	\$809.07
13	\$250.02
14	
16	
17	
18	
19	\$187.50
20	\$1,725.00

Envelope Number	Church Contributions
23	\$562.50
24	\$400.00
25	\$100.00
27	
28	\$389.50
29	
30	\$600.00
31	
32	\$1,500.00
33	\$1,500.00
34	
35	
36	\$356.00
37	\$999.00
38	\$817.96

Envelope Number	Church Contributions
39	
41	\$100.00
42	\$500.00
43	\$187.40
44	
45	\$75.00
46	\$385.00
47	\$600.00
49	\$62.50
50	\$1,500.00
52	
51	\$120.00
55	\$233.32
56	\$1,000.00
57	

Total Church Contributions January – March 2024	\$22,189.39
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Income & Expense Report

January – December 2023

	Current Period	Annual Budget
INCOME		
CONTRIBUTED INCOME		
UNRESTRICTED		
Church Contributions	\$102,202.23	
Individual Contributions	\$200.00	
Baptist State Convention	\$4,359.62	
Youth Activities	\$3,315.00	
Background Checks	\$48.25	
Church Mutual Refunds	\$102.00	
<i>Subtotal Unrestricted</i>	<i>\$110,227.10</i>	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED		
CFM (Toy) Ministry	\$2,474.75	
Food Ministry	\$2,412.23	
<i>Subtotal Temporarily Restricted</i>	<i>\$4,886.98</i>	
SUBTOTAL INCOME	\$115,114.08	
INTEREST INCOME		
Banking Interest	\$97.14	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME		
Miscellaneous Income	\$7,092.34	
TOTAL INCOME	\$122,303.56	
EXPENSES	Current Period	Annual Budget
FIXED EXPENSES		
MINISTRY EXPENSES		
ASSOCIATIONAL PRIORITIES		
CHURCH HEALTH		
<i>Youth Activities</i>	<i>\$4,183.49</i>	
OUTREACH		
PASTORAL INVESTMENT		
SUBTOTAL ASSOCIATIONAL PRIORITIES	\$4,183.49	
STAFF AND EMPLOYER EXPENSES		
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS		
DOM Salary	\$16,999.98	\$34,000.00
DOM Housing	\$11,220.00	\$22,440.00
DOM Annuity	\$4,100.22	\$8,200.00
DOM Health Insurance	\$2,731.62	\$5,500.00
DOM Dental Insurance	\$417.38	\$1,000.00
DOM Life Insurance	\$754.48	\$1,840.00
DOM Disability	\$223.40	\$315.00
<i>Subtotal Director of Missions</i>	<i>\$36,447.08</i>	<i>\$73,295.00</i>

Income & Expense Report

January – December 2023

SUPPORT STAFF		
CCM Director (Acting AMS)	\$15,990.72	\$15,990.75
Ministry Assistant/Bookkeeper	\$10,633.84	\$18,229.46
Financial Assistant	\$4,568.15	
<i>Subtotal Support Staff</i>	<i>\$31,192.71</i>	<i>\$34,220.21</i>
TOTAL STAFF AND SALARIES	\$67,639.79	\$107,515.21
BENEFITS		
CCM (Acting AMS) Annuity	\$600.00	\$600.00
Ministry Assistant/Bookkeeper Annuity	\$300.00	\$600.00
Staff Christmas Bonus	\$250.00	\$750.00
EMPLOYER EXPENSES		
Payroll Taxes	\$2,356.87	\$2,850.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$306.00	\$600.00
DOM Conferences/Seminars	\$449.14	\$1,400.00
Office Hospitality	\$134.11	\$350.00
Staff Mileage	\$75.22	\$900.00
DOM Cell Phone	\$591.08	\$1,400.00
Staff Conferences		\$300.00
TOTAL BENEFITS AND EMPLOYER EXPENSES	\$5,062.42	\$9,750.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	Current Period	Annual Budget
DOM Travel	\$5,822.66	\$5,500.00
DOM Hospitality	\$1,059.54	\$1,250.00
Office Supplies (Payroll Service Provider)	\$3,615.42	\$3,000.00
Postage	\$60.00	\$100.00
Comprehensive Insurance	\$3,532.50	\$6,000.00
Phone/Internet	\$1,895.64	\$1,900.00
LEASED EQUIPMENT		
Copier Lease	\$2,744.45	\$4,000.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS		
UTILITIES		
Electricity	\$3,762.45	\$5,100.00
Water & Sewer	\$958.07	\$950.00
Gas	\$1,483.04	\$2,000.00
Waste	\$1,443.71	\$1,200.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE		
Janitorial Supplies		
Kitchen Supplies	\$21.30	\$50.00
Pest Control	\$818.00	\$800.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$516.03	\$750.00
Maintenance Equipment		\$150.00
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
Lawn Service	\$1,904.00	\$1,656.00

Income & Expense Report

January – December 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$29,636.81	\$34,406.00
SUBTOTAL FIXED EXPENSES	\$106,522.51	\$151,671.21
MINISTRIES		
CHURCH HEALTH/LEADERSHIP		
Leadership Development	\$100.00	\$1,250.00
CCM MINISTRY		
CCM Ministry	\$132.81	\$250.00
<i>Subtotal Ministries</i>	<i>\$232.81</i>	<i>\$1,500.00</i>
OTHER EXPENSES		
CONVENTIONS AND SEMINARS		
Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,541.24	\$1,000.00
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED EXPENSES		
CFM (Toy) Ministry Expenses	\$17,560.75	
Food Ministry Expenses	\$2,141.80	
TRBA Restructure Expense	\$3,025.00	
<i>Subtotal Other/Temporarily Restricted Expenses</i>	<i>\$24,268.79</i>	<i>\$1,000.00</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$131,024.11	\$154,171.21

Income & Expense Report

January – March 2024

	Current Period	Annual Budget
INCOME		
CONTRIBUTED INCOME		
UNRESTRICTED		
Church Contributions	\$22,189.39	
Youth Activities	\$3,920.00	
Sales Tax Refund	\$402.01	
<i>Subtotal Unrestricted</i>	<i>\$26,511.40</i>	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED		
CFM (Toy) Ministry	\$331.49	
Food Ministry	\$430.94	
<i>Subtotal Temporarily Restricted</i>	<i>\$762.43</i>	
SUBTOTAL INCOME	\$27,273.83	
INTEREST INCOME		
Banking Interest	\$23.80	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME		
Patsy Cook Annuity	\$2,400.00	
Baptist State Convention (NCMO)	\$4,675.25	
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,372.88	
EXPENSES	Current Period	Annual Budget
FIXED EXPENSES		
MINISTRY EXPENSES		
ASSOCIATIONAL PRIORITIES		
CHURCH HEALTH		\$10,000.00
<i>Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$105.00</i>	
<i>Youth Activities</i>	<i>\$4,183.49</i>	
OUTREACH		\$10,000.00
<i>Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$18.65</i>	
PASTORAL INVESTMENT		\$10,000.00
<i>Ministry Expenses</i>	<i>\$230.69</i>	
SUBTOTAL ASSOCIATIONAL PRIORITIES	\$4,769.63	\$30,000.00
STAFF AND EMPLOYER EXPENSES		
ACTING ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS STRATEGIST		
Acting AMS Salary	\$5,000.01	\$20,000.00
Acting AMS Annuity	\$150.00	\$600.00
<i>Total Acting AMS Expenses</i>	<i>\$5,150.01</i>	<i>\$20,600.00</i>
SUPPORT STAFF		
Financial Assistant	\$1,499.63	\$6,000.00
<i>Total Support Staff Expenses</i>	<i>\$1,499.63</i>	<i>\$6,000.00</i>

Income & Expense Report

January – March 2024

EMPLOYER EXPENSES		
Payroll Taxes	\$382.50	\$1,530.00
Workers Compensation Insurance	\$0.00	\$600.00
AMS Travel/Hospitality	\$1,173.84	\$6,750.00
<i>Subtotal Employer Expenses</i>	<i>\$1,556.34</i>	<i>\$8,880.00</i>
TOTAL STAFF AND EMPLOYER EXPENSES	\$8,205.98	\$35,480.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	Current Period	Annual Budget
Office Supplies	\$158.05	\$3,250.00
Postage		\$100.00
Office Miscellaneous		\$2,500.00
Comprehensive Insurance		\$6,500.00
Phone/Internet	\$473.91	\$1,900.00
LEASED EQUIPMENT		
Copier Lease		\$4,000.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS UTILITIES		
Electricity	\$589.87	\$5,100.00
Water & Sewer	\$159.82	\$1,000.00
Gas	\$703.21	\$2,350.00
Waste	\$394.60	
BUILDING MAINTENANCE		
Janitorial Supplies		
Pest Control	\$460.00	\$500.00
Repairs/Maintenance	\$865.12	\$1,500.00
GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		
Lawn Service	\$414.00	\$1,656.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$4,218.58	\$30,356.00
SUBTOTAL FIXED EXPENSES	\$17,194.19	\$95,836.00
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED EXPENSES		
CFM (Toy) Ministry Expenses	\$375.00	
Puerto Rico Partnership	\$228.88	
Food Ministry Expenses	\$430.94	
<i>Subtotal Temporarily Restricted Expenses</i>	<i>\$1,034.82</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,229.01	\$95,836.00

Acting Associational Missions Strategist Report

Tar River Baptists, let me first say that it is a joy and a privilege to serve you and to serve with you. Thank you for affording and entrusting to me a front row seat to see and to celebrate what God is doing in and through you and the churches that you serve.

In the days and weeks after our Fall Meeting in October of last year, several of you congratulated me and our team on a good meeting. And I agreed; I felt that the meeting had gone well, I was pleased by the content of the reports and the spirit of the discussions, and proud of the work this team had done. But I also tried to say in each of those conversations that it was really too early or too soon to tell how the meeting had gone. The real measure of the Fall meeting would be the progress – or lack of progress – to be reported in the Spring Meeting. Well, the Spring Meeting is here, and I am pleased to report to you that we had a very good Fall Meeting.

In the Fall Meeting, we provided you with a lot of financial documents. We've done our best to follow up on each of those documents in the book of reports. Our Financial Assistant, Irma Boulden, has done an excellent job in preparing those. I want to highlight a few things that excite me about the reports in your hands. In 2023, Unrestricted Giving was \$110,227.10, while Fixed Expenses came in at \$106,522.51 and Budgeted Expenses came in at \$102,187.16. Given where we were at the midpoint of the year, that's pretty incredible, and speaks to the generosity of your churches! Though Total Expenses did outpace Total Income in 2023, those two numbers can be a little bit misleading. When we reviewed the balance sheet in the Summer of 2023, we discovered restricted money that had not been spent for its stated purpose. After conversation with donors, we also discovered that one restriction on a large amount of that money had been that it be spent within a year of its receipt. The donors agreed to allow us to spend that money in 2023, as long as it was spent within its stated purposes. You see that reflected on the balance sheet, as restricted funds are down from \$48,732.11 in September of 2023 to \$34,878.17 in March of 2024. Over that same time, our bank accounts are actually up from \$101,594.26 to \$104,056.69, and unrestricted funds are up from \$40,995.95 to \$58,134.19. **What do all of those number actually mean?** In short, even though we're now spending the restricted money that's been sitting in the bank, we still have more money in the bank and much more unrestricted money than we did just 6 months ago.

In the Fall Meeting, we also made several promises with regard to our Ministry Priorities of Church Health, Outreach, and Pastoral Investment. I want to briefly update you on each of those.

Church Health

Next month, on May 7th, Faith Baptist Church in Youngsville will be hosting the North Carolina Baptists Reconstruct Conference. Reconstruct Conference is for healthy churches who want to help struggling churches get healthy. After the conference, Terry Long, our state's Church Health and Revitalization Strategist, will be coming to our association to help us develop a pathway for churches to help churches back to health.

Acting Associational Missions Strategist Report

Outreach

We shared in the Fall that funds had accumulated over several years for the CFM or Toy Ministry. After conversation with donors, we learned that those funds had been restricted to be used within a year of their receipt. Those donors agreed to allow us to spend those funds for Christmas 2023. Thanks to their generosity and to yours, we were able to assist 11 churches in serving 274 children and 121 families across Nash and Franklin Counties. We were also able to ensure that every child in foster care in Nash and Franklin Counties received gifts from their foster families.

In the Fall, we also informed you that funds had been collected but never expended for the establishment of a partnership with the North American Mission Board in the US Territory of Puerto Rico. Since the Fall Meeting, we have reengaged that partnership and a vision team from churches across TRBA will be traveling to San Juan in August of this year to establish local church partnerships.

Pastoral Investment

In the Fall, we told you that we want to invest in pastors. We believe that healthy pastors lead healthy churches. We have launched a cohort with Dr. Sandy Marks from our Baptist State Convention, helping pastors to better frame their mission and vision as they lead their churches. Our first cohort of seven pastors is about to finish and we hope to launch at least two more cohorts in the near future. We are also actively exploring opportunities for our bivocational pastors and youth pastors and hope to have further announcements on those fronts in the Fall.

We also recognize the need to facilitate fellowship times for pastors, church staff, their spouses and families. Next month, on May 25th, Flat Rock Baptist Church in Louisburg will be hosting a Pastor/Staff & Spouse Dinner. We'll provide a meal and childcare free of charge for pastors, ministry staff, and their spouses to come, eat, unwind, and get to know one another better.

Churches, I hope that you hear and have heard this evening that we take seriously the task in front of us. I hope that you hear that we take seriously the promises that we make, and that we will make every effort possible to keep our promises to you in a timely manner.

Once again, I want to thank you for the joy and privilege of serving you and serving with you. It is incredible to see how God is working in and through Tar River Baptists, and I thank you for allowing me to see and to celebrate that with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Caleb Gibson

Acting Associational Missions Strategist

Upcoming Events

NC Baptist Reconstruct Conference



The Reconstruct Conference is for healthy churches, associations and networks looking for strategic ways to help struggling churches in their area. You will learn from North Carolina churches and associations leading the way in revitalization processes like church fostering, adoption and replanting. Bring a team from your church and be a part of how God is bringing dying churches back to life.

If your church wants to help other churches back to health and you are interested in attending this conference and being a part of future discussions with Dr. Terry Long, email Caleb Gibson at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com to register.

TRBA Pastor/Staff & Spouse Dinner

Calling all Tar River Baptist Association Pastors, Ministry Staff, and Spouses! We want to serve and celebrate you!

Tar River Baptist Association and Flat Rock Baptist Church will be partnering to host a dinner for TRBA pastors, ministry staff, and their families on Saturday, May 25th from 5-7 PM at Almost Home Wee Care in Louisburg. Everything is free, but registration is required. Scan the QR code for registration and directions.

We hope that this time will provide opportunities for you to meet other local pastors, church staff, and spouses, to enjoy great food, and to foster friendship and fellowship toward greater pastor health and greater kingdom increase.

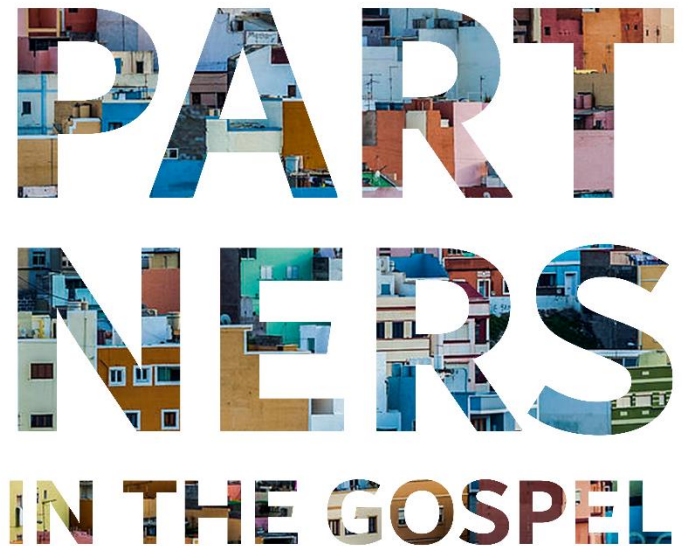


Upcoming Events

Puerto Rico Vision Trip

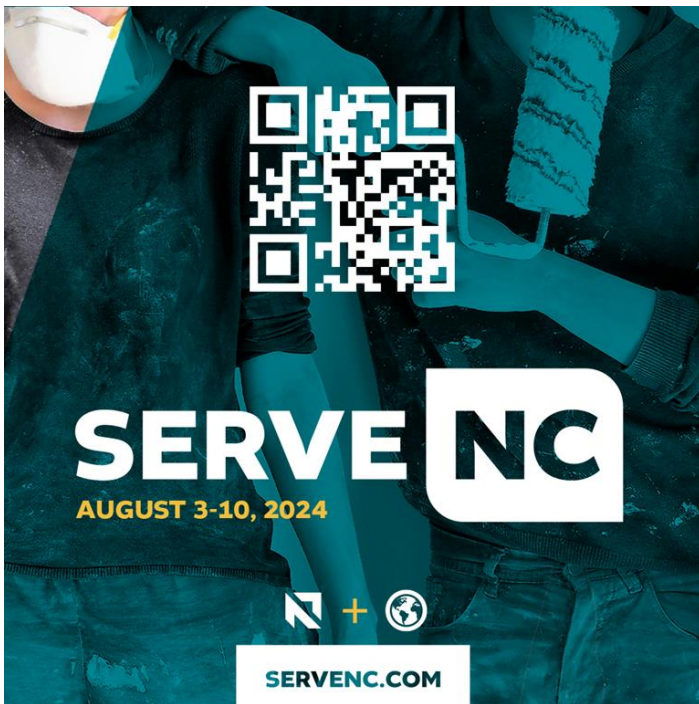
A team from TRBA will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico from August 17th-23rd to serve at the NAMB Send Relief Ministry Center. The team will mainly help to repair and rebuild homes and churches, and may also help to prepare for hurricane season. Team members may also aid in outreach through prayer-walking and food distribution.

There are a limited number of team member slots still available. The total cost of the trip, with airfare, lodging, and food, is \$1000/person. TRBA will offer 50% (\$500) off the cost of up to two members of any TRBA church, as space allows. \$250 is due at reservation, and the remaining \$250 is due by June 1. For more information or to begin the reservation process, contact Caleb Gibson by phone at 252-382-4393 or by email at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com. Additional scholarships may be available upon request.



Additional information or to begin the reservation process, contact Caleb Gibson by phone at 252-382-4393 or by email at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com. Additional scholarships may be available upon request.

Serve NC this Summer



Whether it's painting a school, cleaning up a yard, serving meals to those in need or building a wheelchair ramp, ServeNC is an opportunity for every NC Baptist church to love its community in Jesus' name through service projects. NC Baptists and Baptists on Mission are challenging every church to commit to one week of being on mission together and displaying the gospel to those in need, August 3-10, 2024. Pick a day and a project in your community, and let's ServeNC together!

If you need help identifying needs in your community, reach out to Caleb Gibson today at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com.