

The Alliance of Baptists is dedicated to the preservation of historic Baptist principles, freedoms, and traditions, and to the expression of our ministry and mission through cooperative relationships with other Baptist bodies and the larger Christian community.

A statement on Palestinian-Israeli Relations adopted by members attending the Alliance's annual meeting calls for recognition of a viable Palestinian state alongside Israel and an end to Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

The statement was adopted at the annual meeting April 6, held in conjunction with the 16th Annual Convocation, April 5-7 at Wake Forest Baptist Church and Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The statement also calls for a shared Jerusalem as a symbol of reconciliation among Christians, Muslims and Jews; supports a negotiated end to violence between Palestinians and Israelis; advocates international observers as a means of discouraging further violence; and urges leaders of the United States to do all in their power to prepare the road for a just and durable peace.

Leading the effort to draft the statement were members of the Alliance's Peace and Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committees, and

2002 Convocation and Annual Meeting Statement supports a Palestinian state

Alliance member Ken Schested, president of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

"The Peace and Justice and Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committees joined together to draft the statement with the help of others because the intensity of the crisis in the Middle East seems



Among those who drafted the statement on Palestinian-Israeli Relations were Cathy Tamsberg, left, chair of the Alliance's Peace and Justice Committee from Raleigh, N.C.; Tim Dean of Charlotte, N.C.; Sylvia Campbell of Alexandria, Va.; and Willard Bass of Winston-Salem, N.C.

to warrant our thoughtful and prayerful response," said Cathy Tamsberg, chair of the Peace and Justice Committee. "Although the statement includes our conclusions about how this complex situation might be resolved in a just way, an essential component of the statement is the action to which we have committed ourselves—prayer, education, advocacy, and peacemaking."

The Alliance also adopted statements on Cuba and Zimbabwe

and heard a draft of a statement on Muslim-Christian Relations. This statement renounces stereotyping and calls for dialogue with the Islamic community. It was presented for information only, and will be fine-tuned for presentation at the next annual meeting.

All four statements are posted in full at www.allianceofbaptists.org.

Meeting prior to the Convocation, the Alliance board approved a recommendation that a search begin for funding to hire a professional consultant who could lead the board in a revisioning process that would include a study of the organizational structure of the Alliance.

The board also appropriated \$5,000 to the Baptist Theological Seminary of Liberia to help purchase its campus from the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The funds came from a special undesignated gift to the Alliance.

COVENANT ADDRESS:

The only thing that kept the April 5-7 Convocation from being perfect was Alan Neely's absence. Alan was scheduled to deliver the Covenant Address this year, but because of health issues, he was unable to be present. We still got the benefit of Alan's insights, however, thanks to Mahan Siler, who presented Alan's address for him. The entire text of the address is available on the website, www.allianceofbaptists.org.



Myersons Park Baptist Church in Charlotte recently filled two key ministry positions. **Sheila D. Ennis** joined the staff as Minister of Education to oversee the adult educational program and manage the team of ministers, educators, staff and volunteers responsible for the elementary and youth education programs. **Robin P. Coira** fills a newly created position of Executive Minister to be in charge of the administration of the church.

happenings

A Charlotte native, Ennis graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a Master of Arts in English and Post Secondary Education from Appalachian State University in Boone. She spent more than 10 years as Director of Religious Education at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville.

Coira is also a Charlotte native. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and earned a Master of Divinity with Religious Education from Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest. Coira has an interesting mix of ministerial and administrative work experience. She has been the Associate Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Ridgewood,



One of the dozen workshops offered at the Alliance Convocation was “The Church and Dechurching: Tending our own Wounded,” led by Mary Hammond of Oberlin, Ohio. The workshop focused on those who have left the church and/or the Christian faith due to being wounded in the church.

The Transformational Energy of Servant Leadership

As a result of the 2002 Convocation focus on Servant Leadership, Kathy and Bill Murray of Eagle Alliance Executive Coaching wish to make available their article on that topic, “Power to Empower, The Transformational Energy of Servant Leadership.” To receive the article, email them at bmurray@eaglealliance.com. They also offer churches a workshop on servant leadership, focused on leading groups effectively. Their web site is www.eaglealliance.com. At that site, you will find a “Church Leadership Development” page.

New Jersey and has worked in managerial positions for political campaigns.

Myersons Park Baptist Church, founded in 1943, is a member of the American Baptist Churches USA, American Baptist Churches of the South and The Alliance of Baptists.

Dick Chorley, Minister of Christian Education at Watts Street Baptist Church in Durham, N.C., has announced his intention to retire on June 2. He has served the church for nearly 23 years.

Board member **Tim Dean** was ordained to the ministry by Myersons Park Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., on April 21. Associate Director Jeanette Holt represented the Alliance at the ordination service. Tim is a graduate of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Tex.

Alliance member **Paul Lane** has accepted a call as pastor for First Baptist Church of Radford, Va. Previously he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Graham, N.C.



The Alliance of Baptists

1328 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Executive Director: Stan Haste
Associate Director: Jeanette Holt
(202) 745-7609
Fax: (202) 745-0023
AllianceofBaptists@cs.com
www.AllianceofBaptists.org

Newsletter Editor:
Sue Harper Poss
P.O. Box 25461
Greenville, SC 29616
(864) 848-3346
Fax: (864) 848-5258
SuePoss@charter.net

SPIRITUALITY INSTITUTE NAMED FOR HINSON, TO BE HELD AT FURMAN

The inaugural E. Glenn Hinson Spiritual Formation Institute will be held June 10-15 at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. Hinson, a longtime professor and student of spirituality, will be present throughout the week for dialogue with participants. Two of Hinson’s former students will be the lead faculty: Loyd Allen, professor of Church History and Spiritual Formation at McAfee School of Theology in Atlanta ; and Karen Smith, professor at the University of Cardiff, Wales, and pastor of a Baptist congregation there. The institute is sponsored by the Advent Spirituality Center in Mars Hill, N.C. The Alliance, through its 2002 Mission Offering, is giving \$3,000 to fund seminary student participation in the institute.



At the outset let me say how honored I am that you have entrusted me with the responsibility of being the Alliance's president for the next year. Lawyers don't usually get this much respect. Thank you for your confidence. It is my hope that I can offer helpful leadership as we enter our 16th year together. Later in this article I want to offer a few of my thoughts as we look to the future of the Alliance. But first I need to say some words of appreciation.

A special thanks to Paula Clayton Dempsey for her leadership as president over these past two years. Paula has superbly built on the solid foundation which so many of you helped to establish. Fortunately, according to the Alliance's by-laws, Paula will remain on the board as past president to continue providing her insight and care.

Also a special thanks to those members of the Alliance's board of directors who have rotated off; and to Richard Groves, Lynn Rhoades and other members of the Convocation Planning Committee and host church who made our 16th annual convocation in Winston-Salem such an outstanding success.

Let me also say a word of appreciation to our executive director Stan Hasteley and our associate director Jeanette Holt. Year in and year out, day in and day out, since our very early days as an organization these talented and dedicated servants have given so much of themselves. We are indeed fortunate to have them serving the Alliance.

Now let me turn to some thoughts about the Alliance's future. During the next year and beyond there are at least three areas where I would like to see the Alliance devote some substantial energy. The first concerns the scope of our geographic vision. Although our roots are southern, we must think, act and be non-geographic. This past January we made a great step in that direction by carrying our fall board meeting (postponed from September) to Oakland, California, and co-hosting a wonderful one day mini-convocation with the Pacific Coast Baptist Association. We must do more. We simply must figure out how we can share the

Alliance's message with other progressive Baptists, particularly with Baptists outside the South. I have never encouraged growth as an end in itself. However, the Alliance needs to grow so that we can fully live out our mission and be the light and salt we have been called to be. And besides many people need the light and salt we have to offer.

We also must attract more individual members. It is true that the Alliance has more and more become a non-geographic association of churches as our individual memberships have declined. However, we cannot give up on our individual members. There are many folks whose churches will never join the Alliance, yet the Alliance can be for them a place of nurture, support and empowerment. We have got to get the word to them. And there are members in our affiliated churches who also need to be individual members. That word also needs to go forth.

In his book *A New Call to Mission: Help for Perplexed Churches*, Alan Neely analyzes the mission program of the Alliance along with those of the SBC and the CBF.

In setting forth the evident strengths of the Alliance approach to missions Alan makes this statement: "The Alliance mission involvement is crucial to the continuation of many ministries, likewise crucial to the health of the Alliance itself (my emphasis)." We help ourselves by helping others. We strengthen ourselves by being of support and encouragement to others. The Alliance's mission effort may be small in comparison to those of larger organizations. However, it is life-giving to the ministries we assist and it is life-giving to us. So we need to make certain we are doing all we can do, and we need to do more if we can.

Those are just a few areas which in my opinion need our continuing attention as a board of directors. I pledge to you my best efforts in that regard. If you have suggestions, comments, disagreements, thoughts, whatever, please write or email me. My address is P. O. Box 3008, Monroe, LA 71210. My email address is wchenry@hplbaw.com. I would love to hear from you as we all work to make this wonderful organization even better.

perspectives



By Craig Henry
President



Baptist Women in Ministry

Annual breakfast, meeting and worship service

June 27, 2002 at 8:30 a.m.

Broadway Baptist Church

305 W. Broadway, Ft. Worth Texas

Theme: Woman, You are Set Free!

Reba Cobb, CBF Resources Coordinator, preaching

Cynthia Clawson, guest musician

Breakfast tickets

\$12 each

For reservations,

913-321-6864

or e-mail

bwim@bwim.org

Karen Massey, president of Baptist Women in Ministry, spoke briefly to the Alliance board at its April 5 meeting. She introduced Susan Miller, the Executive Director of BWIM, center, and Kim Snyder, office manager, right.

2002 Operating Budget

Through March 31

Needs: \$73,161
Receipts: \$63,436

2002 Mission Offering:

Goal: \$95,000
Receipts: \$32,054

May 2002

The Alliance of Baptists
1328 16th Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit 579
Greenville, SC

2002-03 Officers

President: Craig Henry, Monroe, Louisiana
Vice President: Shanta Premawardhana,
Chicago, Illinois
Secretary: Relma Hargus, Baton Rouge,
Louisiana

2002-03 Board of Directors

Term ending in 2003

Richard Groves, North Carolina

Terms ending in 2004

Susan Ballenger, Georgia

Ann Charles-Craft, Virginia

Mahan Siler, North Carolina

Terms ending in 2006

Cristina Garcia-Alfonso, Cuba and
Massachusetts

Bettie Hodges, Georgia

Jim Hopkins, California

Margie Latham, Texas

Tom McKibbens, Massachusetts

Russell Nelson, Texas

Beverly Rodgers, Illinois

Morris Vickers, Maryland

Stan Wilson, Mississippi

Class of 2002

Board members

rotating off included
Kathy Berry, Virginia;
Jerene Broadway,
California; Bill Butler,
Maryland; Ruth Cuéllar,
Georgia; Welton Gaddy,
Louisiana; Ed Galbreath, Georgia; Bill

Ingram, Virginia; Ramonia Lee, Maryland;
Alisa Monfalcone, Georgia; Jose Oliveras-
Ocasio, Puerto Rico; and Paul Richardson,
Alabama



Kathy Berry rotated off the board.



2002 Convocation

Craig Henry, center of Monroe, LA, was elected president of the Alliance for 2002-03. Executive Director Stan Hastey presented Craig with a small token of appreciation for having served as vice president for two years. Craig succeeds Paula Clayton Dempsey of Mars Hill, NC, right, who served two years as president.



Alliance board member Carolyn Gordon, professor at Central Seminary in Kansas City, KS, was preacher for the Friday night opening session.



Richard Groves, pastor of Wake Forest Baptist Church, was chair of the Convocation Committee.



These were some of the participants in a workshop titled "Servant Leadership and the Teaching Ministry of the Church," led by Alliance board member Cathy Tamsberg. "Our job is to expose people to ideas and experiences and to help them foster a relationship with God that makes space for the Spirit to lead," she said. Cathy is minister of outreach and adult education at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, NC.

Next Convocation: April 24-26, 2003

Vienna Baptist Church in the Washington, DC, area of Northern Virginia