

Middle District Baptist Association 2023 Book of Reports



Middle District Mission Statement:

We exist to start and strengthen churches that passionately care for people, bring honor to God, and impact communities and the world with the transforming love of Jesus.

INDEX

ANNUAL MEETING BULLETIN.....	PAGE 3-4
SPRING BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES	PAGE 5
NOMINATING REPORT	PAGE 5
PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET.....	PAGE 6
OFFICERS	PAGE 7
COMMITTEES/TEAMS	PAGE 8
CHRISTMAS STORE REPORT	PAGE 9
MISSIONS AND MINISTRY TEAM REPORT	PAGE 9
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.....	PAGE 10
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT	PAGE 11

Connect '23

Middle District's Annual Missions Celebration

October 8, 2023

Chester Baptist Church, 4:00 PM



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged...Joshua 1:9

Thank you Chester Baptist for hosting, hospitality and planning you have helped with to make this celebration happen. We also appreciate our presenters and your time spent with us today to share your stories.

Be sure to check out our website at mdba.org to keep up with all the updates around our Association including some of what you are hearing today.!

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Order of Service - Annual Meeting of the Middle District Baptist Association

Musical Prelude

Business Session

Bob Beasley, Moderator

Messengers Sign In

Approve Previous Minutes

Approve Nominations & Budget

Carl Peyton, John Gray

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Nate Travis

Celebration Songs

Rusty & Jackie Peaks

MDBA Mission / Vision

John Sawyer

Start Churches: Church Planting

Strengthen Churches: God Stories

Carl Peyton

SHRMP Video

David Slayton

Missions Offering Video

Offering Partners

M40, Place of Miracles Cafe, Bridging RVA, Meno Life, Cases of Hope

Closing Song

Rusty & Jackie Peaks

Closing Prayer

*Offering baskets are available as you exit, or you may give online at mdba.org or
send a check payable to MDBA, memo: Missions Offering

COMMUNICATIONS

**Not receiving communications from
Middle District Association?**

**Tear off this slip and drop it in the
offering plate as you leave.**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

BOOK OF REPORTS

**The complete annual Book of Reports will be
available on our website as of November 1.**

**If you would like to receive a copy, contact
the office, 276-8481 or mdba@mdba.org.**



Minutes for Spring 2023 Business Meeting Tomahawk Baptist Church, 4 pm

Moderator Bob Beasley called the meeting to order. He announced that no committees had business to conduct and called for a motion to end the meeting in order to start the celebration service and installation for new Executive Director, Rev. John Sawyer.

Motion was called and approved.

The service for Rev. John Sawyer then commenced.

Respectively submitted by Jeannie Beales, Clerk



Middle District Nominations for 2024

The Leadership Committee moves that the following individuals serve in the following areas of ministry:

Leadership Committee:

Rotating off 12/2024	Carl Peyton, Bob Beasley, Kay Fletcher
Rotating off 12/2025	James Reid, Brent Brennan, Jeff Easton
Rotating off 12/2026	Eric Carroll, Nate Travis, Angie Frame

Finance Committee:

Rotating off 12/2024	John Gray
Rotating off 12/2025	Buck Proffitt
Rotating off 12/2026	Betty Reed

Moderator:	Bob Beasley
Assistant Moderator:	Jerald Jacobs
Clerk:	Jeannie Beales
Treasurer:	John Gray
Assistant Treasurer:	Ralph Dillard

Proposed Budget 2024 for Middle District Baptist Association

The Leadership Committee and Finance Committee jointly recommend this 2024 annual budget:

EXPENSES	2024	2023	MINISTRIES INCLUDED
Cooperative Ministries	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	Collegiate Ministries
Church Leader Development	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	Networks, Coaching, Consultation to help churches
Church Resource	\$ 2,760.00	\$ 1,100.00	Media, Communications, Annual Report, Website, Memorials, Celebrations
Fellowship Ministries	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	Association Meetings, Local Missions Offering
Administrative Ministries	\$ 6,115.00	\$ 6,370.00	Workers Comp., Liability Ins., Telephone, Postage, Office Supplies, Equipment
Salaries/Benefits/Expenses	\$201,036.00	\$191,353.00	Staff, Insurance, Taxes, Conference/Education, Annuity, Mileage, Hospitality
Miscellaneous & Contingency	\$ 700.00	\$ 2,200.00	For discretionary use in non-budgeted items shortfall/unexpected
Total Budget	\$213,111.00	\$203,523.00	The 2024 budget is \$9,138(approx 4%) more than the 2023 budget.

MOTION: The Leadership Committee and Finance Committee jointly recommend the above 2024 annual budget.

Finance Committee members:

Betty Reed, Fellowship
John Gray, Elkhart
Steve Mapp, Treasurer- Winfree

Leadership Committee members:

Carl Peyton, Transformation	Angie Frame, PCC	Nate Travis, Chester
Kay Fletcher, At large	Jeff Easton, Tomahawk	
James Reid, New Hope	Bob Beasley, Bethel	
Eric Carroll, Tomahawk	Brent Brennan, Chesterfield	

**Officers of the
Middle District Baptist Association 2023 - 2024**

Leadership Committee

Chair - (P)
Transformation **Rev. Carl Peyton**
carl@transformationrva.com

Co-Chair (VP)
New Hope **Rev. James Reid**
keepinstep@hotmail.com

Secretary –
At Large **Mrs. Kay Fletcher**
vkfletcher@yahoo.com

**Executive
Director**
O-276-8481 **Rev. John Sawyer**
jsawyer@mdba.org

Moderator
Bethel **Mr. Bob Beasley**
dsbeasley2@comcast.net

Vice Moderator
Fellowship **Rev. Jerald Jacobs**
chapjacobs@hotmail.com

Clerk
Bellwood **Mrs. Jeannie Beales**
JeannieBeales@aol.com

Treasurer
Elkhardt **Rev. John Gray**
pastorjohng19@gmail.com

Asst. Treasurer
Central **Mr. Ralph Dillard**

MIDDLE DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2023



COMMITTEES

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Carl Peyton, Chair
Kay Fletcher, Secretary
James Reid, Vice Chair
Nate Travis
Angie Frame
Jeff Easton
Eric Carroll
Brent Brennan
Bob Beasley

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Steve Mapp, Treasurer
John Gray, Chair
Betty Reid

TEAMS & OTHER LEADERS

SENIOR ADULT CONSULTANT

Dorryce Ann Rudd

CHURCH REVITALIZATION CONSULTANT

Dennis Green

CENTRAL VIRGINIA BAPTIST MINISTRY TEAM

Executive Director, MDBA
Ron Wyatt

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM: CVBM

Michael Edwards
Caroline Davidson

CHRISTMAS STORE PLANNING TEAM

Betty Reed
Doris Wampler
Julie Mathers
Bill Vickers
Brenda Green
Ken Pratt

MISSIONS/MINISTRY TEAM

Virginia Smelley
Anne Potts
Jimmy Bowling
Sam Grozdenov

Christmas Store Report 2023



Through out the summer our facilitator keeps in touch with Julie Mathers, our Chesterfield County representative to start planning for this year's application process.

The applications are updated and sent to the school counselors so they can begin contacting the families as soon as school begins. In the meantime, information is sent to the churches asking if they will sponsor children and how many they want to help. As soon as we get our request from the churches and we have the children's application in hand, we begin assigning them to the churches.

At the writing of this report, we have **80 families and 237 children.**

Our Christmas store is held each year either the last week in November or first week in December. For 2023 those dates are Nov. 29 - 30. We will be collecting used/new donated items such as household items, clothing, and toys again this year.

On November 27-28, we will receive the presents from our sponsors. We ask that they deliver the items to Ironbridge Church, 10900 Ironbridge Rd., Chester, between 9am till 2pm and mark the gifts/bags with the family # on each item.

Speaking for the committee, we count this a privilege to serve Christ in this manner. We trust you will pray for our efforts, that Christ will be made known in our service to Him.

-Brenda Green, Planning Team Facilitator

Christmas Store Planning Team

Brenda Green
Bill Vickers
Betty Reed
Margie Taylor
Ken Pratt
Doris Wampler
Julie Mathers

Missions/Ministry Team Report

Our missions/ministry team met with our new Executive Director, John Sawyer to get to know each other along with Brenda Green, Administrator to go over what needs to be accomplished. The local missions offering was discussed and partners for that suggested and approved. The missions scholarship was also discussed as to what guidelines should be used. This takes the place of the Education Scholarship.

Team Members

Virginia Smelley
Jimmy Bowling
Sam Grazdonav
Anne Potts

Leadership Committee Report October 2022 - September 2023

The retirement celebration of Dr. Jim Hamacher was held as part of the annual meeting in October at Chesterfield Baptist. This was a great time to remember and celebrate the ministry of Dr. Hamacher over the last 17 years and was well attended.

The new Executive Director, Rev. John Sawyer, was selected and began his ministry at Middle District on February 15, 2023.

Some of the other events of the past year are as follows:

Audit: An external audit was done at no cost to the Association by a CPA and was found to be up to date and no issues. Thank you to Brenda Green for helping the firm get the information needed. A copy of the report is on file at the MDBA office.

ERC: It was decided to pursue the Employee Retention Credit offered by the IRS and John and Brenda will begin the process to find out what is needed and proceed.

EHL: An online School of Emotionally Healthy Leadership will be offered at a much reduced cost with the Executive Director leading it via Zoom.

Committee: Given that 2023 was a season of transition for our executive director, our new executive director, John Sawyer, asked all members of the leadership team to prayerfully consider remaining in place and adding one year to their term. All of the leadership team agreed to stay in place and added an additional year.

Life Insurance Gift: A legacy gift was left to the Middle District in the amount of \$10,000 by a friend of MDBA upon her passing.

As it does annually, the Leadership Committee discussed and approved the Finance Committee's proposed budget for the coming year and developed a slate of next year's leaders, which it will nominate for election by the Association at the annual meeting.

Executive Director's Annual Report

October 2022 – September 2023

Most of the MDBA churches continue to recover from the impact and fall out of COVID-19. Although worship attendance is still not back to pre-pandemic levels, some churches have found an opportunity to reevaluate and sharpen their mission and vision going forward. One thing we learned from the pandemic is how important unity within the larger Body is to fulfilling our calling to mercy ministries and fulfilling the Great Commission.

Although some of the Middle District's core ministries: youth Kingdom Builders, ministers' luncheons, and THE GATHERING, were cancelled during Covid for a number of different reasons. Covid has afforded us an opportunity to evaluate most of the MDBA ministries, reimagine the way some of them will function and consider new things. (Ex: Pastor lunches are shifting to a pastor/ministry leader model going forward once per quarter. .

Brenda Green and her team did a fantastic job with the Christmas Store. This ministry has a lot of potential. It may be worth exploring expanding this outreach to other parts of the Middle District.

Below is a list of my ministry thoughts and actions:

Coming on board with the middle district in February and on the heels of a pandemic, I spent my first six months visiting pastors and churches. I believe relationships are key to a healthy association and enjoyed meeting some wonderful people.

As part of the CVBM, I spent time working with the leadership of the Dover Association and River City Faith network. The organizational make up and mission of the CVBM seems a little fuzzy, but I learn more each time we meet.

Worked with the leadership team of James River Community Church who will be planted on 1/1/2024.

With the blessing of Dr. Peter Scazzero, we were able to begin a school of Emotionally Healthy Leadership in the Middle District. This course typically costs \$500 per participant, but we will be able to offer it for the cost of curriculum (\$40-\$50). The initial response to this course has been great.

Enjoyed the opportunity to preach at six middle district churches.

Met and worked with two churches who are going through transition.

Worked with RightNow media to negotiate a discounted subscription rate for Middle District Churches.

Continued to host the two pastors' small groups that met with my predecessor, Jim, monthly. There's a strong likelihood we will start a third group in 2024, as well as groups for other areas of vocational ministry.

I have also spent time studying the movement in associational life. Although the MDBA has a rich history and many good qualities, I believe we may have opportunities to position ourselves more missionally.

These first eight months have been a time of listening and learning. As someone with an apostolic heart, I also understand the need for due diligence and good timing as it relates to change.

In closing, I appreciate and value the strong relational bond that have been built between the MDBA and member churches. I'm grateful for the opportunity to partner with Brenda and pull on her 20 years of institutional knowledge and associational experience.

As I look forward, my hope is we are able to build upon and strengthen our existing relationships; and dream together about expanding our association. Rather than finding ourselves in a reactive posture if/when/should another Covid-like crisis happen, I'd love to see us work in a way now that would prepare us to be proactive in the future. - John Sawyer

I remain grateful for your calling to serve as your executive director in February 2023. I'm excited to see what God has in store for the Middle District and look forward to our future together.

Rev. John B. Sawyer
Executive Director