

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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**Joshua Goepfrich, Convention President**

I have been deeply honored to be able to serve as the president of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana since May of this year. What a year this has been! Who could have thought a year ago what God was going to do across our state and in the lives of His people? I am really excited about what this year has taught us and what we have been able to accomplish this past year.

I believe that our challenges have turned into victories. Many of us questioned what new things would need to happen in our churches and how we would adapt to a world that was very different than just a few years prior. But together, we rose to the challenge, and we are seeing souls enter into a new relationship with Jesus Christ. We are seeing our churches come together in unity and strive for greater discipleship and deeper faith. Many of you are having an impact on lives across the world through streaming services. All across this great state, Indiana Baptists are working to the glory of God, adapting the method, but never compromising on the message of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am personally grateful for the leadership that our Interim State Executive Director, Bobby Pell, and our Executive Board Chairman, Tom Savage, have provided to the State Convention of Baptist in Indiana over the last year. The many changes have been challenging, but they have met each one with grace and fortitude to lead us to where we are today. Our state staff have been absolutely amazing! Please take the time to pray for them and utilize them; they are wonderful servants to our churches. Our state is blessed to have both people and the property of Highland Lakes Baptist Camp to use. Take the opportunity to make use of the camp to help your church, develop your youth or just as a get away for you to recharge and spend some time with God.

What this next year will hold none of us truly knows, but we can rest assured that our great Savior, Jesus Christ already has the path laid out that we are to walk together. As His return grows nearer and nearer, the urgency of our mission stands before us with greater clarity. I encourage each of us to strive for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus over this next year. I beseech you to live out your faith to the glory of our great God every single day, and I commend you for staying faithful through tough days.

In Christ,  
Joshua Goepfrich  
Pastor, Hilltop Community Church

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

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**Tom Savage, Chairman of the Board**

This has been a very busy Executive Board year. Along with working through all the dynamics of Covid-19, there were many other challenges throughout the year. As you can find in the Bylaws of the Convention, the SCBI Executive Board is a very active Board made up of duly elected men & women, ministers, and lay-people from all over the State of Indiana. Our purpose is to “act for the Convention in all areas of the Convention’s work between sessions of the Convention...”

Something momentous happened causing us to come face-to-face with another facet of our Bylaws. Those words read as follows: “The Administrative Committee shall function as the personnel and finance committee of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and should there be a vacancy of the Executive Director position, they will serve as a Search Committee.”

Upon Dr. Steve McNeil announcing his retirement, the full Executive Board was informed, and the Administrative Committee of the Board became the search committee for the next Executive Director. We immediately entered a season of prayer for thirty days. During this time, we did not seek candidates or resumes.

Over the next few weeks and months, we used every means possible to communicate our search for our next Executive Director. We placed it on SBC.net, contacted all our associations and asked them to communicate to the churches that a search was underway. Most of the state conventions across the country were contacted. We encouraged people to submit names as they felt led of the Lord to do so. As of this writing, we believe our Lord has drawn us very close to the man who will be our next Director.

The Executive Board has two official meetings per year, one in March and one in August with additional meetings as needed to care for matters that come before us. The Executive Board has several items to bring to your attention and consideration this year. These items can be found later in this Book of Reports under the heading: Executive Board Recommendations.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Bobby Pell, Interim Executive Director**

It was an honor to serve the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana as the Interim Executive Director. During this time, every decision that I made was through the filter of “Would it be helpful for our next Executive Director?” I was able to lead the state convention further into our “next step” strategy as we continue down the path of implementing our new mission statement of “partnering with churches to discover and fulfill their next step.” I am excited as a pastor of one of our partnering churches to officially vote for this new mission statement at this year’s annual meeting.

One of the great blessings that I have experienced in serving as your Interim Executive Director has been working alongside a faithful staff. John Horn, Jim Shields, Kyle Brennan and Nate Millican have served your churches faithfully over the last year and they should be commended for their service as team leaders. The support staff of Alison Blankenship, Sarah Wickersham, Tracy Stewart, Carol Houpt, Greg Cooper, Linda Collier and Rick Porter along with many others who are serving Highland Lakes faithfully have worked diligently and with a wonderful attitude over the last year. We have seen Covid-19 come and go and come back again and SCBI churches have faithfully given through the Cooperative Program to see ministries flourish, the lost saved, disciples made and missionaries sent. Thank you for your faithfulness in your churches during times of uncertainty.

Please, always remember that the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana is not a building on State Road 39 in Martinsville, but collectively, we exist as cooperating churches. We do ministry together, and we are better together than we are trying to be separate. May we be known for the gospel and for our cooperation with each other. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to partner with each other in taking our next steps as cooperating churches.

I am so excited to be able to pass the torch on to our new Executive Director, Dr. Ryan Strother. He is going to do a wonderful job and brings a sense of excitement to Indiana. I want to encourage you to meet Ryan. He has a pastor's heart and wants to hear about your life and ministry. He is a wonderful encourager, strategic thinker and a great model for our convention as one who loves and cares for his family. Join with me in praying for Ryan as he transitions to this new role.