

GOSPEL

A B O V E A L L



ENGAGEJAX 140th Annual Celebration | 2019

CONNECTING THE MISSION FORCE WITH THE MISSION FIELD.

As a network of Southern Baptist churches, we exist to engage the mission force with the mission field, both here in Jax and beyond. We stand ready to come alongside you and your church leadership to help you pursue the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.



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In this report, you will find a brief overview of the various ministry highlights of the common mission shared by churches within the Jacksonville Baptist Association.

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WELCOME

Welcome to the 140th annual celebration of the Jacksonville Baptist Association! This year, we are excited to sustain the 2019 SBC theme of **Gospel Above All**. This national SBC emphasis resonates strongly with our local focus on international and ethnic diversity and the priority of the gospel message as our driving force among our network of churches.

In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul writes *"For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,"* As our current SBC President JD Greear reminds us, If something is of "first importance" then everything else must take a back seat to that one thing. Our styles and methods, as well as our cultural backgrounds and political affiliations, are not what defines us as the people of God. Jesus has entrusted the gospel to his church and given us a mission to carry this good news everywhere and at all times. While the JBA is comprised of a rich diversity of churches who demonstrate the gospel to Florida's First Coast, what unites us is our common identity in Christ and his mission.

We hope you have enjoyed the **international food festival** where you had the opportunity to taste your way around the world by enjoying flavors provided by a variety of international JBA churches. Now as we enter into this time of worship, we will rejoice in what God is doing through his churches and hear from current **Florida Baptist Convention President, Pastor Erik D. Cummings Sr.** Pastor Erik is a native of Miami and serves as the Senior Pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Carol City. He is married to Dr. Monique Nichol and they are the parents of Erik II and Reaiah. We are delighted to welcome Pastor Cummings as he shares God's word with us.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Erik Cummings Sr.

Pastor, New Life Baptist Church
Current President, Florida Baptist Convention

Because we place the gospel above all, we have united in common effort to:

- See over 120 pastors and ministry leaders complete our four-month Kairos Leadership Coaching Training.
- Partner with over 50 public schools across the First Coast of Florida.
- Discover and develop 13 church planters in our pipeline to be sent out by JBA churches to start new works.
- Launch our Church Replanter Residency Program and have several pastors going through this process of preparation to revitalize struggling churches.
- Guide 600 people through Gospel Conversations training, preparing them to share their faith with others.

This truly is a time and a season to celebrate what the Good News is doing in us and through us!



Rick Wheeler
Lead Missional Strategist
Jacksonville Baptist Association



CELEBRATING 140 YEARS

ORIGIN OF THE JACKSONVILLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

The Jacksonville Association was formerly the St. Marys River Association. Its earlier history was comprised of churches located in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida, in counties adjacent to the St. Marys River. The first session was held with the Hebron Church, Camden County, Georgia, November 21st, 1879, where it was organized. Four churches entered into the organization at this meeting, viz: Hebron and New Providence in Camden County, Ga., Mt. Olive and Mt. Zion in Nassau County, Florida. At the first annual session there were but eight messengers, two from each church. These were G. A. Malette and G. H. Peebles from Hebron, E. A. McWhorter and Thomas J. Simmons from New Providence, G. A. Pendarvis and D. H. Higginbotham from Mt. Olive, and Theodore Davis and Daniel Davis from Mt. Zion. The second annual session was held with the New Providence Church, October 1st - 3rd, 1880. The third annual session was held with Mt. Olive Church, October 1st - 3rd, 1881. Places of meeting, and officers elected for succeeding sessions are given in the Historical Table. Our Association does not have a file of minutes previous to the year 1901. Information found for the years 1879 to 1900 was secured from John B. Stetson University Library, and the State Library at Tallahassee. For twenty-three years our body was called the St. Mary's River Association, but at the twenty-fourth annual session held with the Moniac Church, Charlton County, Georgia, October 24th - 26th, 1902, Dr. W. A. Hobson of Jacksonville made a motion to amend the constitution striking out the words "St. Mary's" and substituting the word "Jacksonville." The motion was unanimously carried, and the St. Mary's Association became the Jacksonville Association. The Association under the new name was composed of nineteen churches with a total enrollment of 976 members. There were only six Sunday Schools in the Association at this time, with a total enrollment of 363. The First Church, Jacksonville led this group with an enrollment of 146. The first annual meeting of the newly constituted Jacksonville Association was held with Bethany Church, Nassau County, October 2nd - 4th, 1903. There were reported only seven ordained ministers in the Association at this time. Officers elected at this session were S. M. Scruggs, Moderator; E. H. Reynolds, Clerk, and Abram E. Ogilvie, Treasurer. S. M. Scruggs served as Moderator for twelve consecutive years, and Abram E. Ogilvie served as Treasurer continuously for forty-five years. Both have entered into rest with their Lord, but the influence of their faithful ministry can never be lost to the Association.

Today, the Jacksonville Baptist Association is composed of over 200 churches and church plants. We continue to grow as we extend the Gospel all across the First Coast of Florida.

OUR MISSION & OUR PASSION





TEAM REPORTS

EQUIP TEAM REPORT



**PASTOR
JIMBO STEWART**

***Equip Team Champion
Redemption Church***



As a team of pastors and ministry leaders, the Equip Team remains committed to strengthening churches through coaching, training and resources. In addition to church consultations, leadership coaching and pastor search team training, here are several outcomes we are celebrating from the past year:

*There are a growing number of pastors who meet regularly at our **Pastor's Advance** church revitalization group. Pastor Albert Byrd leads this peer group.*

*Nine emerging worship leaders received the **Walter L. Brown Music Scholarship**.*

*We sponsored a **ReFocus Church Leadership** two-day event with over 200 participants.*

***Kairos Coaching** cohorts number 12 and 13 were launched and we are now approaching 120 pastors and leaders who have completed this leadership development & disciple-making training.*

*We hosted several engaging conferences: Dr. Jeff Iorg led a well attended, dynamic workshop on **Leading Major Change**. Pastor Dean Inserra offered an insightful presentation on his book, **The Unsaved Christian**.*

*We continue to offer **micro-loan assistance** to churches who have a financial need to further their ministry.*

If you have a passion to equip churches and leaders, we would love to have you engage with this team. It is our privilege to walk alongside other busy pastors and leaders and encourage them towards a faith-filled vision of the future!

EXPAND TEAM REPORT



PASTOR
DAVID TARKINGTON

*Expand Team Champion
First Baptist Church
of Orange Park*



This year, our network of churches welcomed a number of new churches into watchcare, many of which were church plants! Thanks to changes at the state and national level of SBC life, we will now be able to provide unprecedented levels of support and encouragement for new church plants, beginning in 2020.

*In January, we kicked off the year with a richly diverse **Celebration of Church Planting** with over 200 in attendance.*

We currently have thirteen couples going through the NAMB assessment process to plant new churches in the Jacksonville area.

2020 will see the launch of new churches in Springfield, Arlington, St. Johns County (2), Riverside, the Northside, and the Westside (and possibly other places)!

City Church Bartram launched this morning! It is the first plant of City Church San Marco, which launched (in partnership with the JBA and Southside BC) four years ago this month!

*We currently have four Church Planter Peer Learning Groups meeting across the JBA area (Orange Park, Northside, Westside, and Arlington). Additionally, thanks to the generous contributions of JBA churches, we were able to host Kadi Cole in May to provide excellent training on **Adjusting Leadership to Fit Your Organization and Developing Female Leaders in Your Church.***

It is not too late to get involved in the church planting efforts of the Jacksonville Baptist Association for 2020. If you know someone who feels called to the ministry of church planting, want to provide assistance to a local planter, or your church would like to learn more about being a sending church, please reach out to Chris Bonts (cbonts@jaxbaptist.org).

ENGAGE TEAM REPORT



PASTOR
GARY WEBBER

*Engage Team Champion
Southside Baptist Church*



This year, we have focused our efforts on the Gospel above all. Our primary effort has been to resource churches to equip believers to transition everyday conversations into gospel conversations. As of the end of September, we have trained nearly 600 people in some form of evangelism and community engagement. This training has been delivered in a variety of contexts, but always with the goal of equipping God's people to infuse the Gospel into every conversation.

To that end, we are especially excited to host our first Evangelism Summit on November 7 & 8. The summit includes an evening of worship followed by a day of evangelism training staffed by some of the world's top evangelism trainers. This is the perfect opportunity to prepare your church to participate in the "Who's Your One?" challenge. If you would like more information on this conference or how your church can host a S.W.A.R.M. Gospel Conversation training event, please contact Mike Reed at the JBA office.

While the content of Gospel conversations is crucial, the contexts for those conversations also matter. We want to share the Gospel in word and deed. From our faith-based partnerships to disaster relief efforts, the Engage Team has created opportunities for churches to collaborate while meeting our community's felt needs. A growing number of churches are partnering with their local schools. Many have responded to the invitation to "saturate" Jacksonville with the Gospel by distributing the Jesus Film to their neighbors. Others have mobilized disaster relief teams traveling to the panhandle and Puerto Rico to respond to the needs of those devastated by recent hurricanes. Churches have sent supplies, partnered to meet the needs of hurting churches, and sent Disaster Relief and Send Relief teams to provide assistance in a variety of ways. These and many other opportunities have been made even more meaningful as an increasing number of our people are being trained to share the Gospel in contexts just like these.



LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP SLATE

We exist to engage the mission force with the mission field both here in Jax and beyond.

If you don't demonstrate leadership character, your skills and your results will be discounted, if not dismissed. | Mark Miller

Associational Officers

Moderator	Elijah Simmons, Norwood Community Church
Vice-Moderator	Greg Varndell, First Baptist Church Jacksonville Beach
Clerk	Jeff Litton, JBA Staff
Treasurer	Albert Byrd, Holiday Hill Baptist Church
Budget/Stewardship Chairman	Chris Coram, North Jacksonville Baptist Church

Leadership Team

Moderator (Chairman)	Elijah Simmons, Norwood Community Church
Vice-Moderator	Greg Varndell, First Baptist Church Jacksonville Beach
Treasurer	Albert Byrd, Holiday Hill Baptist Church
Budget/Stewardship Chairman	Chris Coram, North Jacksonville Baptist Church
Engage Team Champion	Jonathan Wilson, Fruit Cove Baptist Church
Equip Team Champion	JimBo Stewart, Redemption Church
Expand Team Champion	Dan Santiago, Covenant Christian Church
At-large Member	Tina Deichl, Southside Baptist Church
At-large Member	Angel Santiago, First Baptist Church of Jacksonville

* NAMES IN BOLD ARE PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL
BY JBA CHURCH MESSENGERS

Budget and Stewardship

Chris Coram, Chairman 21	North Jacksonville Baptist Church
Cierra Bennett 20	City.church
Young Kim 20	Jacksonville Korean Central Baptist Church
Darren Sides 20	Southside Baptist Church
Troy Dixon 21	Normandy Park Baptist Church
Chris Pruitt 21	Hillcrest Baptist Church
Matt Dobson 22	Mandarin Baptist Church
Gary Poplin 22	St. Augustine Road Baptist Church
Chas Rowland 22	Glen Baptist Church

Nominating Team

Teri Allen 20	Arlington Baptist Church
Bruce Hickson 20	Unity Missionary Baptist Church
Manny Keyser 20	Parkwood Baptist Church
Tammy Benedict 21	Deermeadows Baptist Church
Orvin Feliciano 21	Jones Road Baptist Church
Boyd Bettis 22	The District Church
Will Cooper 22	Coastal Baptist Church
Mike Ragland 22	Crown Point Baptist Church

Cabaret Haiti Mission, Inc., Board Of Directors, Pool Of Candidates

Jim Davis
 JimBo Stewart
 Rebecca Holcomb
 Adah Haley



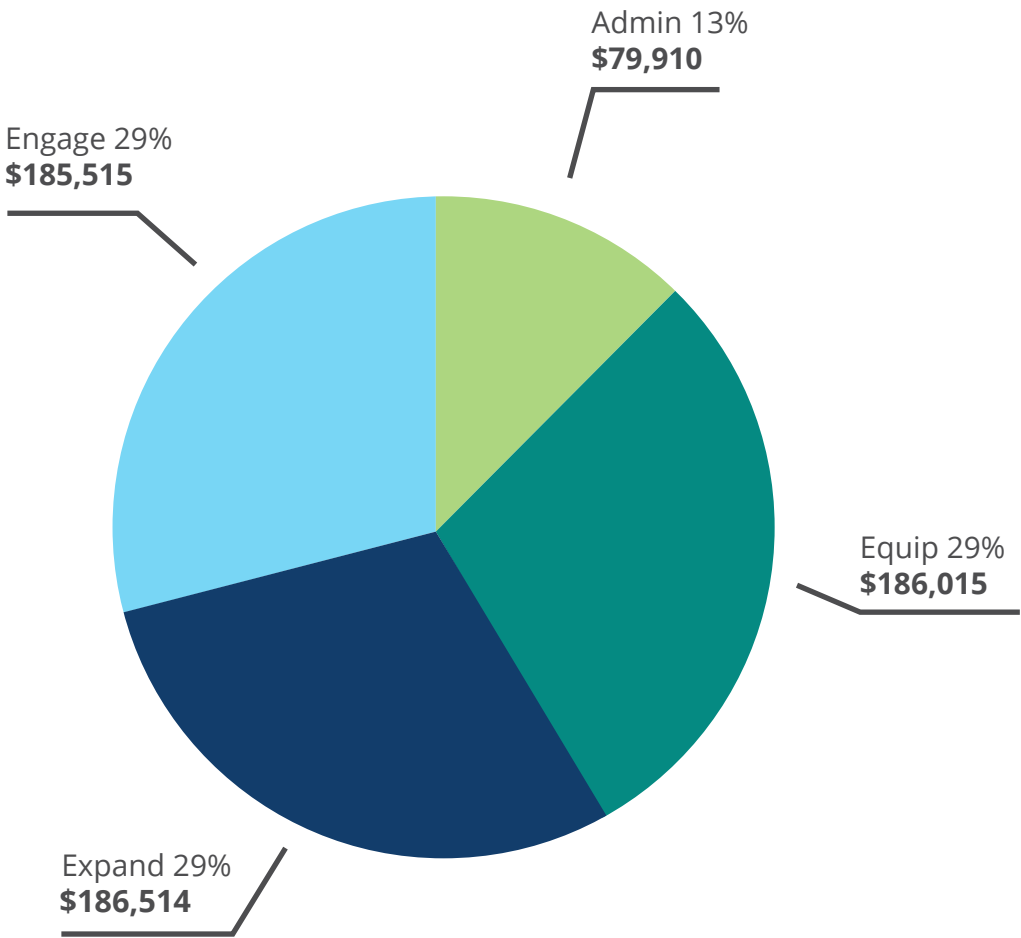
BUDGET

BUDGET 2020

Our JBA budget represents generous giving from Associational member churches in addition to their gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Total: \$637,954

2019: \$614,765



JACKSONVILLE STATEMENT ON GOSPEL UNITY

Preamble

As evangelical Christians we acknowledge the reality that division and disunity are tools of the Enemy against the proliferation and spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Whether in families, local church bodies, neighboring churches, or even denominational entities, division has unfortunately been far too normative throughout church history.

Race, as commonly defined, refers to the various ethnicities, skin colors, and cultural heritages of human beings. As evangelical Christians, we acknowledge the sinful divides among those of differing races that, at times, have been ignored or worse, excused within the church.

Reconciliation refers to the acknowledgement of human brokenness and the need for restoration to God through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:20-23). In that he has reconciled humanity to himself, Christians are to be reconciled one to another, as children of God (2 Corinthians 5:18).

Great strides toward reconciliation occurred in the United States throughout the second half of the twentieth century. Yet, many continue to experience great division and painful separation due to ethnicity, cultural heritage, and/or race. While acknowledging much has been done to reconcile over recent decades, it is clear we have far to go.

Racial reconciliation for Christians is not solely, or even primarily, a political issue. Racial reconciliation for Christians is not merely a social justice issue. Racial reconciliation for Christians is not a public relations issue. Racial division is a sin issue. Therefore, racial reconciliation for Christians is a gospel unity issue.

To ignore sin is to affirm sin. Therefore, the pastors and leaders serving together in local churches and denominational entities have deemed it right, timely, and proper to present a clear, concise, biblically-founded, gospel-centered statement on gospel unity and racial reconciliation.

We believe that God has created all humanity in His image, male and female, with diverse skin tones and ethnic histories. As image-bearers we exist for the glory of God knowing that brings us the greatest good. We believe that salvation is found in Jesus Christ alone and that he died so that all may be saved (John 3:16). This offer is for all people. Believing we need clarity on the issues of unity and racial reconciliation among believers, we offer the following affirmations and denials.

Articles

Article 1

WE AFFIRM that racial reconciliation is a gospel issue.

WE DENY that racial reconciliation is solely a social issue.

Matthew 15:21-28; Romans 1:16-17; Galatians 2:11-14; Ephesians 1:9-10, 13; 2:1-10, 13, 14-22; 3:3-5

Article 2

WE AFFIRM that the gospel alone offers hope and celebrates what the world fears.

WE DENY that anything other than God and the full message of the gospel provide the hope and answers needed for humanity.

Psalm 28:7; 46:2-3; Lamentations 3:18; Matthew 12:21; Romans 8:24-25;

12:12; 1 Corinthians 13:13; Galatians 5:5; Hebrews 11:1, 7; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:3, 1 John 3:3

Article 3

WE AFFIRM the biblical teaching of race references the differences between Jewish and non-Jewish peoples.

WE DENY the definition of race that creates a racial hierarchy based on inferred biological inferiority.

Leviticus 19:34; Acts 8:26-40; Romans 10:12; Ephesians 2:11-3:8; 1 Corinthians 12:13

Article 4

WE AFFIRM that Scripture teaches that Canaan was cursed by Noah due to his son Ham's actions and that Cain was marked by God following the murder of his brother Abel.

WE DENY the curse of Canaan, often called the "Curse of Ham" and the mark of Cain, wrongly defined as a change of his skin color, refers to racial superiority or inferiority or has anything to do with differing skin tones of people.

Genesis 4:15; 9:20-25; 10:6

Article 5

WE AFFIRM that gospel-centered racial reconciliation is a pursuit of love for others flowing from Holy Spirit-empowered obedience of those who repent, believe in the cross and resurrection of Jesus by faith, and are justified by faith in Christ.

WE DENY that ethnic diversity is synonymous with gospel-centered racial reconciliation.

Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Matthew 25; John 13:34; Acts 10:34-35; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:32; James 2:8

Article 6

WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, lifelong union between one man and one woman, regardless of race or ethnicity, for His glory, signifying the covenant love between Christ and His church.

WE DENY that marriage between a man and woman from differing racial or ethnic backgrounds to be sinful.

Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 5:22-23; 28-29; 31

Article 7

WE AFFIRM that pastors are uniquely called and positioned to shepherd their people toward gospel-centered racial reconciliation understanding that diversity is actually at the heart of the gospel.

WE DENY that racial reconciliation can be forced upon others through human means.
John 21:15-17; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Peter 5:1-2

Article 8

WE AFFIRM the resolutions approved at Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings repenting of the sins of racism, most notably slave-holding of past generations, and the need for continued work toward gospel-centered racial and ethnic unity.

WE DENY that the sins of past generations can be ignored and need not be acknowledged.
Nehemiah 9:1-2; Jeremiah 6:16; Daniel 9:16

Article 9

WE AFFIRM that all human beings are image bearers of God.

WE DENY the validity, truthfulness, and right standing of any and all organizations, groups, or individuals claiming racial superiority of any kind.

Genesis 1:26-27; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:15; James 3:9; 1 Peter 2:17; Revelation 7:9

Article 10

WE AFFIRM that unity in our churches must be founded in Christ alone.

WE DENY that unity in our churches can be founded in political ideologies or national identity.

Psalms 20:7; 133:1; Daniel 2:21; Matthew 6:33; Romans 8:28; 13:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:2; Philippians 2:3; 1 Peter 2:13-15; Jude 3; Revelation 7:9-12

Sign this statement at
Jacksonvillestatement.org

JACKSONVILLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

2700 University Blvd. S., Jacksonville, FL 32216

Telephone: 904 . 727 . 6800

E-mail: jba@jaxbaptist.org

