



March 18, 2020

We the officers of the Baptist Missionary Association of America, in consultation with the department and agency directors, the Coordinating Council, and the national meeting production team, have cancelled the 2020 BMA of America national meeting. The reasons for this historic decision were explained in a press release. Let me just say, that this decision has forced us into territory that we have never trod before and created a boatload of additional work. I am so thankful for the diligent work of the officers of this association, the department and agency directors, the Coordinating Council, and the national meeting production team all of whom have worked without complaining.

Because of our uncompromising belief in the autonomy of the local church, in the pages that follow we are presenting the issues to the churches of this great association to vote on—the very issues we would have voted on should the 2020 meeting of the B.M.A. of America been held. We realize that this is not a perfect option, but we feel that it is the best of several options that we have considered.

That being said, it is important that each church know the following:

- Each church in the BMA is allowed one vote by paper ballot or one vote by a digital ballot.
- Due to the present national emergency, the present slate of BMA of America officers—Jeff Swart, president, Dr. Mark Livingston, first vice-president, and Justin Rhodes, second-vice president will continue to serve another year as will Paul White, chairman of the Coordinating Council.
- Luis Ortega will have the opportunity to preach the 2021 annual message.
- Because the directors of our departments and agencies stand as nominees, and other nominations are open from the floor of the association, this is not a viable option this year. Therefore, we are giving our churches the opportunity to reaffirm the present department or agency directors to serve another year.
- Because the members of the Advisory Committee of the Missions Department are elected from the floor of the association, those members scheduled to go off the committee in 2020 (Richard Smith, Randy Shepherd, & Jeff Swart) will continue to serve until April 2021. All other trustee members of all departments and agencies will be elected on this ballot.

Additionally, everyone is invited to attend the commissioning service for the newly elected missionaries in conjunction with the SOAR conference, the first week of July (July 1-3, 2020) at the Gaylord Hotel in Grapevine, TX, assuming SOAR is not cancelled.

If you have made reservations at a Waxahachie area hotel, please contact that hotel and cancel your reservations so that you will not be charged for your rooms.

We are asking that each church send an offering with your ballot for the Minute and Meeting Fund so that we can cover the cost of the printing and mailing of these ballots to our churches. The Minute and Meeting Fund is presently in the red approximately \$25,000 and we need your help to rectify this situation.

You can access a digital ballot and vote online by logging on to bmaamerica.org/2020ballot or mail your paper ballot to: BMA America P.O. Box 878, Conway, AR 72033. If you choose to vote by digital ballot, please remember to send in an offering.

Thanks for your patience and understanding,

Jeff Swart, president of the Baptist Missionary Association of America

Ballot for the Churches of the BMA of America

Due date—April 29, 2020

Proposed Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation

Since the BMAA Department known as DiscipleGuide no longer exists, the Coordinating Council proposes that the Department of Camp Ministries and the Publishing Department be re-created similar to the way that they functioned (up to 2004) before the creation of DiscipleGuide. If these changes are adopted by the churches, then Article X—Department of Church Resources would be replaced. **We are proposing the following changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.**

ARTICLE X — DEPARTMENT OF CAMP MINISTRIES

Section 1. This association shall elect a Department of Camp Ministries board of trustees consisting of fifteen (15) members, eight (8) of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The duties of the board of trustees are:

- A. To act in its field as an executive of the association between annual sessions, performing all duties entrusted to it by the association.
- B. To fulfill the purpose of the department, which is to provide a retreat from outside pressures to focus on spiritual needs through Christian fellowship and evangelical ministries.
- C. To be responsible for the physical properties and the establishment of administrative policies relative to the operation of the camp.
- D. To fill any vacancy between sessions that may occur in the Executive Director's office.
- E. To require each applicant for a position in the Department of Camp Ministries to sign a statement that he/she is in agreement with the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and the Doctrinal Statement of this association before election.

ARTICLE XII — PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Section 1. This association shall elect a Publications Committee, which shall also serve as the corporation's board of directors consisting of fifteen (15) members, eight (8) of whom shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. The duties of the board of Directors are:

- A. To act in its field as an executive of the association between annual sessions, performing all duties entrusted to it by the association.
- B. To fill vacancies between sessions that may occur among staff writer positions and the Executive Director's office.
- C. To recommend to the annual session all writers of publications. Special writers (non-staff writers) may be elected by the committee between sessions.
- D. To require each applicant for a position in the Publications Department to sign a statement that he/she is in agreement with the Statement of Principles of Cooperation and the Doctrinal Statement of this association before election.

Section 3. The publications of this association will be a complete course of Bible Study literature and such other literature and publications as the association may deem advisable.

Section 4. All literature bearing the name of the Baptist Publishing House, the publishing agency of the Publications Department, or any other trade names as the board of Directors shall authorize, including literature published in foreign languages, will be under the supervision of the Executive Director of Publications and the Publications Committee.

Section 5. The Publications Committee shall elect annually a subcommittee of three (3) hereafter called the Audit Committee. The responsibilities of the Audit Committee are:

- A. To oversee the financial integrity of this department.
- B. To consult with the director as often as necessary.
- C. To make recommendations concerning the finances of the department to the Publications Committee.

We propose the following addition to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation concerning the BMA of America Service Team which is neither a department nor an agency of this association:

ARTICLE XVII – BMA OF AMERICA SERVICE TEAM

Section 1. Purpose: *Baptist Missionary Association (BMA) of America Service Team (BMA Service Team)* is a wholly owned subsidiary of the departments of the Association located at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas. The *BMA Service Team* was created for the purpose of providing an entity designed with the capacity to share employees and assets, thereby minimizing costs and maximizing return on investment for support services and functions.

Section 2. Governance: *BMA Service Team* activities are supervised by the executive directors of departments and agencies located at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas. To oversee day-to-day operations, the executive directors may hire, in cooperation together, a Director of Operations. The *BMA Service Team* annual operating and capital budgets are approved by the respective boards of the governing departments with the allocated share included in each entity's annual financial plan presented to the Association. The expenses for these shared services are pooled and allocated using *Activity Based Costing* methodology. This accounting procedure safeguards each department so that it is charged only for the applicable costs related to that organization's activities. Non-allocated costs for *BMA Service Team* are apportioned based on each departments' prorated share of allocated costs.

Section 3. Specific duties assigned to the *BMA Service Team* are:

- A. To provide shared services to supporting BMA departments and agencies to minimize overhead costs and prevent duplicate activity. These services include accounting, conferences, human resources, information services, information technology, production, and development.
- B. To provide a legal entity to hold shared employees and assets of BMA departments located at the BMA Global Ministry Center in Conway, Arkansas.
- C. To provide services to departments, agencies, and applicable committees in producing the annual BMA national meeting.

If the proposed changes concerning the Department of Camp Ministries, Publications Department, and Shared Services are adopted, then the articles in the Statement of Principles of Cooperation will be renumbered as follows (wording in *red* indicates a proposed change):

PREAMBLE

ARTICLE I – NAME

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

ARTICLE IV - NATURE

ARTICLE V - POLICY

ARTICLE VI - POWERS

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

ARTICLE VIII - COORDINATING COUNCIL

ARTICLE IX - DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS

ARTICLE X - DEPARTMENT OF CAMP MINISTRIES

ARTICLE XI - CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE XII - PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE XIII - LIFEWORD BROADCAST MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE XIV - MINISTERS RESOURCE SERVICES AGENCY

ARTICLE XV - MORAL ACTION AGENCY

ARTICLE XVI - BMAA FOUNDATION

ARTICLE XVII - BMA OF AMERICA SERVICE TEAM

ARTICLE XVIII - COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS/PRODUCTION

ARTICLE XIX - STANDING COMMITTEES

ARTICLE XX - ENROLLMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

ARTICLE XXI - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

ARTICLE XXII - MEETINGS

ARTICLE XXIII - FUNDS AND PROPERTIES

ARTICLE XXIV - AMENDMENTS

We further propose the following changes to the old Article XXII—Amendments, new Article XXIV, if the other proposed amendments are adopted. The reason for this proposal is to bring the Statement of Principles of Cooperation in line with our actions this year of not printing the Recommendations Booklet (wording in *red* indicates a proposed change).

Section 1, Letter A — *Proposed amendments to this Statement of Principles of Cooperation must be submitted in writing to the clerks of the association no later than February 1 prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the clerks to provide a copy of each proposed amendment, **no later than February 15, to be published in the Recommendations Booklet which will be distributed to the churches.** Any additional expenses involved in **developing and distributing** the Recommendations Booklet shall be paid from the Minute and Meeting Expense Fund.*

Section 2, Letter A — *Proposed amendments to the Doctrinal Statement must be submitted by a cooperating church to the clerks of the association no later than February 1 prior to the annual meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the clerks to provide a copy of each proposed amendment, **no later than February 15, to be published in the Recommendations Booklet which will be distributed to the churches.** Any additional expenses involved in **developing and distributing** the Recommendations Booklet shall be paid from the Minute and Meeting Expense Fund.*

DiscipleGuide Board Recommendations

1. That Dr. Charley Holmes be elected as Executive Director of Baptist Publishing House for one year.
2. That the proposed budget of \$465,855 for Baptist Publishing House be approved.
3. That DiscipleGuide be dissolved and Baptist Publishing House and Daniel Springs Baptist Camp operate as independent departments of the BMA of America as defined in the proposed changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation.

Lifeword Board Recommendations

1. We recommend that the proposed operating budget of \$1,475,285 for fiscal year 2021 be adopted.
2. We recommend that Sunday, October 18, 2021 be designated as *Lifeword Sunday* across the BMA.
3. That every BMA church be encouraged to support Lifeword on a monthly basis as part of their Great Commission strategy.
4. That the housing allowance be set at \$2,500 per month for the Director of Operations, Director of Digital Broadcasting, Director of Finance and the Executive Director for this year and beyond until amended.
5. We recommend the reelection of Donny Parrish as Executive Director.

BMA Seminary Trustee Recommendations

1. Affirm the proposed budget of \$1,435,043.
2. Re-affirm the appointment of Dr. Charley Holmes as president.
3. That each church observes Sunday, May 17, 2020, as *Scholarship Sunday* with: (a). Special prayer for our graduates. (b). Receive a special scholarship offering to support the training of future BMA ministers and missionaries on that Sunday.

Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Missions Department

1. We recommend the election of Elvis Garcia as the North American Hispanic Church Planting Coordinator.
2. We recommend the election of Cristian and Vanessa Martinez as international missionaries to Romania.
3. We recommend the election of Tyler and Emily Brantley as international missionaries to South America.
4. We recommend the election of Buddy and Taffy Johnson as international missionaries to Ecuador.
5. We recommend the election of Gavin and Haley Roberts as North American church planters to Utah.
6. We recommend that Brad and Heidi Faulk be supported with \$2,000/month as they replant and strive to reach sustainability in the state of Washington.
7. We recommend the reelection of Dr. John David Smith as Executive Director of Missions.

Moral Action Board Recommendations

1. That our Baptist Missionary Association of America reaffirm and approve these five (5) Moral Action resolutions and that they are mailed to the President, United States Senators, the United States House of Representatives, and the United States Supreme Court.
2. That we embrace and support the National Day of Prayer May 7, 2020, and the Sanctity of Life emphasis on a designated Sunday in January 2020. That we go to the town halls, city halls and county courthouses and join other Americans in prayer for our nation.
3. That we humbly request that these resolutions be printed in our BMA state newspapers (these resolutions are printed in our state newspapers and online but are not copied on this ballot due to expense).
4. That Dr. John M. Adams represent the BMA of America in Washington, D.C. by encouraging and contacting our United States Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen and other Christian moral/political organizations, such as American Family Association, Focus on the Family, and Family Research Council.
5. That our local associations, our local and state WMA and Brotherhoods, and our local churches and pastors give either a monthly or a yearly financial gift to Moral Action.
6. That all our BMA churches schedule June 28 or July 5, 2020, as the Moral Action "Freedom Offering" Sunday. This is an opportunity to honor or give memorials for our soldiers, both past and present.
7. That the proposed budget of \$65,040 be approved.
8. That Dr. John M. Adams be reelected as Executive Director of Moral Action.

Ministers Resource Services Board Recommendations

1. That we adopt the proposed operating budget of \$112,287 for fiscal 2021.
2. That \$12,000 of the executive director's salary be designated as housing allowance.
3. That we recognize Bro. Dwayne Ashcraft for his faithful service to the MRS board.
4. That Dr. Steve Crawley be reelected as Executive Director.

BMA Foundation Board Recommendations

1. That the proposed 2020-2021 operating budget of \$35,564 be approved.
2. That the Executive Director's salary be set at \$7,200 and that he be paid a \$500 Christmas bonus in December.
3. That Charles Attebery be reelected as Executive Director.
4. That BMAA church members prayerfully consider including the BMA Foundation in their estate plans. An undesignated bequest will benefit all BMA of America departments and agencies or individuals may designate their bequests as desired.

Resolution on Beholding the Majesty of God

We do acknowledge that a resolution was submitted by First Baptist Church of Cave Springs, Arkansas which has been printed in our state papers and online but is not reproduced on this ballot due to the expense.

Nominating Committee Report

BMA Foundation

Term to expire 2021

Marilyn Battles (to replace Craig Cloud)

Term to Expire 2025

Judy Wallace – AR

Pat McCown – TX

International Revolving Loan Fund

Term to Expire 2023

Bryson Haden – MS

North American Revolving Loan Fund

Term to Expire 2023

Michael Kelley – WA

Bma Seminary

Term to Expire 2025

Larry Geraldson – MS

Nick Kerry – TX

Josh Bullock – AR

Committee on Arrangements

Term to Expire 2023

Bill Thornton – AR

Lifeword

Term to Expire 2022

Steve Stringer – MS (to replace Harold Barnard)

Term to Expire 2025

Yalanda Merrell – AR

Rodney Burns – LA

Ross Burgess – AR

Ministers Resource Services

Term to Expire 2025

Kenneth Lott – MS

Dennis Clark – OK

Moral Action

Term to Expire 2025

Dan McGee – MO

Jerry Jolly – AR

Baptist Publishing House

(Elected on a staggered basis beginning this year)

Term to Expire 2021

Brian Kingston – MO

Emily Attebery – TX

Gene Hankins – OK

Term to Expire 2022

Jeremy Franklin – TX

Clifford McQuillen – MO

Ryan Burchett – TX

Term to Expire 2023

Justin Rhodes – MS

Charles Johnson – TX

Johnnie Rose – TX

Term to Expire 2024

Bart Herrington – AR

Scott Carson – MS

Billy Byrd – TX

Term to Expire 2025

David Yarbrough – TX

Derrick Bremmer – AR

Justin Cameron – MS

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp

(Elected on a staggered basis beginning this year)

Term to Expire 2021

Aaron Middleton – AR

Keith Head – AR

Emilee Baker – TX

Term to Expire 2022

Pam Chavers – TX

Billy Sheets – AR

Thomas Mobly – OK

Term to Expire 2023

Clayton Edgar – OK

Kevin Cook – TX

Diana Morris – TX

Term to Expire 2024

Devin DiGuilio – AR

Charlotte Johnson – TX

John Gradberg – TX

Daniel Springs Baptist Camp

Term to Expire 2025

Katie Holliman – TX

Frank Escamilla – TX

Robert Murphy – TX

**Nominations from the BMA of America Officers
for the Nominating Committee**

Terms to Expire 2023

Frank Garrido – CA

Aaron Polok – KS

Zach Rogers – MS

Remember, this ballot must be received by Wednesday April 29th and to include an offering for the Minute and Meeting Fund.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Jeff Swart, Dr. Mark Livingston, and Justin Rhodes



Please vote and return this page to BMA America, PO Box 878, Conway AR 72033.
Your donation to the BMA Minute Fund can be included with your ballot.

Church Name: _____ Your Position: _____
Name: _____ Email Address: _____

In Favor | Opposed

Proposed Changes to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation
(Department of Camp Ministries)

Proposed Changes to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation
(Publications Department)

Proposed Addition to the Amendments to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation
(BMA of America Service Team)

Proposed changes to the Statement of Principles of Cooperation
(new Article XXIV)

DiscipleGuide Board Recommendations

Lifeword Board Recommendations

BMA Seminary Trustee Recommendations

Advisory Committee Recommendations for the Missions Department

Moral Action Board Recommendations

Ministers Resource Services Board Recommendations

BMA Foundation Board Recommendations

Resolution on Beholding the Majesty of God

Nominating Committee Report