

Resolutions and Christian Life Committee Report

The Committee met March 11 to discuss potential resolutions to be presented at the 2025 IBSA Annual Meeting and assigned topics to members. The Committee then reviewed drafted resolutions at its September 18 meeting.

The Committee recommends the following resolutions for vote at the 2025 IBSA Annual Meeting. Any additional resolutions by messengers are to be submitted by 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4. The Committee will meet to discuss any newly submitted resolutions, and either prepare those resolutions for presentation and vote at the afternoon session on Wednesday, November 5 or recommend that they be referred to the 2026 Resolutions and Christian Life Committee for further work and consideration.

Resolution on Appreciation to Messengers, Leaders, and Staff

WHEREAS, the messengers, officers, staff, and leadership of the Illinois Baptist State Association have labored faithfully throughout the year to advance the mission of reaching Illinois and the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, the messengers to this 2025 Annual Meeting have demonstrated a spirit of cooperation, unity, and commitment to the work of our Association; and

WHEREAS, the IBSA staff, officers, and volunteers have devoted considerable time and energy in planning, coordinating, and leading this gathering at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the facilities and accommodations have served to provide an environment conducive to worship, fellowship, and the conduct of Kingdom business; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2025 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 4-5 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, express our sincere gratitude to the IBSA officers, staff, leadership, and volunteers for their diligent service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we commit to pray for God's continued guidance, blessing, and provision for all who labor together in advancing the Great Commission through the cooperative work of Illinois Baptists.

Resolution of Appreciation for Nate Adams on Retirement as IBSA Executive Director

WHEREAS, Nathan (Nate) Y. Adams has served the Illinois Baptist State Association as the executive director since March 1, 2006, and announced his planned retirement in February, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Nate Adams has a rich history in Illinois, having moved to Illinois with his family at age five when his father, Tom, was called to pastor in southern Illinois, then the Chicago suburbs, followed by Tom's service as Director of Missions at Fox Valley Baptist Association, his wife, Romelia, always ministering next to him; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Judson University in Elgin (BA) and National Louis University in Evanston (MS); and received an honorary doctorate from Judson University; and

WHEREAS, he is the co-founding pastor of Hope Community Church in St. Charles, IL and the author of four books including, "The Acts 1:8 Challenge"; and

WHEREAS, for 17 years he was in leadership as vice president of corporate publishing at Christianity

Today International, headquartered in Carol Stream; then he was called to a vice presidency at the North American Mission Board (NAMB); and

WHEREAS, he accepted the call to return home to lead Illinois Baptist work in 2006. After more than 19 years of service he is the longest tenured executive director in Illinois Baptist history; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the great size of and diversity within our state, he led Illinois Baptist pastors and churches through extremely challenging times for both our state and nation to partner together in obedience to the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, he set forth new priorities for the ministry of IBSA with a reorganization of the network's staff to facilitate the strategy of revitalizing churches and showing support for their pastors; and

WHEREAS, he gave attention to ministry, leadership development, and church planting all across Illinois, from Chicago to Metropolis, with development of zone ministry to bring support closer to churches and improved ministry support with local associations, even as they faced their own challenges; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure, these priority emphases have resulted in seeing more than 230 new churches planted or begin cooperating with IBSA, churches baptizing more than 78,000 persons as new believers in Jesus Christ, and churches contributing more than \$115,422,800 through the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, through his diligent leadership, IBSA reached a level of financial stability that enabled much needed renovations of the IBSA Building in Springfield, along with renovations and expansions to Lake Sallateeska and Streator Baptist Camps that increased capacities' and allowed renewed ministry for pastors and their families; and

WHEREAS, Nate Adams' ministry was made possible by his wife, Beth, who prayed for him, sacrificed for him and the network along with their three sons, their wives, and six grandchildren. Beth faithfully gave of her time to Illinois Baptists – traveling with him to visit churches, local associations, board meetings, IBSA Annual Meetings, Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meetings, and countless other events; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the Christian ministry has been embodied by Psalm 78:72, which declares, "He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands;" and now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the messengers to the 2025 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 4-5 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Nathan Y. Adams, given to our Lord and to Illinois Baptists, and that we assure him and Beth, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this state association.

Resolution on Engaging Illinois Colleges and Universities with the Gospel

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists recognize the growing number of students attending colleges and universities across our state and the unique opportunity this provides for Gospel witness; and

WHEREAS, Illinois is home to 176 institutions of higher education, including 9 public universities across 12 campuses, 39 community college districts encompassing 48 community college campuses, 104 independent not-for-profit colleges and universities, and 15 independent for-profit institutions¹; and

WHEREAS, Illinois public universities alone had over 185,000 students enrolled for the 2024-25 fall semester,² showing an increase over the 2023-2024 school year in which there were an estimated total of 695,380 students across Illinois institutions³; and

WHEREAS, students on Illinois campuses represent a global mission field, fulfilling the vision of Acts 1:8 as our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth are all gathered together in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, while Baptist Collegiate Ministries are active on some Illinois campuses, the majority of Illinois colleges and universities remain largely unengaged by Illinois Baptists as mission fields; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2025 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 4-5 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, encourage Illinois Baptist churches to engage their local colleges and universities as strategic mission fields rich with opportunity for the Gospel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists commit to seek out the best ways to support those actively serving in collegiate ministry through prayer, volunteer efforts, and financial partnership; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Illinois Baptists join together in prayer as instructed in Matthew 9:38, praying both for those already laboring on the harvest fields of Illinois campuses and for the Lord to send out additional workers into this vital mission.

¹ https://www.ibhe.org/HigherEd_Map.html

² www.ibhe.org/assets/DataPoints/pdf/IBHE_FIRST_LOOK_FALL_ENROLLMENT_2024-25_October_2024_Final-111224.pdf

³ https://www.ibhe.org/assets/DataPoints/pdf/IBHE_Fall_Enrollment_Survey_Report_2023.pdf

Resolution on Sports Gambling

WHEREAS, Scripture warns against greed, covetousness, and practices that exploit others (Exodus 20:17; Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:9–10), and calls believers to contentment, stewardship, and love of neighbor; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois State legislature legalized sports gambling in 2019, and since that time, online and mobile sports betting have expanded rapidly, generating billions of dollars in wagers and disproportionately affecting young adults and economically vulnerable families¹; and

WHEREAS, sports gambling is strongly linked to addiction, financial ruin, family conflict, and other harms that undermine the well-being of individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, gambling profits rely on practices designed to keep bettors engaged beyond their means and are contrary to biblical principles of honest labor and trust in God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2025 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 4-5 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, express their clear opposition to all forms of sports

gambling, whether in person or online; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we urge pastors and church leaders to teach faithfully on the dangers of gambling and the call to faithful stewardship; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we encourage our churches to compassionately minister to individuals and families harmed by gambling addiction; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we call upon elected officials to enact policies limiting the expansion and advertising of sports gambling and to provide adequate support for prevention and treatment of gambling-related harm; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we encourage Illinois Baptists to communicate this conviction to public officials and to model lives free from participation in gambling.

¹ <https://www.centraltimes.org/showcase/2025/04/30/illinois-new-reality-youth-gambling/>

<https://www.governing.com/now/illinois-grapples-with-rise-in-sports-gambling-problems>

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=144073>

Resolution to Encourage Renewed Support and Sacrificial Giving Through the Cooperative Program on the Occasion of its 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, in 2025 Southern Baptists are celebrating the centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program; and

WHEREAS, the messengers to the Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting in Orland Park, IL, November 12-13, 2024, enthusiastically affirmed the Cooperative Program as the primary method of funding our Great Commission cooperation at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, the New Testament records the biblical foundations of cooperation in passages such as Acts 2:45; 4:32-35; Rom. 15:25-27; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; and 2 Cor 8:7-15, whereby autonomous churches joyfully and generously give voluntarily to meet needs and aid in the proclamation of the gospel to the unreached; and

WHEREAS, giving through the Cooperative Program allows all churches, no matter the size and budget, to participate as equal partners in sending missionaries, planting and revitalizing churches, training ministers, and providing relief to the suffering; and

WHEREAS, Illinois Baptists have made a great commitment to our missionaries, both at home and abroad, and to our larger family of Baptist workers, generously giving over \$278,000,000 through the Cooperative Program, thus funding important ministry efforts that include disaster relief, church planting, church revitalization, chaplaincies, evangelistic initiatives, discipleship strategies, pastor care, Christian education, Baptist communications, and human needs ministries that are all supported and sustained through Cooperative Program giving; and

WHEREAS, no other system in history has proven as effective at sending and supporting international missionaries on the field, with more than 3,500 fully funded missionaries currently around the globe resulting in nearly 145,000 new believers in the most recent year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the messengers to the 2025 Illinois Baptist State Association Annual Meeting, November 4-5 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, Illinois, celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Cooperative Program with gratitude and thanksgiving for the churches that give faithfully and sacrificially; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we enthusiastically encourage each congregation to renew their commitment to and their

financial support for missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program so together we might carry out the Great Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Barnett, Vice Chair
Allen Boland
Frank Forthman Jr.
Debbie Giacomo, Secretary
Raymond Gregory
John Howard
Barbara Lee
Barry Sink
John Truax
Jason Webb
Jef Williams, Chair

2026 Officers:

Jason Webb, Chair
John Howard, Vice Chair
John Truax, Secretary