

**National  
Association of  
Baptist  
Professors of  
Religion**



**A M** Association of  
**G P** Ministry  
Guidance  
Professionals



2026 JOINT ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE PROGRAM

# THE CHURCH AND GLOBAL MIGRATION

May 18-20, 2026

Smoke Rise Baptist Church  
Tucker, Georgia



### Greetings from the BHHS Executive Director

Welcome to Tucker, Georgia, and to the 2026 joint annual conference of the Baptist History & Heritage Society! We are grateful for our continuing partnership with NABPR and AMGP. Thank you to Adam English, Jennifer Bashaw, Bill Carrell, and Ken Gore for their collaboration and collegiality. Thanks also to BHHS President Mandy McMichael for her leadership. A special word of gratitude to the staff and congregation of Smoke Rise Baptist Church for hosting us—especially associate pastor Bart McNeil and facilities manager Antowyn Smith! BHHS last met at Smoke Rise Baptist in 2018 and we are excited to be back!

We hope you will join us for our Tuesday luncheon as we honor Rev. Dr. Melody Maxwell with the 2026 W. O. Carver Distinguished Service Award and hear from Emory University professor Dr. Alison Collis Green give a talk on Baptists and the environment and how we might respond. You can find full descriptions of our luncheon and all paper presentations at [www.thebhhs.org/events](http://www.thebhhs.org/events).

Founded in 1938, BHHS helps Baptists discover, conserve, assess and share their history while bridging the worlds of the academy and the congregation through publications, conferences, and resources for ministers, laity, academics, and students.

Since 1969, BHHS has sponsored an annual meeting to explore diverse themes and topics related to Baptist history and identity. This year's theme, the Church and Global Migration, invites us to remember that Baptist history has always been shaped by movement—missions, exile, diaspora, displacement, and the search for home. I look forward to learning together this week. Thank you for being here!

**Aaron Weaver**  
Executive Director

**National  
Association of  
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Religion**



### Greetings from the NABPR Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The NABPR welcomes you to the Annual May Meeting, held jointly with BHHS and AMGP! The Baugh Foundation graciously provided funds to enrich our program and your experience at the meeting, and we are deeply grateful. Special words of thanks also go to our local contact, Aaron Weaver, and to the staff and congregation of Smoke Rise Baptist Church for hosting us. NABPR President Jennifer Bashaw managed proposals and program assignments for NABPR. Jennifer Bashaw, Bill Carrell, Ken Gore, Mandy McMichael, Aaron Weaver, and myself formed the core of the May Meeting planning committee. Many other hands contributed, and they should all be thanked!

This year's theme, the Church and Global Migration, is profoundly and immediately relevant. We could not have known how relevant it would become when the May Meeting planning committee started talking about it as a possible theme two years ago. But, as our biblical studies colleagues will remind us, it is also an old and enduring theme, recalling complex histories of exile, exodus, wilderness wandering, the search for a promised land, and the treatment of foreigners and aliens in the land.

The National Association of Baptist Professors of Religion supports academic inquiry and professional development among scholars of religious studies who are connected to or interested in the Baptist tradition, and includes a quarterly peer-reviewed journal, a books series, a postdoctoral fellowship, a dissertation award, and two annual meetings.

I pray that this meeting rekindles the fires of intellectual passion and causes new ideas to ignite; I pray it renews old friendships and causes new ones to spring up. If I can be of any assistance to you during the meeting, please find me and let me know.

**Adam C. English**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

**AMGP** Association of  
Ministry  
Guidance  
Professionals

### Greetings from the AMGP Executive Director-Treasurer

Welcome to Atlanta, Georgia and the AMGP 2026 Annual Meeting. Our meeting again this year is held jointly with the annual meetings of our colleagues in the NABPR and BHHS. Adam English and Jennifer Bashaw (NABPR), Aaron Weaver and Mandy McMichael (BHHS), Ken Gore and I have worked closely together in planning the joint meeting. I want to thank Aaron Weaver especially for his work to coordinate with Smoke Rise Baptist Church and for logistical planning in the Atlanta area. I also want to thank the Baugh Foundation for once again providing the grant to assist with programming.

Our 2026 AMGP President, Ken Gore, has coordinated an outstanding program of presentations by our members and a special guest. Leading off the Joint Conference is a plenary interview conducted by Emily Prevost with Pablo Juarez, Pastor of FBC Kaufman en Español. Pastor Juarez's life, ministry, and writings provide an immediate and personal context for this year's theme, "The Church and Global Migration." The presentation by Steve Vernon, who has worked closely with immigration in the Rio Grande Valley, also provides needed context for this year's meeting.

Founded in 1959, AMGP is made up of Baptist theological educators responsible for guiding students through ministerial call clarification and supervised field experiences in ministry. We provide a forum for sharing information and establishing professional standards for ministry guidance. The issue of the Church and Global Migration is particularly important for AMGP, because it poses challenges for mentoring students through conflicts inherent in such politically divisive and practically difficult ministry.

**Bill Carrell**  
Executive Director-Treasurer

# Monday, May 18

8:30-11:30 am	<b>AMGP Board Meeting</b>	<b>McAfee</b>
Noon-1:00 pm	<b>AMGP Board and Committees Lunch</b>	<b>McAfee</b>
1:00-3:00 pm	<b>AMGP Seminar/Workshop</b>	<b>McAfee</b>
1:00-3:00 pm	<b>BHHS Editorial &amp; Board Meeting</b>	<b>Room 223</b>
2:30-4:30 pm	<b>Registration</b>	<b>Welcome Center</b>
3:00-4:00 pm	<b>NABPR Executive Committee Meeting</b>	<b>Room 223</b>

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## 4:30-6:00 pm **CONCURRENT SESSION I**

### **Baptist Studies I (BHHS)**

**Room 223**

Presiding: Jerry Faught, Wayland Baptist University

*Congregational History and Baptist Identity: A Review of First Baptist Church Waco: A Legacy of Education, Missions, and Service*

Glenn Jonas, Campbell University  
Doug Weaver, Baylor University  
William L. Pitts, Baylor University

*A President in Church: Getting Jimmy Carter Out of the Archives*

Christi Harlan, Christi Harlan Media LLC

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### **Baptist Studies II (BHHS)**

**Room 307**

Presiding: Laura Levens, BSK Theological Seminary

*Finding a Home Among Baptists: 50 Years of the Welcoming and Affirming Movement*

C. Delane Tew, Samford University

*Harvey Springer: Baptist Fascist?*

Christopher Price, New River Community and Technical College

*Rhetorical Fictions and the Witch Hunt of Women in Ministry: A Narrative Criticism of Southern Baptist Convention Discourse (1984–2023)*

Meg Rooney, University of Georgia

Presiding: Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, Campbell University

*Reading Revelation 12 with Black Mothers: Calling the Church to Hospitality*

Kierra Prather, McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University

*Silence Speaks at Midnight: Midnight as Borderland*

Rochelle Samuel, McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University

*Response: Angela Parker*

McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University

6:00-7:00 pm

## **JOINT BANQUET**

Fellowship Hall

7:00-8:00 pm

## **PLENARY SESSION I**

Fellowship Hall

### ***Conversation on the Church and Global Migration***

Rev. Dr. Pablo Juarez reflects on immigration as a pastoral and congregational reality, not simply a political issue, in a conversation hosted by Dr. Emily Prevost. Drawing on his own story and his ministry at First Baptist Church en Español in Kaufman, Texas, Rev. Juarez speaks about the fear, instability and disruption many immigrant families are facing and the ways those pressures shape the life of a congregation. This opening plenary session considers how churches respond when detention, deportation and family separation are no longer distant concerns but present realities in the communities they serve.

**Pablo Juarez** is pastor of First Baptist Church en Español in Kaufman, Texas. Originally from Nicaragua, he has served as a church planter, pastor and educator and holds degrees from Campbell University and Dallas Baptist University.

**Emily Prevost** is a professor at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

# Tuesday, May 19

8:30-10:15 am

## CONCURRENT SESSION II

### Baptist Studies III (BHHS)

Room 309

Presiding: Andrew Smith, Carson-Newman University

*Stubborn, Tenacious and Sensitive: Annie Armstrong and Controversies*

Melody Maxwell, Acadia Divinity College

*The Scandal, Strength and Spirituality of a Female Missionary*

Reid S. Trulson, American Baptist International Ministries

*The Liturgical Agency of Female Believers: Expanding Women's Access to Religious Authority*

Meg Rooney, University of Georgia

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### Baptist Studies IV (BHHS)

Children's Suite (3rd Floor)

Presiding: John Inscore Essick, BSK Theological Seminary

*Willie Dawson: The Power of Speech*

Bill Pitts, Baylor University

*Crossing Boundaries of Race and Geography: The Rev. J. C. Herrin in the Southern Baptist and American Baptist Denominations*

Deborah Bingham Van Broekhoven, American Baptist Historical Society

*Reinterpreting the Baptist Mission: Garland A. Hendricks and Rural Church Reform, 1940-1953*

Joshua S. Pruitt, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

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### Baptist Studies V (BHHS)

Room 223

Presiding: Mel Hawkins, Carson-Newman University

*Fidelity to God's Word: Christian Nationalism and Inerrancy in the Southern Baptist Convention*

Benjamin Potter, International Baptist Theological Seminary

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*Messing with Texas: The Baptist Joint Committee's Legislative Advocacy in the Lone Star State*  
Jerry Faught, Wayland Baptist University

*Diaspora, Distance and Discipleship: How Black Baptists Navigate Christian Nationalism's Moral Geography*

Michaela Calahan, Southern Methodist University

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**Biblical Interpretation II (NABPR)**

**Room 307**

Presiding: Scott Shauf, Gardner-Webb University

*Dad Jokes and Lament in Micah 1*

Anna Sieges Beal, Gardner-Webb University

*'You Shall Love the Stranger': Old Testament Ethics of the Alien and Contemporary Immigration Policy*  
Donald Raney, Wayland Baptist University

*Whom Do We Trust: The Failure of Christian Formation and the Rise of Conspiracy Theories*  
Seth Heringer, Toccoa Falls College

*Everyone Deserves to Read: Using Critical Exegesis Practice and Pedagogical Alliance to Empower Interpreters of Scripture*

Laura Levens, BSK Theological Seminary

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**Christian Ethics I (NABPR)**

**Room 306**

Presiding: Jacob Cook, Eastern Mennonite University

*A Matrixial Psychoanalytic Case Study for Addressing Christian Nationalism*

Matthew S. Beal, Boston University

*Fear of Vulnerability and the Production of Fascist Subjectivity*

Ryan Newson, Campbell University

*Moral Minority, Immoral Majority: Lessons from the Rise and Fall of Evangelical Purity Culture to Disrupt White Christian Nationalism Now*

Kathryn House, Meadville Lombard Theological School

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Presiding: Glenn Jonas, Campbell University

*The Church in Conflict: Karl Barth, Liberation Theology, and the Struggle for Belonging*

Kyle Barton, Baylor University

*A Black Comparative Religious Study of Christianity and Islam*

Brandon Richmond, Gardner-Webb University

*'Tell the Truth to Shame the Devil': Uvee Ross and the Founding of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.*

Pamela A. Smoot, Southern Illinois University

Presiding: Ken Gore, Dallas Baptist University

*The Role of Short-Term Missions in Ministry Training*

Dennis Horton, Baylor University

*Vocational Exploration in a Globally Connected World*

Emily Prevost, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

*Analyzing Theological Dynamic in Exegesis*

Mike Baird, Grand Canyon University

10:30-Noon

**PLENARY SESSION II**

Sanctuary

***Fresh Anointings in Times of Tribulation: Learning from the Theologies of Vulnerable Migrant Communities***

Dr. Jonathan Calvillo examines how discussions of migration and religion often cast immigrants as objects to be studied and acted upon rather than as subjects within stories they are co-creating; the current political climate, with immigrants facing heavy surveillance and enforcement, adds to this tendency.

The agency of migrants is further minimized when narratives of migrant faith emphasize the influence of North American missions upon migrants' homelands and the activities of U.S.-based religious institutions within migrant communities. Nevertheless, especially in the current

moment, it is important to recognize that theology is a key site of agency for immigrants. In the face of current adversity, immigrants are responding through faith.

Drawing on his research, Calvillo highlights some of the lived theologies observed among church leaders and congregants from communities living on the edge. In keeping with his previous work, he focuses especially on Latino immigrant communities. The cases considered are of Protestant background, with particular attention to lived and expressed theologies emerging from places such as Atlanta, Minneapolis and Los Angeles.

**Jonathan Calvillo** is Associate Professor of Latinx Communities at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. His work examines how distinct Latinx populations build communities of belonging through faith and creativity, often in the face of systemic exclusion.

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Noon-1:45 pm **BUSINESS MEETINGS/LUNCHEONS**

AMGP Lunch and Business Meeting  
BHHS Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting  
NABPR Lunch and Business Meeting

Children's Suite (3rd Floor)  
Room 223  
Fellowship Hall

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2:00-3:45 pm **CONCURRENT SESSION III**

**Baptist Studies VI (BHHS)**

**Room 310**

Presiding: Doug Weaver, Baylor University

*A Mere Kentuckian: Celebrating the Life and Published Works of Dr. Keith Harper*

Andrew Smith, Carson-Newman University

*Baptists and World War II: Telling the Stories*

Presentation: *To the Ends of the Earth: Southern Baptist Missions in the Balkans, 1938-1945, and Other WWII Research Opportunities at the Southern Baptist Historical Library & Archives*

Taffey Hall, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Presentation: *The Effect of WWII in Shaping God's Call and Missions Service: Japanese-Americans Reiji and Asano Hoshizaki, and Other WWII Research Opportunities at Baylor University*

Kathy Hillman, Baylor University

## Baptist Studies VII (BHHS)

Room 309

Presiding: Meg Rooney, University of Georgia

*Scattered Yet Gathered: Baptist Identity and the Theology of Diaspora*

R. Connor Evans, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

*Manichean Fire: Gilbert Tennent, James Davenport and the Roots of Separate Baptist Dualism*

Daniel Alan Long, Indiana University

*The Bible, Humor and Being a Baptist*

William E. Ellis, Eastern Kentucky University

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## Baptist Studies VIII (BHHS)

Room 306

Presiding: Stuart Sprague, Anderson University

*J. B. Hartwell and the Global Missionary Movement*

John E. Shaffett, Brewton-Parker Christian University

*Here We Have No Lasting City: Soviet Evangelical-Baptist Immigration to the United States in the Late 1980s*

Sarah MacKenzie, University of Alabama in Huntsville

*Towards Filipinization of the Southern Baptists in the Philippines: Surveyed and Considered*

John Paul Arceno, Southwestern Baptist  
Theological Seminary

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## Biblical Interpretation and Pedagogy: Joint Session of NABPR/AMGP

Room 223

Teaching Biblical Interpretation with Serving Up Scripture

Introduction: Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, Campbell University

Panelists:

Anna Sieges Beal, Gardner-Webb University  
Seth Heringer, Toccoa Falls College  
Susan Benton, Baylor University

Presiding: TBA

*Ministry, Marriage, and Me: Ordained Canadian Baptist Women on Marital Status and Family Responsibilities, 1976-2024*

Melody Maxwell, Acadia Divinity College

*The Once and Future Country Church: Mark Rich and Rural Baptist Congregations*

John Inscore Essick, BSK Theological Seminary

*'Quite the Bloomin' Allegation': Harold Bloom's 1992 Charge of the Exemplification of Neo-Gnosticism in the Southern Baptist Convention*

Wyman Lewis Richardson, Central Baptist Church in North Little Rock, Arkansas

*John D. Freeman and the Mercer Heresy Trials*

Bryan J. Whitfield, Mercer University

Presiding: Adam English, Campbell University

*Unchanging Gospel Message, Changing Context: Contextualization Strategies in Lukan Paul, Irenaeus, and Athanasius*

Joy Axelsson, Gardner-Webb University

*Why Christus Victor?: Jewish Influences on Early Christian Atonement*

Eric Wickman, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

*Sacrifice in Early Christian Theology and Practice*

Scott Shauf, Gardner-Webb University

**Wednesday, May 20**

8:30-10:15 am

**CONCURRENT SESSION IV**

*The Baptist World Alliance – Reading History through Biography*

Melody Maxwell, Acadia Divinity College

Doug Weaver, Baylor University

Merrill Hawkins, Carson-Newman University

Glenn Jonas, Campbell University

C. Delane Tew, Samford University

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Presiding: Ossie X. McKinney, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

*Making a Baptist College a Safe Space from Which to Wage Culture War: Louisiana College/Christian University, 2007–2023*

Christopher Schelin, Starr King School for the Ministry

*Transformed by Fellowship: Japanese Americans and Antiracism in Northern Baptist Home Missions*

Jenny Manasco, American Baptist Historical Society

Brice Bongiovanni, American Baptist Historical Society

*James Ralph Noonkester: A Promoter of World Missions, Pioneer Educator and Champion of Racial Justice*

Charles Dollar, History Author and Researcher

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Presiding: Ryan Newson, Campbell University

*Unashamedly Christian, Unashamedly Modern: Baptist Theology for American Democratic Society*

Michael Laminack, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

*Personal Agency, Liberative Community, and the Reorientation of Christian Practice*

Jacob Cook, Eastern Mennonite University

*The Muscle and the Margin: How Baptist Masculinity Constructs the ‘Strong’ National Body Against Migrant Vulnerability*

Michaela Calahan, Southern Methodist University

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## Ministry Studies III (AMGP)

Room 310

Presiding: Jack Bodenhamer, Truett Seminary, Baylor University

*Immigration and the Church: A Survey of Work in the Rio Grande Valley*

Steve Vernon, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

*The Pedagogy of Leadership for Undergraduate Students: Teaching the How, When, and Why of this Vital Ministerial Competency*

Jane Wilson, Baylor University

Lisa Seeley, East Texas Baptist University

Group Discussion: Ministry Guidance in Light of the Plenary Sessions

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## Pedagogy and Practice (NABPR)

Room 223

Presiding: Scott Ryan, Claflin University

*Teaching Biblical Greek with Documentary Papyri*

Joel Weaver, Truett Seminary, Baylor University

*A Colorful Classroom: A Pedagogical Case Study for Integrating Marginalized Voices in Baptist Homiletics Curricula*

Jesse Nelson, Meachum School of Theology

*Teaching Outside the Box: Exploring Neurodiversity*

Paula Fontana Qualls, Gardner-Webb University

*Everything Teaches: Church Spaces as Places of Belonging for Children and Families*

Sarah Boberg, Campbell University Divinity School

**Theology and the Church Panel: “Liberating Our Democracy: Black and Indigenous Traditions, Resistance, and the Moral Imagination” (NABPR)**

*Religion and Resistance in Black Communities: ‘We Are Here, and We Matter’*

Lawrence E. Claiborne, United Lutheran Seminary

*A Theology for Wholeness Toward a Requiem for Du Bois, Double Consciousness*

James Jones, Jr., United Lutheran Seminary

*Fractured Legacies: African and Native American Relations, Resistance, and the Limits of Colonial Christianity*

David Hoxter, United Lutheran Seminary

*The Cross, Credibility, and the Cry of the Oppressed*

Gabriella Harris, United Lutheran Seminary

*Response: Black and Indigenous Influences and Resources for Democratizing Knowledge*

Adam DJ Brett, United Lutheran Seminary

10:30-Noon

**PLENARY SESSION III**

Sanctuary

***The Bible in the Baptist Tradition***

In *The Bible in the Baptist Tradition*, Doug Weaver and Mikeal C. Parsons explore how Baptists have read, interpreted and argued about the Bible across four centuries of history. Their study examines how Baptists have engaged the Bible as a source of authority, tracing themes such as freedom of conscience, believer’s baptism, local church independence, and the interplay of personal and communal experience, the Bible and the Spirit. The book also considers how Baptists have wrestled with the challenges of modern biblical scholarship and debates involving race, gender and sexuality.

This panel brings the authors into conversation with Baptist scholars to reflect on how Baptists have engaged the Bible throughout their history and how those patterns continue to shape preaching, teaching and congregational life today.

**Mikeal Parsons** is University Distinguished Professor and Professor of Religion at Baylor University, specializing in the New Testament, particularly Luke–Acts.

**Doug Weaver** is the Driskell Professor of Historical Studies and Chair of the Department of Religion at Baylor University, where he teaches and researches Baptist history and Pentecostalism.

**Elizabeth “Ebby” Arnold** serves as Scholar-in-Residence for The Candler Foundry at Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, where she teaches New Testament and is creator of an online certificate program for community- and church-based theological education.

**Kim Bodenhamer** is a biblical scholar and Senior Academic Writing Consultant at Baylor University whose work focuses on the Hebrew Bible and theological education.

**Marcus Jerkins** is Senior Pastor of New Pilgrim Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, and a pastor, scholar and author whose work engages theology, preaching and Black Baptist life.

**Sandy Martin** is Professor of Religion at the University of Georgia and a historian of American religion whose work focuses on African American religious history and Baptist traditions.



# CALLINGS

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Baylor University

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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**Dr. Ronald Angelo Johnson**

Ralph and Bessie Mae Lynn Chair of History  
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