

Minutes
Triangle East Baptist Association
2021 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

The 2021 Fall Semi-Annual Meeting was held at Hocutt Baptist Church, Clayton. We met at 7pm and enjoyed seeing all the pastors and representatives who participated in the meeting. Rev. Bobby Richardson opened up our meeting with a word of prayer. Our theme this year is "Pushing Back the Darkness... One Church Plant at a Time." The theme of "pushing back the darkness" has been our heralding cry for the last several years. We are experiencing times of crisis and confusion and need Jesus more than ever before. With our county 67% unchurched there is much work to be done for the Kingdom. The communities in our Association are growing at a tremendous rate and housing structures are being build rapidly to keep up with the growth. That is one reason why we, as an Association, decided to change our name to a less boundary specific title. With 12 churches outside the county lines, we are expanding our reach and ministries to many other locations. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of our General Board and all that went into this monumental change!

During the Missions Strategist report from Dr. Kelton Hinton we all learned just how much change is happening to the local communities our congregations serve. In fact, Johnston County has been named the "fastest growing county" in North Carolina. With growth of 27.9% last decade and a projected addition of 25.4% during this decade, the results are clear... we need more churches. We also looked at maps of our surrounding counties where 20% of TEBA congregations reside and saw rapid growth in those areas as well. Growth is all around us and opportunities await. We need to add 100 churches to keep up with it all! We currently have very specific outreaches to bikers, Haitians, cowboys, and Hispanics. We could also target other specific segments of our population, such as; renters, people of color, those with "hurts, habits, and hang-ups", multi-housing residents, the deaf community, blue collar workers, and many others. As an Association, Kelton challenged us to begin the conversation of what we need to do in order to be an effective organization. Are there areas that we need to improve or change to best represent the gospel of Jesus.

During the business portion of the meeting, we voted on and approved new officers, department directors, appointments, and committees for the new year. We also approved the 2021-2022 budget. We heard from several of our departmental directors and committee members (you can read their individual reports in the Book of Reports to learn how they have carried out their ministry during the last year). The group also approved the Program Committee's submission for next year's program for the Spring and Fall meetings.

Our new NC Baptist Children's Home Representative, Wade Parker, introduced himself and thanked our Association for supporting their ministry so faithfully. Wade shared about their new initiative of training foster families and those interested in adoption. This new endeavor is bursting with excitement at the possibility of placing more children in loving, Christian homes and greatly reducing the number of children waiting for their forever families. Wade is also available to pastoral supply and doesn't mind traveling to any of our churches to speak when needed.

Rev. Glen Brock, Pastor of Baptist Center Church, delivered our annual sermon on Isaiah 42:5-9. Pastor Glen delivered a timely and thoughtful message to believers. In these verses, God promised the nation of Israel that He would bring about a "newness" and times of refreshing if they would continue in

righteousness and bring glory to the One, True God. He would give them opportunities to be a light for those who sit in darkness and open the eyes of the blind and oppressed. Pastor Glen spoke of how maybe now is the time that we begin to see what things as an Association have come to pass and seeing the beauty in newness. What a beautiful Word from our Covenant-keeping Father!

After such a great word of encouragement, we were all filled with hope and looking forward to a bright future as an Association. With full and hopeful hearts we were dismissed in prayer and enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments.