Royal Palm Baptist Association
Annual Meeting
October 15, 2026
Parkway Baptist Church



Program Personalities:

Leonard Anderson, Pastor, Parkway Baptist Church
Frank Brand, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Estero
Graham Gunden, Assistant Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Cape Coral
Jennifer Horton, Clerk, Administrative Assistant to the Associational Missions Strategist
Russell Howard, Pastor, McGregor Baptist Church
James Hunt, Pastor, Caloosa Baptist Church
James Julian, Pastor, New Life Church, Bonita Springs
Jeremy Kingsley, Pastor, Crossroads Baptist Church
Preston Long, Pastor, First Baptist Church of LaBelle
David Miller, Membership & Missions Pastor, McGregor Baptist Church
Tommy Morgado, Pastor, Northside Baptist Church
Jim Olsen, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Pine Island
Hal Wynn, Interim Associational Missions Strategist
Ben Ziettlow, Discipleship & Worship Pastor, Northside Baptist Church

Royal Palm Baptist Association
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Royal Palm Baptist Association Staff

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Royal Palm Baptist Association
68th Annual Meeting
October 15, 2026

Hosted by Parkway Baptist Church

Worship

Musical Prelude: Ben Ziettlow

Welcome: Hal Wynn, Interim AMS

Instructions on facilities and opening prayer: Leonard Anderson

Worship in Song*: O Church Arise*

Worship in Song: *All Sufficient Merrit*

Worship in Scripture: *Acts 2:36-40* Tommy Morgado

Responsive Reading of Associational Covenant: Russell Howard

Worship in Prayer: Preston Long

Worship in Song: *Show us Christ*

Worship in the Word: *"The Power of the Ordinary" Acts 2:41-42* Graham Gunden

Worship in Response: *Lord, I Need You*

Business and Reports

Call to Order: Jim Olsen, Moderator

Enrollment of Messengers: Jennifer Horton, Clerk

Presentation of Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes: Frank Brand, Vice Moderator

Associational Missions Strategist/Administrative Lead Team Report: Hal Wynn, Interim AMS

Church Planting Team: David Miller, Chairman

Membership Team Report: James Hunt, Chairman

Nominating Team Report: Graham Gunden, Chairman

Personnel Team Report: Frank Brand, Chairman

Stewardship Team Report: James Julian, Chairman

New Business

Motion to Adjourn

Closing Prayer: Jeremy Kingsley

Royal Palm Baptist Association
Semi Annual Meeting Minutes
Hosted by Ranch Road Baptist Church
April 21, 2026

The worship portion of our meeting began with musical prelude on piano by Rebecca Sissons. Hal Wynn Welcomed us to the Semi- Annual Meeting. Ken Puls accompanied by Rebbecca Sissons led us as we worshiped in song. Israel Iglesia, Pastor of Ranch Road Baptist Church welcomed us to their facility. Will Peterson read scripture from Hebrews 4:12-16. Sergo Caprice led us in prayer. Ken Puls accompanied by Rebbecca Sissons led us as we worshiped in song. James Hunt brought a message from Hebrews 12:28-29 titled, "The Proper Posture for Worship". Ken Puls accompanied by Rebbecca Sissons led us as we worshiped in song.

Jim Olsen, moderator, called our business and report portion of our meeting to order. Jennifer Horton, clerk, enrolled the messengers who were in attendance. The minutes of the October 7, 2025, Annual Meeting were presented by Vice Moderator, Frank Brand. They were approved as printed.

Hal Wynn, Interim AMS presented the Associational Missions Strategist/Administrative Lead Team Report including these three resolutions:

1. We resolve to produce a bi-weekly Associational Podcast to educate our churches on the ministry of each of our churches in our Association by interviewing our pastors and leaders concerning the ministries, needs, and vision of their respective churches.

Resolution 1 was approved as presented.

2. Resolved, as time and schedule allow, to participate in a weekly prayer effort in our churches each week for one of our selected pastors and churches which will be selected and communicated to our churches by our Royal Palm staff by means of our website, email, or other practical ways. We will begin the process with our lead team pastors and churches. Next, we will include those who are presently serving us on our various teams and then move out from there to our other churches and pastors who are willing to participate in this prayer effort. Praying for one another is the most effective starting place for allowing God to shape our hearts to minister to one another.

Resolution 2 was approved as presented.

3. Adopt our Associational Covenant to express our resolve together.

Royal Palm Baptist Associational Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to Fellowship and minister together as a Southern Baptist Association of Churches under the power and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and being in close identification with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as an expression of our doctrinal statement drawn from the Bible whose perfect teachings serve as our final authority on all matters of faith and practice,

We therefore engage to promote fellowship among our pastors and churches by praying for one another and meeting regularly to listen to one another, learn from one another, be accountable to one another, and seek to love one another.

We will seek to bring Biblical encouragement and renewal to our existing churches, while seeking to cultivate and encourage the planting of new churches both locally and around the world.

We will seek to be faithful to the Scriptures in matters of church practice and principles, while being patient and sensitive to the differences that exist in various customs, cultures, and viewpoints within the scope of our agreed upon statement of faith.

We further engage to file our annual church profile (ACP) so that we may share the blessings of God's work in our church, to participate in the Annual and semi-annual meetings with our church messengers, to be faithful in our stewardship by giving meaningfully, regularly, and sacrificially to our Royal Palm Baptist Association of churches, and to be open to God's leadership in serving when asked to serve in our Association of churches.

Resolution 3 was approved as presented.

Hal welcomed two new lead pastors who have come to serve in our Association: Will Peterson: Redeemer Church and Preston Long: First Baptist Church of Labelle.

He shared a "snapshot" of our churches: We have 103 congregations. We have 91 church families that are meeting. 66 churches in full membership (including 12 missions which bring total to 103) 24 Churches under watch care and 1 church plant.

Hal's report was approved as presented.

The Church Planting report was presented by David Miller
He shared that the current focus of the CPR team now is twofold: 1) To identity geographical pockets in Southwest Florida where no gospel work exists and where churches could feasibly be planted. A good example of this kind of new work is Redeemer Church, pastored by Will Peterson. 2) To identify existing churches that are near death in need of revitalization.

In terms of the financials, so far this year, no monies have been spent from the Smith Funds, which is the fund established a few years ago to assist church plants in the Royal Palm Association. The report from the Church Planting Team was approved as presented.

The Membership Team report was presented by James Hunt.
He shared that the team has worked in cooperation with Hal Wynn to connect with some of the Haitian Baptist Churches whose applications for membership became dormant. On Saturday, February 28, Royal Palm hosted a conference for Haitian Baptist Churches to introduce the ministry of Royal Palm and provide information needed for consideration of membership. Some follow up and interest has happened. Lord willing, more to come, especially under the leadership of Hal Wynn.

Also, the Membership Team is delighted to present this evening Redeemer Church, Estero (Pastor Will Peterson) for Watch care. Prior to becoming a new member, a church will be considered under Watch Care for at least one year and may apply for full membership at any time during that year. A vote was taken and passed to accept Redeemer Church under watch care. The report of the Membership Team was approved as presented.

The Nominating Team report was presented by Graham Gunden.
He shared with us that Jim Olson was appointed to the Nominating Team by the Lead Team, per our bylaws, on February 19th of this year. This appointment was made after James Julian stepped off the Nominating Team to serve as the interim chair of the Finance & Stewardship Team. On November 15th of last year, Pastor Les Morgan of First Baptist Church of North Fort Myers went to be with the Lord. Les had served our Association faithfully for years in various capacities, most recently as Treasurer and chair of the Finance Team. After his death, James Julian graciously volunteered to serve as the interim chair of the Finance team, and he has been doing an excellent job. The Nominating Team is formally nominating James to serve on the Finance & Stewardship Team for a traditional 2-year term per our bylaws. The motions were approved and the Nominating Team report was approved as presented.

The Personnel Team report was presented by Frank Brand.
He reported that the team has met multiple times in recent months as we have begun the process of searching for a replacement for Mark Gonzales. During this time, they have carefully considered and prayerfully discussed recommendations submitted by several pastors within our association. In addition, they have distributed a survey to all pastors in the association in order to gather broader input and better understand the needs, concerns, and perspectives of our churches. They want to affirm that they are taking this responsibility seriously and are seeking the Lord's guidance in every step of the process. It is both an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity. They ask that you continue to keep the Personnel Team in your prayers as they move forward, trusting God to lead us to the right individual in His perfect timing. The Personnel Team Report was approved as presented.

The Finance and Stewardship Team report was presented by James Julian.
He shared the Financial Statement for the months of January – March, which were printed in the book of reports and presented it as a motion from the Finance and Stewardship Team. He thanked the churches for giving and encouraged them to continue to be good stewards for the resources that they have been given. The Finance and Stewardship Team report was approved as presented.

New Business: Hal encouraged the pastors to register for the Q & A Forum with Willy Rice on May 11th at Northside Baptist Church., He then entertained a motion that we adjourn. The motion to adjourn was presented by James Julian and seconded by Graham Gunden and the motion passed.

Chad Moore led in closing prayer.

Associational Missions Strategist Report
and Administrative Lead Team Report
Hal Wynn, Interim AMS & Administrative Lead Team Leader

Administrative Lead Team Main Function: To ensure the overall effectiveness of the association regarding the Annual and Semi-Annual Meeting(s) and Voting Assemblies, ministry teams, events, property issues, revisions to the legal documents (as officers/trustees as per our Articles of Incorporation), submitted motions and all issues related to the Constitution, Bylaws and the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Administrative Lead Team members are the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Director/AMS, and Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director/AMS, as well as the Team Leaders of the Finance and Stewardship Team, Personnel Team, Church Planting/Revitalization Team, Membership Team, and Nominating Team. The Executive Director/AMS shall serve as the team leader of the Administrative Lead Team.

It has been my privilege to complete my first year as your Interim AMS. For those who don't know me, I served as the lead pastor at Northside Baptist Church for 41 years from 1981 – 2022.

It has been a joy to work with our lead team, which is composed of seasoned, wise pastors of various ages, experience, and church size.

Jim Olsen: Moderator FBC Pine Island 14 years

Frank Brand: Vice Moderator FBC Estero 21 years.

James Hunt: Membership Chair Caloosa Baptist Church 8 years.

James Julian: Financial Chair: New Life Church Bonita Springs 8 years.

Graham Gunden: Nominating Chair: Grace Baptist Church 9 years.

David Miller: Church Planting and Revitalization Chair: McGregor Baptist Church 24 years.

Jennifer Horton: our excellent administrative assistant, who is going on her 40th year serving our Association.

When I became the part-time AMS in September of last year, I discovered that there was a lot of work that needed to be done Biblically, financially, and strategically to get our Associational house in order. My desire is to seek God's renewing work in our Association and in our churches.

I like the word *renewing* because it has been used historically and theologically to include both *reformation* of doctrine and practice, as well as *revival* as the sovereign work of God's life-giving power which we cannot produce.

Renewal includes the important work of building the trellis, as we look to God to grow the vine. We may plant and water, but God gives the increase. We need our Father's hand to come upon us in blessing and his Spirit to give us life so that Christ is clearly seen and shared.

God has given us a vision for renewal in our Association that finds clear expression **in our Associational covenant** that we adopted this year, and in our biblical mandate to make disciples of all nations which begins in our own Association. This work must be done under the Authority and by the power of our crucified and risen Lord who has promised to build his church, his bride, his body, of which he is the head. He has given us the promise of his abiding presence and power in connection with the gospel work he has called us to.

The Association isn't a church, it is a *family of churches* that is seeking to work together to encourage and equip our pastors and churches in gospel ministry together, to plant new churches and seek renewal and revitalization in our established churches.

We have 2,644 SBC churches in Florida and 48 Associations. These Associations and our State Convention are part of our Family of Southern Baptist churches in Florida. The 48 Associations in our State are divided into 6 regions East, Central, West, North, Southeast, and Southwest.

We are one of 4 Associations in the Southwest region of Florida which includes: RPBA, Peace River Association, Big Lake Association, Manatee Association.

Each Association of churches is autonomous, just as each church is autonomous. So, while we share a common statement of faith and mission, there may be differences that reflect the culture, education traditions, and history of that Association. It is our privilege and responsibility to develop an Association that is ***healthy and growing***, in that order. We don't want unhealthy growth.

Wayne Bryant is our Florida Baptist Regional Catalyst.

David Lopez provides financial ministry to our churches from the Florida Baptist Financial Services.

We have 65 member churches in our Association (FBC of Fort Myers Beach disbanded, but we will be adding a new one tonight). Some of these 65 churches have missions or campus' that are extensions of their ministry that meet each week.

We also have church plants, or replants that are in watch-care and in process of Associational membership. We will be recognizing a few new ones tonight.

We have about 100 congregations at this point of time meeting each Sunday in our three-county area of Lee, Collier, and Hendry County.

We welcome some of the new pastors who have become part of us this year.

Jeremy Kingsley: Pastor Crossroads Baptist Church

Dennis Norvell: Pastor North Fort Myers FBC

Ben Ziettlow: Associate Pastor Northside Baptist Church

Christopher Nelson: Associate Pastor at FBC Estero

John Gauntt: Pastor Mangrove Community Church (watchcare)

Josh Stewart: Pastor Oaks Community Church (watchcare)

Jeremiah Taylor: Pastor Redemption Church (watchcare)

Jeremie Tales: Pastor New Life Haitian Immokalee (watchcare)

To accomplish this work, we will need to ask God to help us,

1. **Minister together biblically (Rev 2:4-5)**
2. **Give together meaningfully (2 Cor 8:8-11)**
3. **Serve together strategically (Mt 28:18-20)**

What progress have we made this year in giving meaningfully? I'm encouraged by the response of some of our churches who took the 2% challenge last year. Others increased their giving to the association, as they began to see what we can do together, so that this year our giving has been about $500 more each month than it was last year.

Still, we are *about* $2500 short each month in meeting our monthly expenses from the giving of our churches. We are able to cover this shortage from our budget fund which is *about* $27,000.

In 2026 Jan-Sept giving from **39** churches: …. **$72,000**

Jan-Sept Expenses that we paid out: ... **$93,700**

Difference in the first 9 months: ……$**21,700**

Difference each month: ……..$**2,411**

As we move into 2027, our prayer is that God will open the eyes of our pastors and churches to see what we can accomplish together when we are all giving regularly and meaningfully.

Serving Together Strategically:

We have talked a lot about Associational and Church Renewal.

This has been at the center of the thinking as a leadership team.

We have launched our **Associational Prayer ministry** which is something that each of our churches can become a part of. **You can sign up by taking out the last page in your booklet and agreeing to participate as described there.** If we are not praying for one another, we should not be surprised if we do not see God's blessing upon our churches as they are in Association with one another.

Our podcast will begin in 2027 which we hope will bring another opportunity to share our message of Associational and church renewal. We will be interviewing our pastors and hear what God is doing in the churches and become better acquainted with our family of churches.

One of the delights of this job is the opportunity to meet with pastors and talk about theology and their church ministry, as well as getting to know their hearts as brothers in Christ. I have had great conversations with many of you.

My prayer is that all our pastors and churches will get to know one another better and develop a confidence in our ministry together that is grounded in the **centrality of Christ**, **Biblical exposition,** and **the great commission**.

Because **Associational renewal** has been an important part of our conversation as a lead team, we took the recommendation from one of the members of our personnel team David Gold who was the pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church. He had a dear friend in South Carolina who is now retired named Johnny Rumbough who had served in SC as an AMS for about thirty years and has provided helpful material in the area of Associational renewal. We invited him to come and to talk to our lead team about Associational and church renewal since you can't really have one without the other. We enjoyed getting to know him, hearing his perspective, and reading his book. He offers a consulting ministry for Associations and a year plan which involves him flying in and out from SC. We estimated expenses and fees to be around 8-10 thousand dollars.

The consensus of our lead team after hearing from Johnny and seeking to discern God's direction for our Association is that **we would not proceed with Johnny Rumbough as a consultant in the renewal process.**

However, the lead team is committed to continue to pursue Associational renewal, health, and stability which has already been at work in the hearts of our team and some of our pastors this year.

We are thankful for God's providence in bringing Johnny to us which has helped to confirm what God is doing among us, and our commitment together. We are also grateful to Crossroads Baptist Church for paying for the expenses of Johnny being with us for a few days, which we would not otherwise have been able to afford.

The puritan **John Flavel** wrote in his book on *The Mystery of Providence*, "The providence of God is like Hebrew words—it can be read only backwards."

Church Planting/Revitalization Team Report
David Miller, Team Leader

Church Planting/Revitalization Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team in planning, promoting, and coordinating mission projects and church planting in the Association.

Church Planting/Revitalization Team: David Miller (Membership and Missions Pastor, McGregor Baptist Church), Jerome Anderson, (Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lehigh Acres) & Elias Jinar, (Pastor of Grace Romanian Church of Naples)

Since the Semi-Annual meeting took place, both Hal and David met with met with Peter Ku to gage his interest in joining the CPR Team. Peter has a breadth of experience in that regard, and after praying about it, he has decided to join the CPR Team. Peter's addition will come as a recommendation to be voted on tonight at our Annual Meeting.

The CPR Team is also continuing to identify geographical pockets in Southwest Florida where no gospel work exists in order to discover the areas where churches could feasibly be planted by the existing churches in our association.

Hal has met with five church planters that have expressed interest in coming into our Association. Four of them will be presented for watch-care at our Annual meeting.

One of our church plants which has been under watch-care, Redeemer Church, will be moving from watch-care to membership at our Annual meeting.

Motion from the Church Planting Team, which was approved by the lead team and now needs your approval:

The CPR Team would like to make a motion regarding the funding amount of the Smith Funds.

Currently the funding amount is as follows: The maximum Church planting funding may be up to $10,000 for any one church plant.

Our motion is that the maximum Church planting funding may be up to $30,000 for any one church plant, paid in amounts of $10,000 a year, over a three-year period.

Membership Team Report
James Hunt, Team Leader

Membership Team Main Function: To accept and review applications from churches who wish to become members of the Association, in consultation with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team

Membership Team: James Hunt, (Pastor of Caloosa Baptist Church), Daniel Garcon (Pastor of Christ Center Fellowship, Lehigh Acres), Leonard Anderson (Pastor of Parkway Baptist Church) & Chris Mueller, (Pastor of Legacy Life Church, Bonita Springs)

The Membership Team has gratefully served alongside Hal Wynn in connecting with some churches interested in partnering with RPBA. Representatives from the Membership Team, along with Hal, met for lunch with two Pastors of churches seeking membership (Will Peterson, Redeemer Church and John Guantt, Mangrove Community Church). We are delighted to sense God's hand upon both of these pastors and the churches they represent. We are grateful for Hal's communications with New Life Baptist Church, Jeremie Tales; Oaks Community Church, Josh Stewart; and Redemption Church, Jeremiah Taylor, and are thankful for their interest in membership/watch care in RPBA as well.

The Membership Team recommends the following churches for Watch Care in Royal Palm Baptist Association:

- New Life Baptist Church of Immokalee, Jeremie Tales, Pastor
- Mangrove Community Church, Fort Myers Beach, John Gauntt, Pastor
- Oaks Community Church, Naples, Josh Stewart, Pastor
- Redemption Church, Naples, Jeremiah Taylor, Pastor

The Membership Team recommends the following church for membership in Royal Palm Baptist Association:

- Redeemer Church, Estero, Will Peterson, Pastor

1) Are there any disagreements or areas of contention (whether strongly or subtly) that your church leadership has with the BFAM? Answer: No

2) How do you plan to help your church members understand that baptism is a prerequisite to church membership and the Lord's Supper? Answer: This is stated in our confession of faith and I also say it before we take the Lord's Supper.

3) How do you plan to practice church membership? Answer: We practice formal church membership based on profession of faith and baptism. Our expectations are laid out in our covenant.

4) We desire membership with the Royal Palm Baptist Association, the Florida Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention for the following reasons: We want to join other churches in gospel work and partner together for support and encouragement.

Nominating Team Report
Graham Gunden, Team Leader

Nominating Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team to nominate elected officers and team members for approval by the Association

2026 Nominating Team: Graham Gunden (Assistant Pastor of Grace Baptist Church), Tommy Morgado (Pastor of Northside Baptist Church), & Chad Moore (Pastor of New Hope Church)

Oct 2026- Oct 2028 Officers of Royal Palm Baptist Association
Moderator: Frank Brand, *Pastor, First Baptist Church of Estero*
Vice Moderator: Leonard Anderson, *Pastor, Parkway Baptist Church*
Treasurer: James Julian, *Pastor, New Life Church, Bonita Springs*
Clerk: Jennifer Horton, *Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director/AMS*

Church Planting/Revitalization Team
2027 David Miller, Leader, *Membership and Missions Pastor, McGregor Baptist Church*
2027 Elias Jinar, *Pastor, Grace Romanian Church of Naples*
2028 Peter Ku, *Missions Pastor, First Naples Church*

Church Planting/Revitalization Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team in planning, promoting, and coordinating mission projects and church planting in the Association.

Finance & Stewardship Team
2027 Josh Dorcey, *Elder, Ranch Road Baptist Church*
2027 Preston Long, *Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church of LaBelle*
2028 James Julian, Leader, *Pastor, New Life Church, Bonita Springs*

Finance and Stewardship Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team to secure, administer, and report the Association's finances, promote giving to the Association, and lead in the preparation of the annual budget.

Nominating Team:
2027 Graham Gunden, Leader**,** *Assistant Pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Cape Coral*
2027 Tommy Morgado, *Pastor, Northside Baptist Church*
^2028 Chad Moore, *Pastor, New Hope Church*

Nominating Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team to nominate elected officers and team members for approval by the Association

Membership Team
2027 James Hunt, Leader, *Pastor, Caloosa Baptist Church*
2027 Chris Mueller, *Pastor, Legacy Life Church, Bonita Springs*
2028 Will Peterson, *Pastor, Redeemer Church, Estero*
2028 Sergo Caprice, *Pastor, Nouvelle Jerusalem, Fort Myers*

Membership Team Main Function: To accept and review applications from churches who wish to become members of the Association, in consultation with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team.

Personnel Team
*2027 Kevin Taylor, Leader, *Pastor, First Cape Church*
^2027 Jim Olsen, *Pastor, First Baptist Church of Pine Island*
2027 David Rogers, *Pastor, Providence Church*

Personnel Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team regarding all matters relating to paid staff in accordance with the Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual which includes the search, selection, recommendation and dismissal of an Executive Director/AMS and any additional staff.

Administrative Lead Team Members
Hal Wynn, Interim Executive Director/AMS
Frank Brand, Moderator
Leonard Anderson, Vice-Moderator
James Julian, Treasurer & Finance & Stewardship Team Leader
Jennifer Horton, Clerk/Administrative Assistant to the AMS
David Miller, Church Planting/Revitalization Team Leader
James Hunt, Membership Team Leader
Graham Gunden, Nominating Team Leader
Kevin Taylor, Personnel Team Leader

Administrative Lead Team Main Function: To ensure the overall effectiveness of the association regarding the Annual and Semi-Annual Meeting(s) and Voting Assemblies, ministry teams, events, property issues, revisions to the legal documents (as officers/trustees as per our Articles of Incorporation), submitted motions and all issues related to the Constitution, Bylaws and the Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual.

The Administrative Lead Team members are the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Director/AMS, and Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director/AMS, as well as the Team Leaders of the Finance and Stewardship Team, Personnel Team, Church Planting/Revitalization Team, Membership Team, and Nominating Team. The Executive Director/AMS shall serve as the team leader of the Administrative Lead Team.

Reference Notes:

Team Members rotate off their Teams at the October Meeting of the year noted by their name.

* Denotes temporary chairman, appointed by the nominating committee for the purpose of calling the first meeting of each committee, at which time the committee may vote on a chairman.

^ denotes the filling of an unexpired term - Due to a team member either moving or unable to complete their term.

Personnel Team Report
Frank Brand, Team Leader

Personnel Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team regarding all matters relating to paid staff in accordance with the Personnel Policy & Procedures Manual which includes the search, selection, recommendation and dismissal of an Executive Director/AMS and any additional staff.

Personnel Team: Frank Brand, (Pastor of First Baptist Church of Estero), Jim Olsen, (Pastor of First Baptist Church of Pine Island), David Rogers, (Pastor of Providence Church) & Kevin Taylor, (Pastor of First Cape Church)

We are pleased to welcome Jim Olsen as a new member of the Personnel Team, as he joins us in filling the position previously held by David Gold. We extend our sincere gratitude to David for his service and contributions to the association, and we wish him God's blessings as he begins this new chapter of ministry at his new church in South Carolina.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to each of our churches that took the time to respond to the survey distributed to our pastors. Your feedback, insights, and recommendations are valuable to us, and the information you provided will help guide us in our process. Thank you for your participation and your continued investment in the ministry of the Royal Palm Baptist Association.

We appreciate the work of Hal Wynn, who has been serving as our Interim AMS for the past year, and for Jennifer Horton, our administrative assistant who will be completing her 40th year with us next year. We have recommended to the Finance Team a 2% cost of living raise for them for 2027.

We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Royal Palm Baptist Association and remain committed to seeking God's wisdom and direction in our responsibilities. We ask for your continued prayers as we move forward, trusting the Lord to guide our decisions for the good of the association and the advancement of the gospel.

Finance & Stewardship Team Report
James Julian, Treasurer and Finance & Stewardship Team Leader

Finance and Stewardship Team Main Function: To work with the Executive Director/AMS, staff, and Administrative Lead Team to secure, administer, and report the Association's finances, promote giving to the Association, and lead in the preparation of the annual budget.

Finance & Stewardship Team: James Julian, (Pastor of New Life Church, Bonita Springs), Josh Dorcey, (Elder, Ranch Road Baptist Church) & Preston Long, (Pastor of First Baptist Church of LaBelle)

January – September 30, 2026

Receipts/Income

$ 72,013.02	Gifts from 39 congregations
$ 291.28	Bank Interest/Credits
$ 10,177.00	*Designated Funds
$ 554.18	Endowment Interest
$ 361.07	Meal Payment Team Event
$ 5,108.35	Reimbursed Children's Home
$ 7,948.56	In/Out Transfer Check Return
$ 0.00	Smith Transfer
$ 96,453.46	**Total Income**

***Income Designated Funds $10,177.00:**

$ 4,677.00	Podcast Funds
$ 2,000.00	Scholarship Funds
$ 3,500.00	Renewal

Expenses/Disbursements

$ 93,712.20	Budgeted
$ 7,948.56	In-Out Transfer Check Return
$ 7,458.70	**Designated
$ 109,199.46	**Total Disbursed**

****Disbursed Designated Funds $7,458.70:**

$ 4,377.00	Podcast
$ 2,000.00	Scholarship
$ 1,081.70	Renewal

Checking Account Cash Flow

$ 54,572.77	**January 2026 Balance**
$ 96,453.46	Income
$ 109,119.46	Disbursed
$ 41,906.77	**September 2026 Balance**

Breakdown of All Accounts
(As of September 30, 2026)

Bank of America Checking Account

Checking Account Balance	**$41,906.77**
Budget Balance	$27,634.47
Designated Balance	$14,272.30

Standing Designated Funds/Endowments

Church Planting/Smith Fund **$421,749.02**
Balance as of September 30, 2026
Earnings Jan-Sept $35,345.48
Limited to church planting in the Royal Palm Baptist Association
(Managed by Florida Baptist Foundation)

SW Florida Community Foundation

Balances as of Sept. 30, 2026	**$27,906.77**
Royal Palm endowment:	$16,466.47
Children's Home Endowment.:	$11,440.30

CASH FLOW SUMMARY

Beginning Balance January 1, 2026	$ 54,572.77
YTD Faithful receipts from congregations	$ 72,013.02
YTD Designated	$ 10,177.00
Interest/Bank Credits Income	$ 261.28
Endowment Income	$ 554.18
Meal Payment Team Event	$ 361.07
Reimbursement Children's Home	$ 5,108.35
In/Out Transfer Check Return	$ 7,948.56
Transfers from Smith Funds	$ 0.00
YTD TOTAL Cash Flow Accessible in 2026	$151,026.23
YTD TOTAL Disbursements Jan – Sept 2026	$109,119.46
Checking Account Balance as of Sept. 30, 2026	**$ 41,906.77**

2026 Budget Year to Date Disbursements as of September 30, 2026 2027 Proposed Budget

	2026 Budget	YTD Disbursed	**2027 Proposed Budget**
Budget Expenses*:*			
Outreach & Equipping Events Evangelism; Outreach; Disaster Relief; Resources; Equipping Events	$ 2,000	$ 0.00	**$ 2,000**
Collaboration & Networking Conventions/Conferences; Pastors' Gatherings; Assoc./Team Meetings	$ 5,300	$ 4,281.17	**$ 6,000**
Consultation & Coaching Mileage reimbursements; Hospitality	$ 3,050	$ 2,613.18	**$ 4,000**
Facility Operations & Maintenance Telephone/Internet; Utilities; Website; Postage; Insurance; Services; Office Supplies; Equipment; Décor & Furnishings; Minor repairs; General Operations of Building	$ 22,350	$ 16,284.40	**$ 22,950**
Staff Support (AMS; Admin. Asst.) Salaries; (AMS part-time; Admin Asst. part-time) Housing; Retirement; Payroll Taxes; Insurance	$ 98,405	$ 70,533.45	**$100,235**
Total Budget & Budgeted Disbursed Totals	**$ 131,105**	**$ 93,712.20**	**$135,185**

(SF) Church Planting Support	$ 0.00
(D) Scholarship	$ 2,000.00
(D) Podcast	$ 4,377.00
(D) Renewal	$ 1,081.70
(T) In/Out Transfer Check Return	$ 7,948.56

SF= Smith Funds D=Designated U=Undesignated T=Transfer

Smith Funds/Designated/Undesignated/Transfers	**$ 15,407.26**
TOTAL OF ALL DISBURSEMENTS	**$109,119.46**

2026 Total Church Giving - January - September 2026		Jan - Sept
Church Name	**Status**	**2026 Gifts**
First Baptist Church of LaBelle/LaBelle Hispanic	M 1992	$9,600.81
Northside Baptist Church	M 1982	$7,396.00
New Hope, Cape Coral	M 2002	$5,890.50
East Naples Baptist Church	M 1957	$4,081.04
Crossroads Baptist Church	M 1994	$3,974.22
First Baptist Church of Estero	M 1961	$3,894.07
Fort Myers Community	M 2018	$3,600.00
Summit Church, Estero/Gateway/Naples	M 2005	$3,375.00
McGregor Baptist Church	M 1958	$2,750.00
North Fort Myers First Baptist Church	M 1957	$2,624.48
Naples First/Cape Coral & Spanish Naples/Cape Coral	M 1957	$2,500.00
Gateway Baptist Church	M 1986	$2,250.00
Grace Baptist Church	M 1987	$1,975.00
North Naples Baptist Church	M 1988	$1,800.00
First Baptist Church of Golden Gate	M 1989	$1,778.91
First Baptist Church of Pine Island/Pine Island Spanish	M 1962	$1,650.00
Goodland Baptist Church	M 2008	$1,200.00
Caloosa Baptist Church	M 1985	$1,105.00
First Baptist Church of Everglades City	M 1971	$961.12
First Baptist Church of Lehigh Acres/Lehigh Hispanic	M 1965	$930.75
Legacy Church, Estero	M 2015	$900.00
Parkway Baptist Church	M 2014	$900.00
The Connection	M 2005	$900.00
First Haitian Fort Myers	M 2008	$700.00
New Beginnings, Naples	M 2023	$688.70
Nouvelle Jerusalem	M 2007	$675.00
Trinity Bible Fellowship	M 1997	$602.00
Good Shepherd Haitian		$500.00
First Baptist Church St James City	M 1972	$500.00
Lehigh Reformada	M 2015	$360.00
Richmond Avenue Baptist Church	M 1980	$360.00
Olga Baptist Church	M 1959	$354.81
Iglesia Real Hispanic/Iglesia Real	M 2003	$283.14
Emmanuel Hispanic	M 2008	$250.00
Providence Church	M 2013	$187.47
New Life Haitian Baptist Immokalee	CP	$180.00
El Schaddai	M 2009	$150.00
Omega Haitian Baptist Church Ft Myers	M 2015	$125.00
Messagers Haitian Baptist		$60.00
Beacon Community Church	CP	$0.00
Beraca Immokalee	M 2008	$0.00
Betesda, Naples		$0.00
Bethesda Haitian	M 2008	$0.00
Bonita Springs Primera	M 2008	$0.00
Cape Coral Hispanic	M 2015	$0.00
Christ Center Fellowship	M 2022	$0.00
Coeurs Unis		$0.00
Connect Church, Naples	M 2016	$0.00

2026 Total Church Giving - January - September 2026		Jan - Sept
Church Name	**Status**	**2026 Gifts**
Copeland Baptist Church	M 2008	$0.00
Eben Ezer Haitian Baptist Church	M 2008	$0.00
Fairway Church	M 2015	$0.00
Family Church Marco Island	M 1971	$0.00
Fellowship Immokale/Ava Maria/Fellowship Haitian	M 1957	$0.00
First Haitian Restored		$0.00
First Omega, Immokalee		$0.00
Foi Apostolique		$0.00
Fort Myers Korean Church	M 2008	$0.00
Fountain of Worship		$0.00
Fraternity Haitian	M 2009	$0.00
Friendship Baptist Church	M 1960	$0.00
Galilee Haitian Baptist		$0.00
Glendale Bible Baptist Church	M 2008	$0.00
Grace Romanian Baptist Church	M 2008	$0.00
Heavenly Canaan	M 2008	$0.00
Horeb Haitian	M 2008	$0.00
Jesus Cristo	M 2008	$0.00
Light Haitian		$0.00
Mangrove Community Church	CP	$0.00
Maranatha Immokalee		$0.00
Momentum Church	CP	$0.00
Naples First Haitian Baptist Church	M 2008	$0.00
New Life Church, Bonita	M 1957	$0.00
Noah's Ark Church	M 2008	$0.00
Nueva Vida, Lehigh		$0.00
Oaks Community Church	CP	$0.00
Philadelphia Haitian Baptist Church	M 2016	$0.00
Ranch Road Baptist Church	M 2023	$0.00
Redeemer Estero	WC	$0.00
Redeemer Haitian		$0.00
Redemption Church, Naples	CP	$0.00
Riverside Baptist Church	M 1957	$0.00
Salem Haitian Baptist Church	M 2008	$0.00
San Carlos Haitian		$0.00
Shalom Fraternity, Naples		$0.00
Southwest Baptist Church	M 1988	$0.00
St John Missionary	M 2008	$0.00
Suncoast Baptist Church	M 1972	$0.00
Triomphante Faith		$0.00
Vida en Cristo, Cape Coral		$0.00
Vida En Jesus		$0.00
Vietnamese, Bonita Springs		$0.00
Vino Nuevo		$0.00
Total gifts from all Congregations		**$72,013.02**

2027 Calendar of Events

January
1 New Year's Holiday – RP Offices Closed
21-23 Founders Conference – at McGregor Baptist Church
28 Team Training Meeting for all Team Members, 10 AM at RP

February
11 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
11 Church Talk Meeting, 11 AM at RP

March
11 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
28 Easter Sunday

April
8 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
17-18 Bless SWFL – Jet Blue Park
21-24 National Association of Ministry Assistants Conference in Orlando
27 Semi Annual Meeting, 6 PM at TBD

May
7 National Day of Prayer
13 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP

June
13-16 Southern Baptist Convention Meetings, Indianapolis, IN

July No meetings scheduled at this time.

August
12 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
12 Church Talk Meeting, 11 AM at RP

September
16 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP

October
14 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
19 RP Annual Meeting, 6:00 PM at TBD

November
8-9 Florida Baptist Convention Meetings, Orlando
18 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
24-26 Thanksgiving Holiday – RP Offices Closed

December
9 RP Administrative Lead Team Meeting, 10 AM at RP
24-31 Christmas Holiday – RP Offices Closed

Royal Palm Baptist Associational Covenant

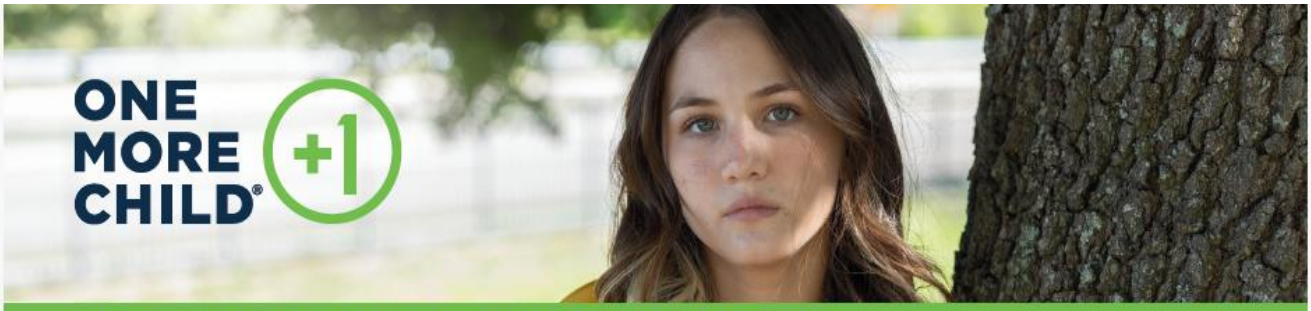
Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to Fellowship and minister together as a Southern Baptist Association of Churches under the power and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, and being in close identification with the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 as an expression of our doctrinal statement drawn from the Bible whose perfect teachings serve as our final authority on all matters of faith and practice,

We therefore engage to promote fellowship among our pastors and churches by praying for one another and meeting regularly to listen to one another, learn from one another, be accountable to one another, and seek to love one another.

We will seek to bring Biblical encouragement and renewal to our existing churches, while seeking to cultivate and encourage the planting of new churches both locally and around the world.

We will seek to be faithful to the Scriptures in matters of church practice and principles, while being patient and sensitive to the differences that exist in various customs, cultures, and viewpoints within the scope of our agreed upon statement of faith.

We further engage to file our annual church profile (ACP) so that we may share the blessings of God's work in our church, to participate in the Annual and semi-annual meetings with our church messengers, to be faithful in our stewardship by giving meaningfully, regularly, and sacrificially to our Royal Palm Baptist Association of churches, and to be open to God's leadership in serving when asked to serve in our Association of churches.



REPORT TO THE ASSOCIATIONS 2026

This past year, we saw God transform hearts, restore hope, and draw children and families into the life-changing love of Christ. We celebrate these victories, knowing needs are being met and lives are being changed for eternity. As God opens new doors, the faithful partnership of local churches fuels our mission of building hope today and for generations to come.

In our fiscal year of July 2025 - June 2026, we served **284,958 children and individuals** and provided more than **13.7 million meals nationally and globally.** We also impacted **126,272 additional individuals** through advocacy, training, awareness, and volunteering.

We served children like Regina.* At 16-years-old, Regina's life became a nightmare. After surviving sexual assault, she was placed in a shelter—but still processing her trauma and searching for control, she ran away. Like many vulnerable youth, she became at risk to further exploitation and was targeted by a trafficker.

Thankfully, law enforcement intervened and referred Regina to One More Child. Our Anti-Trafficking Mobile Team began walking alongside her, providing therapy, advocacy, mentorship, and hope founded in Jesus. She identified goals, processed her trauma, and took concrete steps toward a brighter future, including applying for college scholarships and interviewing for jobs. **Now Regina's life is no longer a nightmare—instead, she has dreams for the future.**

Thanks to our partners, we are impacting children like Regina and sharing the love of Jesus. As we rejoice for the lives that have been impacted, we also know that there are more children to serve, more families to support, and more regions to reach where hope has not yet arrived. One More Child cannot do this work alone and we are eternally grateful to come alongside churches in this vital mission.

Together for one more,

Stephen Robert,
President/CEO

*Name has been changed for confidentiality reasons.

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN!

Visit onemorechild.org/churches

Your church is making an eternal impact and we're here to partner with you in advancing the Kingdom in your community:

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Your time and talents can change lives! From packing meals to mentoring single moms, your service makes an eternal difference:
onemorechild.org/volunteer

MOTHER'S DAY 2026

Your generosity made an incredible difference this past year. We celebrate all God has done through you and look forward to an even greater impact in 2027:
onemorechild.org/mothersday

GLOBAL MISSION TRIPS

Travel with us to share the love of Jesus with children and families in developing nations. Be part of life-changing ministry around the world:
onemorechild.org/missiontrips

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' "
Matthew 25:40 (NIV)

ONE MORE CHILD MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

Since opening our doors as an orphanage in 1904, caring for 23 children in that first year, One More Child has grown into a global ministry serving hungry children, foster children, trafficking survivors, single moms, and struggling families. This past year, God has grown our ministry in remarkable ways.

Last year, we cared for **284,958 children and individuals**. All of this was possible because **126,272 additional individuals** united with us through advocacy, awareness, training, and volunteer efforts. While the need has never been greater, Florida Baptists are helping us carry this mission forward extending our impact as we:

- **SERVE FOSTER CHILDREN.** One More Child licensed loving, Christian foster families across Florida coming alongside **1,674 children and individuals** with the care, support, and stability they needed through their foster care journey. We also celebrated 115,744 days of care and 74 adoptions into forever homes, giving children the gift of love, stability, and hope for the future.

- **SERVE HUNGRY CHILDREN.** Through a robust distribution network, we provide nutritious meals directly to families in crisis. Across all of our national and global initiatives, **13,792,256 meals** have brought nourishment and stability to the most vulnerable among us.

- **SERVE STRUGGLING FAMILIES.** Through evidence-based interventions, parenting workshops, and preventative care, we **served 4,233 individuals this year**. Additionally, by mobilizing churches, community partners, and volunteers, we provided **393,641 Backpack Meals**—supplying food to school children who would otherwise go hungry over the weekend—meeting urgent, practical needs and supporting families both at home and in school.

- **SERVE SINGLE MOMS AND THEIR CHILDREN.** Our Single Moms program provided a lifeline and 28,050 days of care for 432 mothers and children. Through mentoring, education, and skills training, **89% of moms successfully completed our residential program**, saving a combined $228,455 as they built a brighter future for their families.

- **SERVE TRAFFICKED CHILDREN AND TEENS.** We remain resolute in our fight against child sex trafficking. This year, **1,329 clients received Christ-centered, trauma-informed care** through our Anti-Trafficking program. In addition, 14,620 individuals were impacted through education, advocacy, and awareness efforts, equipping even more communities to protect their children and support survivors on the journey to healing.

- **UPHOLD THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE.** Through our Sanctity of Human Life initiatives, 26,548 U.S. and global clients were served, including 3,089 who were presented with the option of adoption. By God's grace, **794 babies were saved from abortion**, a testament to the eternal impact of this ministry.

- **SERVE GLOBAL COMMUNITIES.** One More Child continues to reach beyond borders to provide Christ-centered care, essential resources, and support to **214,492 children and individuals** through global programs, backed by 17,278 global child sponsorships and 2,833,345 meals. Through community development and 52 mission trips—where volunteers run medical clinics, lead Vacation Bible School, and build homes—the eternal hope of Christ is reaching vulnerable children and families worldwide, bringing healing today and hope for generations to come.

ONE MORE CHILD +1

For more information about One More Child, contact us at 863.687.8811 or **visit onemorechild.org.**

RPBA Church Prayer Plan

"To this end we always pray for you..." — 2 Thessalonians 1:11–12

Why This Prayer Ministry Matters

- We want to strengthen prayer, connection, and awareness among churches in our Association.
- Each participating church will pray for one selected church during morning worship each week.
- The goal is to ask God to make each church faithful to His calling and fruitful in every work of faith.

The Pastoral Commitment

- I am willing to encourage our church to join other churches in prayer.
- Our church will pray for one selected RPBA church each week during morning worship.
- Our church is willing to be included in the shared prayer rotation.

How the Prayer Rotation Will Work

- Participating churches will be organized alphabetically by church name.
- Each week, one church will be selected from the participating churches.
- The selected church's name, lead pastor, and other leadership information will be shared with participating churches by the associational office.
- Information may be sent weekly or monthly, depending on the process that works best.

What We Hope to Provide Each Week

- Name of the selected church.
- Name of the lead pastor and/or key leadership.
- Church location.
- A picture of the church building or congregation.
- A picture of the pastor or leader, when available.

What We Need from Each Pastor

- A picture of your church.
- A picture of you or the primary church leader.
- Reliable email addresses for the person preparing worship media or bulletins.
- A simple response confirming: "Yes, we'll include this church in prayer this week."

How the Information Will Be Shared

- Information and pictures may be shared by email.
- A Google form or spreadsheet link may be used to collect participation responses.
- Responses can be organized automatically for easy weekly tracking.
- Churches that do not use screen presentations may include the prayer focus in a bulletin or insert.

The Greater Purpose

- To seek God's grace upon the churches of our Association.
- To pray for His presence and power in every work of faith He has set before us.
- To build a greater sense of spiritual partnership among our congregations.
- To glorify the name of the Lord Jesus Christ in and through our churches.

NEXT STEPS - The Pastoral Commitment

Church Name: _____

Pastor: _____

Meeting location/Adress: _____

_____

Prayer Ministry Contact Person with email address and telephone #

Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Supply Royal Palm with a Picture of Pastor and/or Leaders

Supply Royal Palm with a Picture of the Church (outside) or Church Logo

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Email the above items to royalpalmsbc@gmail.com