



CONCORD COVENANT

INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES UNITED IN FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION.

*He will come to us as the showers,
as the spring rains that water the earth.*

HOSEA 6:3

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

DOM SEARCH TEAM | 1
INTERIM DOM | 2
BCM UPDATE | 3
UPCOMING DATES | 4
INPUT NEEDED | 5
PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES | 5
RESOURCES | 6

CURRENT CBA OFFICE HOURS:

Since the Stay at Home order has been lifted, we are reopening the office to visitors. We do ask, however, that you follow social distancing and hygiene guidelines during your visit, and to refrain from visiting if you are feeling ill.

ALAN EARLS, INTERIM DOM

MONDAY | 8 AM – NOON
WEDNESDAY | 8 AM – NOON
FRIDAY | 8 AM – NOON

*ADDITIONAL AVAILABILITY BY APPOINTMENT

AN UPDATE FROM THE DOM SEARCH TEAM:

The Director of Missions Search Committee recommended a candidate to the Executive Council President on April 27th, 2020. That candidate has agreed, and information will be coming soon about presenting him in view of a call, and for an association vote.

We reviewed over 50 resumes from several states and countries. Our process was to narrow the group down multiple times through discernment and prayer until there were three candidates to interview through Zoom video conferences. We considered many excellent and qualified candidates before voting to recommend our final candidate. We will let the Executive Council make plans to release the candidate's name and the future plans for voting.

Thank you for your prayers and support during the search process!

-The DOM Search Committee

A WORD FROM OUR INTERIM DOM:

Dear Concord Baptist Association,

So often we take words for granted. But words can be powerful. The greatest power is seen in the Word of God. God expects us to know and receive His word and then obediently put them into practice. God's word shares the importance of sharing encouragement, such as Paul when he was on his missionary journeys. "**He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people...**" (Acts 20:2). Churches of the CBA, thank you for "speaking many words of encouragement" when you are out and about. Thank you for the encouraging phone calls, notes, letters, texts, and posts. Your words of encouragement honor the Lord and ministers to many broken and hurting people. People in our world need to hear the hope and encouragement that comes through a personal relationship with God. Concord Baptist Association, thank you for being the encouragers that God has made you to be.

As I write this note, the Governor has officially lifted the Stay at Home order. In fact, the churches are encouraged to start moving forward with corporate worship starting on May 10th, 2020. This is an exciting, but challenging time for your pastors. Please be praying for them. While we are no longer restricted to stay home and churches may begin worship in their sanctuaries, your pastor must still remain in compliance with the 6-foot social distancing within the church and ensure that items and places are properly sanitized. So, pray for your pastor and leaders of your church as they seek opportunities to enhance worship, remain in compliance with COVID-19 protocols and keep people safe.

The last few months have been challenging, but God has maintained control and encourages His children. Things are still fuzzy regarding how our new normal will look. When will we worship freely at church again? Will our churches conduct VBS, will VBS look different? 3MT will not be able to host the 2020 event. Children's camp is still praying and seeking God's guidance as to whether they can have camp this year. However, through the challenges and disappointments, God is still on His throne. Sometimes, situations that we encounter reveals that many methodologies that we love and has served us well may have to be changed or revised. But never forget the message. We have heard the old but true cliché, "Methodology may change but the message of God's word will never change." God desires the unchanging word to be preached, taught, shared and lived. May we as a unified association of churches continue to find ways to worship God, read and study His word, and to "speak many words of encouragement" as God uses us to advance His Kingdom.

CBA churches, thank you for what you are doing to glorify and serve the Lord. It is a true honor to serve the Lord and this association. May God continue to bless you, your church, and our association.

In Christ,
Bro. Alan
Rev. Alan R. Earls, Interim DOM
Concord Baptist Association
Email: alanearls@cbamo.org
Office Phone: 573-635-4832
Cell Phone: 573-338-8333

BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE:

Being a people-oriented person, it has been quite difficult for me not to be near the Lincoln University campus and community during this time of COVID-19. But we have reached out in different ways, such as providing food, phone calls and text messages. We have distributed encouraging devotional thoughts and scripture through texting and also sent several video clips with a strong evangelical theme. But our ministry is always about the individual person, so let me share with you this beautiful story.

Coach Ailene Smith began her 17th season this year as the Assistant Men's and Women's Track & Field Coach. During that time, she has helped guide Lincoln to 13 Division II National Championships. She has coached over 600 All-Americans! She has been my go-to person whenever the Baptist Collegiate Ministry has provided a goat roast, a barbecue or an ice cream social, et cetera...for the coaches and team. She also has attended our Bible studies and helped me distribute Bibles and gospel tracts.

When her mother came visiting from Jamaica a few years ago, she also came to our Bible study. As we finished, she drew me aside and said, "Be sure that my daughter comes to know the Lord", and I promised that I would do all I could. From that point on, Ailene has been on my prayer list. I have shared Christian literature with her and have spoken to her occasionally. Again, she has been my go-to person coordinating help for sequestered internationals who remain on campus.

As we spoke on the phone yesterday, she informed me that her mother had passed away. After expressing my sympathies, I relayed to her what her mother had said to me years ago, to which she replied, "Oh, I accepted Jesus and was baptized last December!" (at a church in Jefferson City). Imagine my joy in learning that!!! So, we rejoiced over the national championships that are in the future for Coach Smith. But I know that she, along with all of us believers, is guaranteed a glorious finish line in heaven and that she and I will see her mother again, standing there with arms open wide, cheering us home...all because of Jesus! (she joyfully and readily gave me permission to share this great story with all of you)

"...forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." (Philippians 3:12-14)

David Phelps,
BCM Coordinator



UPCOMING DATES

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many events within our association have been either cancelled, modified, or are tentative, pending how the situation continues to unfold. We will continue to communicate additional information and changes as we learn more.

Pastor's Roundtables – will continue to be held via ZOOM for the foreseeable future. Please contact Bro. Alan for login information, dates & times.

Associational & State Bible Drill – the current, statewide plan is that churches will not be joining other churches for Associational or State Drills. Churches are to hold drills for their own students at a time when it is deemed safe to do so. This plan is subject to change, but we will keep you updated of those changes as we learn of them.

July Executive Council Meeting – scheduled for July 12th at 2 pm, will take place as scheduled at Enon Baptist Church.

Concord Builders – is scheduled for July 6th-10th at Freshwater Church. Projects will include hanging doors, installing sinks, hanging cabinets. If you are interested in being a part of this project, or have more questions, please contact Mel Callahan (573-291-4637) or Lucy Engelbrecht (660-281-4346).

3MT – The 3MT Board made the difficult decision to cancel the 3MT mission week for 2020. Based on the current and future COVID-19 situation in Mid-Missouri, the board felt that it was wise to protect the individuals most vulnerable to the virus, especially those that this project serves. Please begin praying for the 2021 3MT Project.

Children's Camp – is still tentatively scheduled for July 20th-24th at Camp Rising Sun. This decision will be re-evaluated as the Children's Camp team monitors how the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold. The final decision will be made July 1st. **A note from the team and a parent survey will be emailed to all churches to be distributed to families, so please be on the lookout for that and complete it as soon as possible.** The responses received (including the number of responses) will be a big factor in the Children's Camp Team's decision, so getting as large a number of parent responses as possible is vital.

The leadership teams of these events have many difficult decisions ahead of them as we head into the summer months. Please continue to keep them in your prayers as they make the difficult decision whether to keep, postpone, modify, or even cancel these important ministry events.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

Due to the COVID-19 situation, we are still evaluating the impact on summer programs that we typically send our summer missionaries to assist with.

As the restrictions on gatherings and activities are beginning to be lifted, you are likely beginning to discuss what your churches will be doing in terms of your summer ministries and activities. We understand that this summer is going to be a lot different than any we have had before, so we are trying to evaluate the potential need for summer missionaries so that we might hire appropriately.

We understand that your plans may still be very tentative, but we would greatly appreciate it if you could share with us your current plans (and tentative dates/times, if possible) of any summer activities for which you would likely be requesting a summer missionary. This could be for your VBS, Backyard Bible Club, Sports Crusaders, or another special project or ministry. You may even be choosing to spread your activity out over the course of a month instead of every day for a week. Ministry might look a little different this year, but we would love to hear about your vision, so that we can gauge your needs and make a plan to help meet those needs. **Please submit your responses to office@cbamo.org as soon as possible.**

Thank you,
Alicia Amos
Ministry Assistant

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR...

OUR DOM SEARCH COMMITTEE & THE MAN
GOD IS PREPARING TO LEAD US

OUR INTERIM DOM, BRO. ALAN EARLS

THE BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY

OUR CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS, THE
MEN LEADING IN THE INTERIM, & THE MEN
GOD IS PREPARING TO LEAD THEIR
CONGREGATIONS:

COLE SPRING (Interim Mark Donnell)

HIGH POINT (Interim Heber Mena)

JEFFERSON CITY BAPTIST

LUPUS (Interim Billy Bolden)

PRAIRIE HOME FBC

RUSSELLVILLE BAPTIST (Interim David Ford)

TIPTON

THE LEADERSHIP TEAMS WITHIN OUR
ASSOCIATION AS THEY MAKE IMPORTANT
DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR SUMMER MINISTRY
EVENTS:

CHILDREN'S CAMP

CONCORD BUILDERS

BIBLE DRILL

RESOURCES AVAILABLE



VBS MATERIALS

The Association has purchased the Director's, Pre-K, Kids Starter Kits, and Worship Rally Pack for the 2020 Lifeway VBS: Concrete & Cranes. It is available for churches to borrow, at no cost.

Requests will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please email Alicia Amos at office@cbamo.org for questions or to request materials.



BLOCK PARTY TRAILER

If you are planning a summer outreach event, VBS celebration, etc...the CBA Block Party Trailer is available for churches to rent! It contains a bounce house, popcorn and snow cone machines, as well as a variety of games and evangelism tools.

Requests will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please email Alicia Amos at office@cbamo.org for more information.

COVID-19 RESPONSE FUNDS

The Association has received a release of funds from the Missouri Baptist Convention to help assist CBA churches help address needs that have arisen from the COVID-19 pandemic, with the larger goal of reaching our communities with the love of Christ.

We have filled several requests already, but we still have some limited funds available. If we can partner with your church as you reach out to your community during this time, please contact Bro. Alan or Alicia as soon as possible. Please include the amount you are requesting, and the purpose you intend on using the funds.

We look forward to sharing the stories of how your church reached beyond the four walls of your building to share the hope of the gospel with your community during this time that seems to be dominated by fear and panic.