

ACCELERATE

BAPTIST RESOURCE NETWORK OF PA/SJ



ANNUAL BUSINESS SESSION | OCTOBER 8, 2024



**2024 Baptist Resource Network of PA/SJ
54th Annual Business Session**

October 8, 2024, 9 a.m.

Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey Hotel
604 Station Rd, Grantville, Pa 17028

- 1. Welcome & Opening Prayer**
- 2. Video, Understanding the Annual Business Session**
- 3. President's Report**
- 4. Seating of Messengers**
 - A. Report by Credential and Enrollment Committee
 - B. Questions and vote
- 5. Video, BRN Annual Update, Barry Whitworth, Executive Director/Treasurer**
- 6. Nominating Committee**
 - A. Report
 - B. Nominating Committee's presentation of Convention/Board President
 - C. Questions and vote
- 7. Test Your CP IQ**
- 8. Video, Cooperative Program**
- 9. SBC Executive Committee Greetings, Brandon Porter**
- 10. Finance & Operations Committee**
 - A. brnunited.org/budget25
 - B. Presentation of current BRN financials
 - C. Presentation of 2025 Annual Budget
 - D. Questions and vote
- 11. Video, IMB Report**
- 12. Recognition of Board Members**
- 13. Video, NAMB Report**
- 14. Closing Remarks & Prayer for the Coming Year**

Business Session Financial Report
January – August 2024



Income:

Cooperative Program	\$ 765,726
North American Mission Board	\$ 241,667*
Special Offerings	\$ 233,599
Other Income	<u>\$ 286,407</u>
Total Income	\$1,527,399

Expenses:

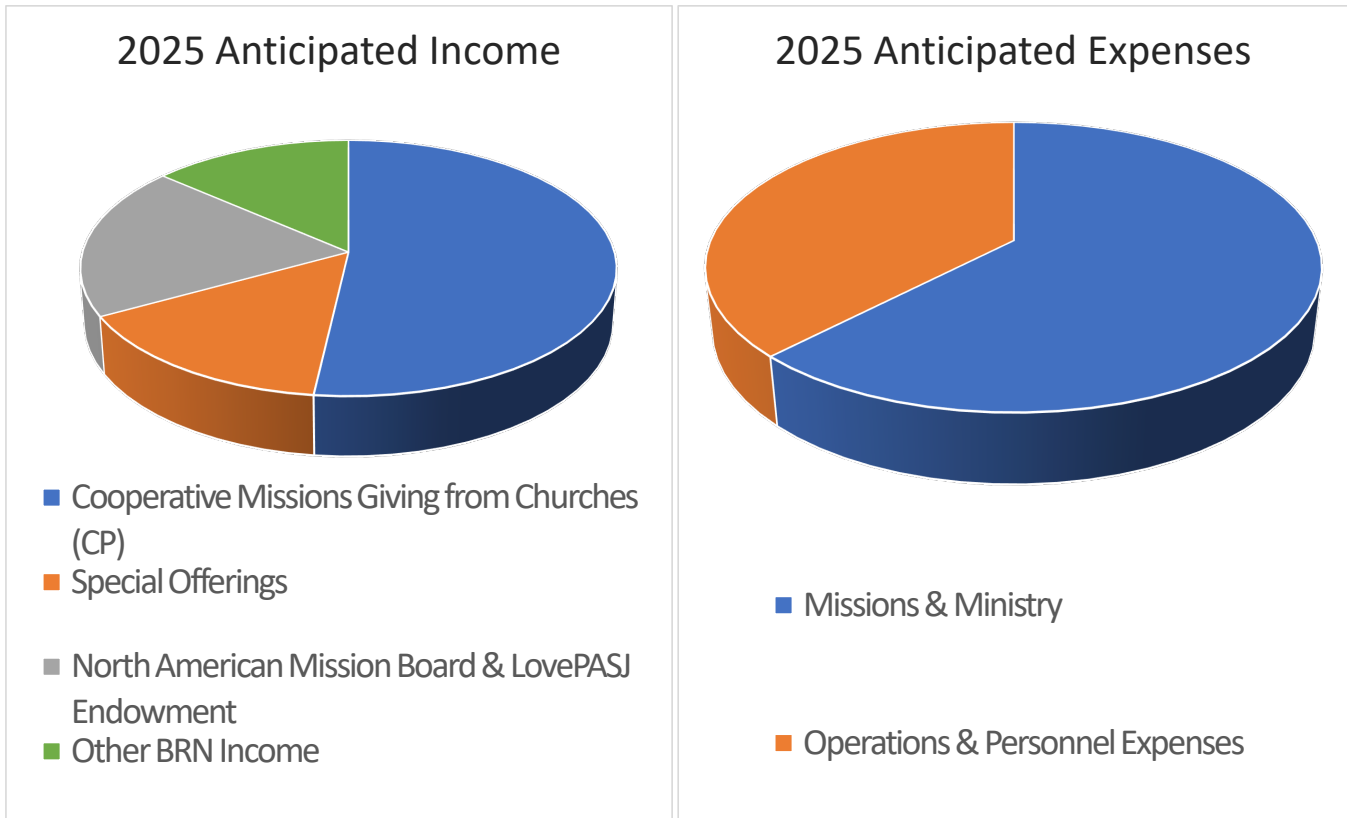
Global Missions	\$ 486,281
Operations & Personnel	\$ 545,381
Church Servicing & Resourcing	<u>\$ 483,061</u>
Total Expenses	\$1,514,723

Notes for the January – August 2024 Financials:

1. The BRN team has worked closely with the Executive Board and Executive Board Leadership Team to advance forward through several high inflation years.
2. We rejoice that cooperative missions giving through the Cooperative Program is 6.4% ahead of this same period in 2023.
3. Global missions funding increased by 13.5% from this time in 2023.
4. All expense areas in 2024 are operating below budget to date.
5. The BRN's 2023 Financial Audit, by an outside auditor, was successfully completed with accompanying financial statements. The review showed sound financials, investments, and financial practices.
6. Thank you for your generous giving to the Cooperative Program, the unified giving plan for missions! As your church gives to Cooperative Program know that it fuels the acceleration of Kingdom movement for God's work in Pennsylvania/South Jersey, the nation, and the world.
7. If you would like more information on these financial reports, please see the Finance & Operations Committee Chairman, Dr. Brennan Coughlin.

*Does not include Church Planter Funding which is recorded in a Designated Account.

**Baptist Resource Network of PA/SJ
Proposed 2025 Budget**



Anticipated Income:

Cooperative Missions Giving from Churches (CP)	1,220,000
Special Offerings	357,000
North American Mission Board & LovePASJ Endowment	456,000
Other BRN Income	320,750
Total Anticipated Income	2,353,750

Anticipated Expenses:

Missions & Ministry	1,464,787	62.3%
<i>Global Missions, Special Offerings, Church Servicing, and Church Resourcing</i>		
Operations & Personnel Expenses	888,963	37.7%
<i>BRN Executive Board Expenses, Operational Costs, Facility, Salaries, & Benefits</i>		
Total Anticipated Expenses	2,353,750	100.0%

>The above represents about a 5% increase in CP receipts from churches and an increase in CP giving beyond PA/SJ of 1%.
>CP sent nationally has increased 7.9%, from 26.1 to 34%, between 2018 and 2025.

Please visit brnunited.org/accelerate or brnunited.org/budget25 for an expanded budget

Excerpts from the Baptist Resource Network's Constitution & Bylaws

Relating to Messengers and Voting

ARTICLE IV-MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1

The BRN shall have members. Members shall be churches that are defined as cooperating Baptist churches and have been approved for membership with the BRN. Churches desiring to be members and the removal of churches shall be evaluated in accordance with procedures outlined in the BRN Policy Manual.

To be eligible for membership, a church must meet the definition of a cooperating church which is a church that:

- Regularly contributes to the Cooperative Program (CP),
- Affirms in belief and practice the most recent *Baptist Faith and Message* ·BFM· as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in Annual Session, and
- Regularly completes the Annual Church Profile (ACP).

SECTION 2

The BRN shall allow member churches to participate in the voting affairs of the BRN's Annual Session. Member churches shall send messengers to the Annual Session to act on behalf of the member church. To be sent as a messenger, the individual must:

- Be a member or active participant in good standing of the sending church, and
- Personally affirm the most recent BFM in belief and practice.

SECTION 3

The number of Messengers selected by their respective churches shall be according to the following criteria:

- (a) A cooperating member church during the BRN's fiscal year preceding the Annual Session and/or during the current year is entitled to three (3) messengers.
- (b) Additional messengers from a church, up to a maximum of twelve (12), are authorized as follows:
 - One additional messenger for each fifty (50) resident members reported in the ACP, not including members of chapels/missions.
 - One additional messenger for a seven percent (7%) contribution to the Cooperative Program, and an additional messenger for each percentage point beyond that (indicated by a comparison of undesignated gifts reported in the ACP with BRN fiscal year receipts).
- (c) A mission not yet constituted shall be entitled to two (2) messengers in addition to the messengers of its sponsoring church.

SECTION 4: Removal of Messengers

If it becomes known that a messenger is not acting in accordance with the BFM, in faith and/or practice, such messenger may be removed in accordance with procedures outlined in the BRN Policy Manual.

ARTICLE VI-MEETINGS

The BRN shall have an annual gathering which shall include member churches. At this gathering the messengers of member churches shall participate in the BRN annual business portions of the gathering. The annual business portion of the gathering shall be known as the Annual Session. The BRN will determine the meeting location, date, times, and other meeting details. In case of an emergency, the President, with the consent of the Executive Board, may call a special business meeting.

Executive Board and Committees

Outgoing Executive Board Members:

Mike Blackie, Pastor, Catalyst Church, West Region

Jerome Coleman, Pastor, First Baptist Church of Crestmont, Greater Philadelphia Region

New Executive Board Members Elected:

Term Expiring 2025 (vacancy of Alfonzo Toney):

Anthony Peña, Layperson, Fellowship CrossPoint Church, South Jersey Region

Term Expiring 2026 (vacancy of Kim Carson):

Jack Bowser, Layperson, Harvest Community Church Kittanning, West Region

2025-2027 Terms:

Darius Nable, Pastor, The Church of the Good Shepherd Cherry Hill, South Jersey Region

Robert Sheldon, Pastor, Greencastle Baptist Church, Central Region

Kenneth Sachs, Pastor, God's Field Church, West Region

Executive Board Members to be *Re-elected* for 2025-2027 Terms:

Brennan Coughlin, Pastor, Fellowship CrossPoint Church, South Jersey Region

Eric McMahan, Pastor, Watershed Church, Greater Philadelphia Region

John Toone, Pastor, East Shore Baptist Church, Central Region

Current Executive Board Members:

Expiration 2025

Deb Beswarick, Layperson, Harvest Community Church Kittanning, West Region

Ryan Day, Pastor, Wrightsdale Baptist Church, Central Region

Charles Fricker, Pastor, Harvest House Community Fellowship, Central Region

Jennifer White, Pastor, Keystone Community Fellowship, Greater Philadelphia Region

Expiration 2026

Jason Hunter, Pastor, First Baptist Church Clarion, West Region

Brian King, Pastor, Ezekiel Baptist Church, Greater Philadelphia Region

Christopher (Buff) McNickle, Layperson, One Hope Church, South Jersey Region

Jennifer Musser, Layperson, Bucks County Community Church, Greater Philadelphia Region

John Velarde, Layperson, Riverbend Community Church, Central Region

**Pastor denotes Senior/Lead Pastor or Wife*

Administrative Committee

Brian King Sr, Chair

Deb Beswarick

Mike Blackie

Jerome Coleman

Charles Fricker

Jason Hunter

Jennifer Musser

Anthony Peña

John Toone

Finance & Operations Committee

Brennan Coughlin, Chair

Jack Bowser

Ryan Day

Eric McMahan

Buff McNickle

Darius Nable

John Velarde

Jennifer White

Nominating Committee

Buff McNickle, Chair

Deb Beswarick

Charles Fricker

Eric McMahan

Standing Committees:

Nominating Committee

Deb Beswarick, West Region

Christopher (Buff) McNickle, South Jersey Region, Chair

Charles Fricker, Central Region

Eric McMahon, Greater Philadelphia Region

Credential & Enrollment Committee

Mike Blackie, Catalyst Church

Buff McNickle, One Hope Church

BRN Office of President

Duties of the BRN President as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws:

1. Annually, the President shall be nominated by the BRN Executive Board and presented to the messengers in Annual Session. This officer role shall be elected annually by at least a two-thirds vote of the messengers present and voting at the BRN Annual Session. If the nominated candidate is not affirmed by two-thirds vote, the BRN Executive Board will request a re-vote or present another candidate.
2. The President shall preside over the Annual Session. The President may appoint other committees when requested by the body. In the event of the President's disqualification or incapacity to serve, the Vice President shall succeed in order. The President shall oversee the BRN's rule of order at the Annual Session and any Special Called Meeting.
3. The President of the BRN shall be the Executive Board President and serve on the board.
4. The President shall chair both the Administrative Committee and Executive Board Appointment Committee.

BRN Presidential Candidate Bio

1st Election Term

Rev. Jason Hunter is the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Clarion, PA. He has served as a pastor for 20 years, with 13 years of service in Clarion. He has served several years on the BRN's Executive Board with the last three years serving as the Vice-President. Rev. Hunter graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary with a MDiv. He is married to Shelley Hunter and has one daughter and one son.

The BRN wishes to thank our SBC partners for participating
in our Annual Business Session.

Please stop by their tables in the lobby.



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INTERNATIONAL
MISSION BOARD



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