



# TOGETHER WITH

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

AN OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF



"IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS THE WORD. THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGNNING." **JOHN 1:1-2**

**VOLUME 43 ISSUE 2 2023-2024**

# MESSAGE FROM SBCD PRESIDENT

From your SBCD President...

Wow!! It is hard to believe that 2023 is over and 2024 is here!!!

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors had our mid-year meeting at Billy Graham Evangelistic Association in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was a very productive meeting and we all worked hard to plan for our next conference at First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Texas this summer. The dates will be July 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to having our 76<sup>th</sup> conference in Mansfield, Texas.

As the Executive Committee prepare to make this an exciting conference, registration is now open for the conference by going to [www.sbcdeaf.org](http://www.sbcdeaf.org) and click on registration. You can also find information about lodging on the website as well. Stay tuned to the website as the conference schedule will be posted in early April.

Please continue to pray for our nation as many things continue to happen on a daily basis but remember that God is in control. He will sustain and carry all of us during this difficult time. Please remember to pray for our Pastors and church leaders as they minister to their congregation and to reach lost people for Christ. Please continue to pray for Deaf churches that do not have a Pastor during this time but that their leaders will continue to lead the churches. It has not been an easy journey for our country, but nothing is impossible with God. Pray for our country as 2024 is the year when a new President will be elected to lead our country.

Anchored in Christ,

*Laura Hill*

SBCD President  
2023-2024

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming conference and please continue to pray for the Executive Committee as they make final preparations for this year's conference. Thanks for your continuous support throughout the years that SBCD has existed. In closing, I would like to share a verse with you...

**"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28**



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

# SBCD COMMITTEE 2023-2024

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greg Johannsen, TN – Chair (2027)  
Robert Moore, NC – Vice Chair (2024)  
Joni Bice, OK – Secretary (2025)  
Dwight Swim, KY (2024)  
Donnie Wiltshire, TX (2025)  
Anna Austin, TN (2026)  
John Wyble, VA (2026)  
Aric Randolph, TN (2027)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Laura Hill, VA – President  
Steve Dye, AL – 1st Vice President  
Brance Long, NC – 2nd Vice President  
Marsha Forer, TX – Secretary  
Deanna Hill, GA – Assistant Secretary  
Tom Linares, FL – Treasurer  
Karen Rhodes, VA – Child Care Coordinator  
Corey Harrison, TN – Jr. SBCD Coordinator

## MISSION (NAMC/IMC)

Robert Crowell, MO – Chair (2026)  
Donna Lawlor, KY – Vice Chair (2025)  
Rosalie Harris, FL – Secretary (2025)  
Esperanza Hernandez, CO (2024)  
Martha Knowles, FL (2024)  
Tina Clary, FL (2024)  
Gloria Hodson, AZ (2025)  
Kevin Cartwright, KS (2026)  
Ronda Perrin, GA (2026)

## ITP

Tammy Cantrell, KY – Coordinator

## BY-LAWS

Danny Bice, OK – Chair (2026)  
Daniel Lute, AL – Vice Chair (2024)  
Kelvin Hodson, AZ – Secretary (2025)

## EDUCATION

Aston Luff, TX – Chair (2026)  
Jessica Cartwright, KS – Vice Chair (2025)  
Nina Coyer, KY – Secretary (2024)

## HISTORY

Sharon Joyner, WV – Chair (2024)  
Ethan Elder – Vice Chair (2026)  
Liz Rentner, TX – Secretary (2025)

## ASBID

Bill Green, TX – Chair  
Tommy Cothorn, MS – Vice Chair  
Daphne Cox, FL – Secretary  
Ina Faye Price, KY – Historian  
Rosalie Harris, FL – Nominating Chair  
Esperanza Hernandez, CO – Deaf Blind Coordinator  
Jennifer Mitchell, FL – Interpreter Coordinator  
Karen Corbello, TX – Program Coordinator

## FMPD

Larry White, TN – Chair  
Stacey Clement, NC – Vice Chair  
Vacant – Secretary

## MAPSF

Mandi Dye, AL – Chair  
Vacant – Vice Chair  
Vacant – Secretary

## TWSBCD

Ethan Elder, FL

## Webmaster

Rusty Lower, TN



# PRESIDENTS OF SBCD FROM 1948 TO 2023

1948 – 1950	Joseph W. Gardner	1974 – 1975	N. S. Draughon	1999 – 2000	Phillip Easterling
1950 – 1951	Joseph W. Gardner	1975 – 1976	Dean Pritchard	2000 – 2001	Phillip Easterling
1951 – 1952	S. P. Wright	1976 – 1977	Dean Pritchard	2001 – 2002	Tim Bender
1952 – 1953	Leonard Asbridge	1977 – 1978	Carl Earwood	2002 – 2003	Tim Bender
1953 – 1954	Leonard Asbridge	1978 – 1979	Clifford Bruffey	2003 – 2004	Greg Johannsen
1954 – 1955	Carey C. Shaw	1979 – 1980	William Roaden	2004 – 2005	Greg Johannsen
1955 – 1956	Carey C. Shaw	1980 – 1981	William Roaden	2005 – 2006	Lenny West
1956 – 1957	James Fair	1981 – 1982	James Fair	2006 – 2007	Lenny West
1957 – 1958	Raymond Atwood	1982 – 1983	Gary Shoemaker	2007 – 2008	Aric Randolph
1958 – 1959	Raymond Atwood	1983 – 1984	Jerry Jamison	2008 – 2009	Aric Randolph
1959 – 1960	Glen Prock	1984 – 1985	William Roaden	2009 – 2010	Jim Dermon
1960 – 1961	Leon Myatt	1985 – 1986	Kevin Kreutzer	2010 – 2011	Jim Dermon
1961 – 1962	Robert Marsden	1986 – 1987	Kevin Kreutzer	2011 – 2012	Greg Johannsen
1962 – 1963	Robert Boltz	1987 – 1988	Carter Bearden, Sr.	2012 – 2013	Greg Johannsen
1963 – 1964	Clifford Bruffey	1988 – 1989	Robert Moore	2013 – 2014	Aric Randolph
1964 – 1966	Clifford Bruffey	1989 – 1990	Robert Moore	2014 – 2015	Aric Randolph
(No 1965 meeting)		1990 – 1991	David Fair	2015 – 2016	Greg Johannsen
1966 – 1967	Lloyd Bridges	1991 – 1992	James Gregory	2016 – 2017	Greg Johannsen
1967 – 1968	Neal Peyton	1992 – 1993	Rocky Shifflett	2017 – 2018	Dirk Hill
1968 – 1969	Sam Hinson	1993 – 1994	Rocky Shifflett	2018 – 2019	Dirk Hill
1969 – 1970	Leslie Hall	1994 – 1995	Greg Johannsen	2019 – 2021	Anna Austin
1970 – 1971	James Fair	1995 – 1996	Robert Moore	(No 2020 meeting)	
1971 – 1972	Edwin Oliver	1996 – 1997	Robert Moore	2021 – 2022	Anna Austin
1972 – 1973	Edwin Oliver	1997 – 1998	Larry White	2022 – 2023	Laura Hill
1973 – 1974	Jack Earwood	1998 – 1999	Larry White	2023 – 2024	Laura Hill





# SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

## HISTORY OF SBCD

The first annual meeting was held at First Baptist Church of Memphis in December 1948. It was called "Baptist Workers Conference for the Deaf". Messengers traveled by train from Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

In 1951, it was "Southwide Conference of Baptist Deaf" and also "Southwide Baptist Conference for the Deaf". In 1952, it was "Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf". It was clearly that the name was officially changed to "Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf" in 1954 and it has carried the name of our organization ever since.

## PURPOSE OF SBCD

- 1.) To provide a vehicle for obeying the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) with respect to deaf people by personal witnessing, evangelism, home missions, foreign missions and discipleship.
- 2.) To provide opportunities for training in local church settings, in state conferences, and on the national level to help equip people in all aspects of the deaf ministry.
- 3.) To serve as a liaison between the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and deaf persons, interpreting the needs and functions of the one to the other.
- 4.) To provide a channel of communication within the Southern Baptist deaf community.
- 5.) To provide an understanding of deafness and of the needs of deaf people to the community at large.
- 6.) To provide opportunities for inspirational worship experiences.
- 7.) To provide opportunities for Christian fellowship.

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." **Matthew 28: 19-20**



# ASSOCIATION SOUTHERN BAPTIST INTERPRETERS OF THE DEAF

Association of Southern Baptist Interpreters for the Deaf (ASBID) welcomes interpreters each year to our annual training workshops. These workshops are available to interpreters, both deaf and hearing, as well as visitors who do not necessarily fit into SBCD or other workshops. Interpreters look forward to the ASBID meeting as an opportunity to learn new skills, ideas, and hear alternative ways to perform their ministries. An added blessing comes from the opportunity to fellowship with old friends and meet new friends. We invite and encourage interpreters and other interested people to join with us at Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf. For more information about Association of Southern Baptist Interpreters of the Deaf, please contact Bill Green.

## FELLOWSHIP OF MISSIONARIES AND PASTORS TO THE DEAF

Fellowship of Missionaries and Pastors to the Deaf (FMPD) welcomes all Southern Baptists deaf and hearing missionaries, pastors, assistant pastors, associate pastors, deacons, evangelists, lay pastors, bi-vocational pastors, worship pastors, and youth pastors to the annual conference. We want to keep in touch with every Southern Baptist Convention employed and retired pastors and missionaries. Every year, we look forward to the FMPD meeting as an opportunity to fellowship with everyone at the annual meeting. We want to invite and encourage missionaries and pastors to join with us at Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf. For more information about Fellowship of Missionaries and Pastors to the Deaf, please contact Larry White.

### SBCD DIRECTORY

You can add new information about your deaf church or deaf ministry in SBCD Directory. If you need to update information in SBCD directory. Please contact us, and we can add or update SBCD directory.

### BAPTIST FAITH & MESSAGE

SBCD accepts the Holy Scriptures as the all-sufficient guide authority for faith and practice. It concurs with the Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the SBC (Southern Baptist Convention) in 2000.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

# UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

Alabama Baptist Conference of the Deaf	March 8-10, 2024
Georgia Baptist Conference of the Deaf	March 15-17, 2024
Virginia Baptist Conference of the Deaf	March 16, 2024
Deaf Women's Gathering	April 25-28, 2024
Tennessee Baptist Conference of the Deaf	April 26-28, 2024
Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf	June 7-9, 2024
Southern Baptist Convention	June 9-12, 2024
Florida Baptist Conference of the Deaf	June 21-23, 2024
Texas Baptist Conference of the Deaf	June 21-23, 2024
Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf	July 7-11, 2024
Deaf Men's Gathering	September 6-8, 2024
Deaf Men's Conference	November 1-3, 2024
South Carolina Baptist Conference of the Deaf	November 1-3, 2024

## TO BE ANNOUNCED

Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf  
Missouri Baptist Conference of the Deaf  
New Mexico Baptist Conference of the Deaf  
North Carolina Baptist Conference of the Deaf  
Ohio Baptist Conference of the Deaf  
Oklahoma Baptist Conference of the Deaf

**MORE UPCOMING  
EVENTS WILL BE  
POSTED ON THE  
NEXT NEWSLETTER**



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF



**CONFERENCE ONLINE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

**CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO REGISTER.**

**<https://form.jotform.com/210306750462144>**

**I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL**

**ROMANS 1:16**



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF**



# 75 YEARS OF SBCD



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF



# 75 YEARS OF SBCD



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF



## **Fellowship of Missionaries and Pastors to the Deaf (FMPD)**

First Baptist Church of Mansfield

**Monday, July 8th**

Joint workshop with Missionaries and  
Pastors Spouse Fellowship (MAPSF)

Dr. Angela Scruggs

Licensed Professional Counselor (fluent in ASL)

**Tuesday and Wednesday, July 9th and 10th**

“Pastor’s Integrity Heart” — Psalms 78:72

Rev. Darrell Bonjour

Retired Pastor of Amarillo Deaf Church

# GOING ON A MISSION TRIP?

Planning to share the Good News in United States or other countries? If your church is planning a mission trip, your mission team is eligible to apply for a grant of offering funds to help with your mission trip expense. North America Mission Committee (NAMC) can help your mission trip in statewide includes Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

International Mission Committee (IMC) provides money for a mission team to every nation around the world. To send mission teams to help SBCD churches identify, develop, and strengthen deaf ministries and churches. We can help you to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. For more information about Mission (NAMC/IMC), please contact Robert Crowell.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

# WORSHIP TEAM 2024



## **BRANDON GASKIN**

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### CONFERENCE PASTOR

Born Deaf, Brandon grew up in a world where he had access to enough sound that he enjoyed listening to music but would sign along with American Sign Language. At an early age, he was introduced to Jesus, but it wasn't until middle school that he understood that Jesus wanted to be his personal Savior and he made Jesus his Lord. At the age of 15, Brandon first learned about the disheartening statistics in the Deaf community, and to this day it breaks his heart that over 98% of Deaf people still do not know Christ and haven't

been afforded the opportunity to become his disciples. Brandon desires to see the 98% statistic eradicated in his lifetime through Gospel movements among Deaf people here, near, and far. As a young millennial himself, he founded Deaf Millennial Project to encourage his generation and the generations to come of Deaf disciples to radically follow, obey, and practice the life of Christ. Deaf Millennial Project is committed to developing digital biblical content, events, and resources in American Sign Language that will impact the body of Christ and expose the message of the Gospel to Deaf disciples. Deaf Millennial Project was the first Deaf organization to host a virtual conference during the pandemic shutdown, and since then they have seen 75 + Deaf men and women participate in the Zume DMM Training. Brandon believes that to see gospel movements among Deaf people groups, we must see a discipleship movement happen. He has joined Converge International as a group of disciples and churches to strategically train transformational Deaf leaders to become disciple makers.

THE 76TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF  
WILL BE HELD AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MANSFIELD IN TEXAS.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF



# WORSHIP TEAM 2024

## MICAH WILLIS | CONFERENCE WORSHIP LEADER



Micah is Deaf and grew up in the Dallas Fort Worth area and served at a local Deaf Church as a Youth Leader for 5 years. He is passionate about reaching the next generation of Deaf kids to train them to become future leaders, teaching them about the good news of Jesus and discipling them to become followers of Jesus. He has traveled around the U.S to different Deaf Men's Conferences, retreats, and Deaf Youth Camp leading worship. God called Micah to step out of his comfort zone after 24 years to move to Austin, Texas to go on Young Life Staff and reach the kids in the Austin Deaf

Community who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus. My favorite things to do are playing video games, reading books, and listening to music.

## LEXI HILL | CONFERENCE WORSHIP LEADER



Lexi Hill is Deaf and was born and raised in East Texas. She currently lives in Woodbridge, Virginia. Lexi graduated from Gallaudet University in 2023 with a double major in History and Government. She currently works at the Center for Democracy in Deaf America at Gallaudet University and serves as an assistant coach for the Gallaudet debate team. Lexi is a part of the Deaf interpreted ministry at First Baptist Church of Woodbridge. She also volunteers at Deaf Millennial Project in her spare time. Lexi served as the Worship leader for Awaken Conference, a conference for

Deaf and Hard of Hearing young adults aged 18 and older for the past two years. She also served as the Worship leader for the Deaf Women Conference in 2020. Lexi has been involved in assisting and planning the Deaf Women Conference sponsored by Deaf Millennial Project. She is thankful for the chance to glorify the Lord by leading worship in ASL.



# HOTEL INFORMATION

**Hampton Inn and Suites** is the SBCD contracted hotel.

**Hampton Inn and Suites**  
1640 Highway 287 N  
Mansfield, TX 76063

**\$116.00 per night**  
**Check in: July 7th**  
**Check out: July 12th**

You can call to make your reservations at **1-800-HILTONS**, mention the **Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf Group Block at Hampton Inn and Suites Mansfield** or the unique code **SBC** to receive your group rate. The deadline to get this rate is June 7th (no exceptions).

**You can stay at the following hotels but no special SBCD rates are offered!**

Holiday Inn Express  
201 Hwy 287 North  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
**www.ihg.com**  
817-453-8722

Comfort Inn & Suites  
175 Hwy 287 North  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
**www.choicehotels.com**  
817-453-8847

LaQuinta Inn & Suites  
1503 Breckenridge Rd.  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
**www.wyndhamhotels.com**  
817-405-6418

Best Western Plus  
775 Hwy 287 North  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
**www.bestwestern.com**  
817-539-0707

Fairfield Inn & Suites  
1480 Hwy 287 North  
Mansfield, TX 76063  
**www.marriot.com**  
817-473-2700

**1.) SBCD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE HOTEL.**

**2.) SBCD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION FROM YOUR HOTEL TO THE CHURCH.**



**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF**

# CODE BLUE: Deaf are Unreached

100 Major Cities in the USA  
have **NO Church** for the Deaf

- 300+ Sign Languages Worldwide with **NO Bible**
- **ONLY 58 SBC Deaf Churches** for 3 Million Deaf
- 40% of 58 US Deaf Churches are without a pastor

## Deaf Die Daily Without Jesus

72 Million Deaf Worldwide are **Unreached**

Need Deaf Churches, Need Deaf Pastors, Need Deaf Missionaries

For more information, please visit [www.deafchurchplanting.com](http://www.deafchurchplanting.com)

## SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF

The editor of Together With Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf (TWSBCD) is supervised by the SBCD Board of Directors. If you or your group want to advertise in TWSBCD, please contact Aric Randolph at this email address: [arandolph@brentwoodbaptist.com](mailto:arandolph@brentwoodbaptist.com)

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