



1873 Est.

# Florida General Baptist Convention, Inc.

Office of the President \* Rev. Dr. C. P. Preston, Jr.

Rev. Dr. Michael D. Warren \* Vice President at Large

October 17, 2022

To the Officers, Board Members, Moderators, Pastors, and Members of Florida General Baptist Convention Incorporated:

On behalf of our Beloved President Dr C. P. Preston Jr., we are genuinely grateful to God for the marvelous things He has done with, for and through us as we continue to seek and serve Him during the myriad challenges we have faced and continue to face during the past two years. We are still enveloped in the Covid 19 Pandemic. The war in Ukraine continues to have ominous implications with regards to the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons. Global warming is affecting weather patterns around the world, including in here in Florida. We are facing and having to deal with the not so subtle threats and laws enacted that are definitely designed to turn back gains made in civil rights a generation ago. American Democracy (such as it is) is under attack. The crucial midterm elections will speak loudly and clearly about the moral fabric of this country. Perhaps more importantly we must reengage our context at another level with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet we are more than sure that the God of our weary years and The God of our silent tears has not brought us to this hour to leave us. As people of faith in The Sovereignty of God, we believe in the words of the old hymn..."We Shall Overcome."

Brethren, it is our hearts desire and prayer to God for every Pastor and every Congregation affiliated with our great convention that you are prospering and in health even as your souls prosper. We are many but one. We are tied together by the blood of Jesus and in faith and practice as we seek to turn the world right side up for Christ. What impacts any one of us certainly impacts all of us.

We are writing for at least five reasons. First, we are eternally grateful for your support of the convention during these unusual and unparalleled times. We recognize if there was no you, there could be no us. So we do say "thank you."

Second, as you know, the midterms are upon us and we urge organizing to get our constituents to vote. In many places in Florida early voting begins October 24th and runs through November 6th. If ever we needed to vote that time is now. This letter will not afford us time or space to iterate the all out significance of this election. But permit us to say, this may be one of the consequential elections of our time. So let's rise up and make it happen!

**Dr. James B. Sampson,  
President Emeritus**

**Dr. Jerry B. Alexander,  
General Secretary**

**Dr. Carl Johnson,  
Moderator's Auxiliary  
President**

**Rev. Keith Blunt,  
Young Pastors &  
Ministers President**

**Mrs. Audrey A. White,  
Women's Auxiliary  
President**

**Mrs. Cecilia Pittman  
Young People's Auxiliary  
President**

**Deacon Thomas Adams,  
Laymen's Auxiliary  
President**

**Dr. Isaac L. Williams,  
Congress of Christian  
Education President**

**Mrs. Bobby J. Scarlett,  
Headquarters Office  
Administrator**



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Third, we write to inform you that many of our brothers and sisters were greatly impacted by Hurricane Ian. In addition to Lee County, several other areas took a punch from the storm including Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Sarasota, Osceola, Orange and Volusia Counties. The effects of Ian in the lives of people transcend convention affiliation. We must continue to give financial support to the convention in order that our Disaster Relief efforts led on by Dr. Malachi Clowers and others can and will meet the needs of The LORD'S people. All gifts for disaster relief should be forwarded to the Headquarters Office in Daytona with earmarked specifically for disaster relief.

Fourth, even during these very trying times, the convention is in need of our fulfilling our commitments to The Tower of Power. Pastors, we sorely need your help in this area as well. Our convention operates daily and the Tower of Power fuels that operation. We urge you to please support today. As you know in your various congregations and associations, it is impossible to do ministry without money. Would you join the leadership as we lead in the giving?

Fifth, December 12th and 13th of this year, all roads will lead to the "Ancient City", St. Augustine, Florida, where centuries of history blend with serene coastal beauty. It is the time for our Annual December Board Meeting. We will meet again at World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort 500 South Legacy Trail St. Augustine, Florida 32092. We call upon every Pastor, Moderator, Leader, and the entire convention family to meet us. This is time we pray, project and plan our work for the ensuing year. Further information is available at the convention website. We need your your presence and participation as we move the convention forward.

Sixthly, in the words of the psalmist in Psalm 122 "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, Prosperity within your palaces." For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, "Peace be within you." Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good." Psalms 122:6-9 (NKJV).

May we continue to intentionally pray for our President, his family, Peaceful Zion Baptist Church and the Pastors and Churches in our convention.

May "Mercy, Peace, and Love be multiplied to you." Because He Lives,  
Michael D. Warren

(On behalf of Dr C.P.Preston Jr., and FGBC Leadership)

*Michael D. Warren*

*Dr C. P. Preston Jr.*