

NABPR ♦ AMGP ♦ BHHS Joint Conference Program May 19-21, 2025 • Baylor University



**National
Association of
Baptist
Professors of
Religion**

Greetings from the NABPR Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The stars at night are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas! The boldness of this meeting befits its location. With help from the Baugh Foundation, we have convened a tremendous array of experts to inform our plenary sessions on the topic of clergy abuse, the courage to break the silence, address it, and reform. For that reason alone, this meeting represents an important milestone for our organization.

All three organizations worked together closely and with Baylor University to create the program – it was laborious but so rewarding! I am energized by the collaborative nature of this meeting. It offers a chance to encounter new ideas, meet upcoming scholars, and renew old friendships.

NABPR President João Chaves managed proposals and program assignments for NABPR. Our local contacts, at least from the NABPR side, were primarily João Chaves, Mandy McMichael, and Heather Starkey, without whom there would be no meeting. Many other hands contributed, and they should all be thanked!

Adam C. English
Executive Secretary-Treasurer



**Association of
Ministry Guidance
Professionals**

Greetings from the AMGP Executive Director-Treasurer

Welcome to the AMGP 2025 Annual Meeting. Our meeting again this year is held in conjunction with the annual meetings of our colleagues in the NABPR and BHHS. I want to thank all those at Baylor for hosting us this year. Heather Starkey, Administrative Assistant for Ministry Guidance, has been most helpful in making all the logistical arrangements for the meeting. I also want to thank Adam English (NABPR) and Aaron Weaver (BHHS) for their leadership and collegiality in working together with me and our AMGP President, Lisa Seeley in planning this year's program. The practical and moral focus of this year's plenary sessions is particularly pertinent to AMGP.

Founded in 1959, AMGP is made up of Baptist theological educators responsible for guiding students through ministerial call clarification and supervised field experiences in ministry. We provide a forum for sharing information and establishing professional standards for ministry guidance.

The issue of clergy abuse is particularly pertinent for our organization. There has never been a greater need for congregational awareness and vigilance, moral and behavioral instruction for ministry leaders, and practices of prevention by all concerned.

Bill Carrell
Executive Director-Treasurer



**Baptist History
and Heritage
Society**

Greetings from the BHHS Executive Director

Welcome to Waco and to the 2025 joint annual conference of the Baptist History & Heritage Society! We are grateful for our partnership with NABPR and AMGP. Thank you to Adam English and Bill Carrell for their collaboration and collegiality!

A special word of gratitude to the Baylor University Department of Religion for hosting us, to Heather Starkey for coordinating local arrangements, and to BHHS President Mandy McMichael for her leadership planning this gathering.

Founded in 1938, BHHS helps Baptists discover, conserve, assess and share their history while bridging the worlds of the academy and the congregation through publications, conferences, and resources for ministers, laity, academics, and students.

Since 1969, BHHS has sponsored an annual meeting to explore diverse themes and topics related to Baptist history and identity. We are honored to have 27 presenters sharing their research and insights with us!

This year's focus on addressing abuse in Baptist communities provides a forum for courageous conversations about a pressing challenge in Baptist life—a reminder that abuse is part of the Baptist story. I look forward to learning together this week. Thank you for being here!

Aaron Weaver
Executive Director

Pre-Meetings
Monday, May 19

10:00 am-Noon	BHHS Editorial Board Meeting	Tidwell, 101
Noon-1:00 pm	Lunch for AMGP Board and Committees	Tidwell, GL01
	Lunch for BHHS Board of Directors and Editorial Board	Tidwell, 101
1:00-5:00 pm	AMGP Board of Directors	Tidwell, GL01
1:00-3:00 pm	BHHS Board of Directors Meeting	Tidwell, 101
3:00-5:00 pm	Registration	Tidwell, Foyer, 1st Floor
3:30-5:00 pm	NABPR Executive Committee Meeting	Tidwell, 101

BHHS / NABPR / AMGP Joint Meeting
Monday Evening, May 19

5:30-6:30 pm **PLENARY SESSION I** Seventh & James, Sanctuary

To Suffer in Silence
David Pittman, Director of Together We Heal

6:30-8:00 pm **JOINT ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET** Seventh & James, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday Morning, May 20

8:30-10:15 am **CONCURRENT SESSION I**

Old Testament I (NABPR) **Tidwell, GL01**

Presiding: Kyle Rouse, Baylor University

Used by All, Protected by None: Divine Retribution and Gendered Consequences of the Story of David's Concubines
Arnell Woods, Truett Seminary

Regarding the People Between: An Analysis of the Character of All-Israel in 1 Chr 11:1-3
Brent Nessler, Baylor University

No Man Who Has a Blemish May Come Near: Disability and the Priesthood in Leviticus 21:16-23
Katherine Rojasles, Truett Seminary

New Testament I (NABPR)

Tidwell, GL03

Presiding: Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, Campbell University

Mary Magdalene in John 20:11-18: Disciple of Jesus and Mother of Resurrection Belief

Kari White, Campbell University

John and Gender

Alicia Myers, Campbell University

Who are οἱ δόκιμοι in 1 Corinthians 11:19? A Critical Examination of Richard's Last Proposal

Spencer Danley, Baylor University

Church History I (NABPR)

Tidwell, 301

Presiding: Bryan J. Whitfield, Mercer University

Before the Heresy Trials: The Early History of the Study of Theology at Mercer

Bryan J. Whitfield, Mercer University

The Case of Deviant Conducts: Southern Baptist Missions and their Disciplining Processes in Rio de Janeiro (1900-1930)

Álvaro Ramon Ramos Oliveira, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro

These Women Were Warriors and Saints: The Work of Single Female Baptist Missionaries in Puerto Rico, 1899-1940

Angel Santiago-Vendrell, Truett Seminary

Theology, Historical Theology & Ethics I (NABPR)

Tidwell, 201

Presiding: Joseph Early, Campbellsville University

Grammatical Eckhartism? Exploring the Role of Perfection Terms in Wittgenstein, Eckhart, and Ecumenism

Ryan Bradley, The University of Dayton

Tertullian: A Jewish Approach to Salvation

Eric Wickman, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

The Malleus Maleficarum: Sexuality, Witchcraft, and the Devil

Joseph Early, Campbellsville University

Pedagogy and Practice I (NABPR Panel)

Tidwell, 101

Presiding: João B. Chaves, Baylor University

Expanding the Narrative: Teaching the History of Christianity in Seminary Today

History Matters: Incorporating a Global Narrative in the History of Christianity

Anna Redhair Wells, Central Seminary

Problematizing as Christian Charity: On Spurning Confessional History in Confessional Contexts

Jacob Randolph, Saint Paul School of Theology

Teaching Women's History in a Global Context and Global Classroom

Elizabeth Marvel, Truett Seminary

Baptist Studies I (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL04

Presiding: Alexis Weaver, The Urban Institute

Betrayal of Trust: Clergy Sexual Abuse of Adults and the Challenges of Legislative Reform

Lucy Huh, Baylor University

Ministerial Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse in the Church: From the Pulpit to the Pews

Bonnie Oliver-Brandon, University of Memphis

William Wistar Hamilton, Sr.: Exploring the Life and Legacy of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Second President

Jason Palmer, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Baptist Studies II (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL06

Presiding: Andrew Christopher Smith, Carson-Newman University

Bridging Baptist Traditions: A Personal and Historical Exploration

Michael Wicker, Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary

PANEL: Baptists and Boundaries: Case Studies that Complicate Historical Narratives

Andrew Smith (Moderator), Carson-Newman University

"A Brother is Born for Adversity": The Dixon Brothers' Divergence over the Social Gospel

Isaac Tuttle, Baylor University

Priscilla, Preacher, or Pastor's Wife: Remembering Martha Stearns Marshall

Jordann Heckart, Baylor University

Baptist Studies III (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL07

Presiding: Glenn Jonas, Campbell University

Sara Alicia Hale: A Missionary Woman's Unrecognized Work in Baptist Life

Rubi Barocio Castells, National Baptist Convention of Mexico

Native Baptists and the Rastafari Movement

Darren J. N. Middleton, Baylor University

Denton Lotz's Leadership of the Baptist World Alliance: Advocate for a Wholesome Baptist Identity

Jerry Faught, Wayland Baptist University

Ministry Studies I (AMGP)

Tidwell, 304

Presiding: Jane Wilson, Baylor University

Engaging Contemporary Teaching Methods in Theological Education

Sarah Boberg, Campbell University

Training Ministry Students to use Narrative for Evangelism and Disciple-Making

Kelly Malone, Southwest Baptist University

Harrison Paradox Theory Application for Ministry Guidance Professionals

Clint Calvert, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention

10:30-Noon

PLENARY SESSION II

Seventh & James, Sanctuary

The Lord is an Avenger: Patriarchy, Predators and Preventing Exploitation

Meredith Stone and Jay Kieve

Tuesday Afternoon, May 20

Noon-1:30 pm

BUSINESS MEETINGS/LUNCHEONS

NABPR Box Lunch and Business Meeting

Tidwell, 101

BHHS Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting

Tidwell, GL01

AMGP Box Lunch and Business Meeting

Tidwell, GL04

1:30-3:15 pm

CONCURRENT SESSION II

Old Testament II (NABPR)

Tidwell, 201

Presiding: Michelle Hunt, Baylor University

A Ritual-like Action in Jonah 1:5a

Cal Robertson, Gardner-Webb University

Lexical Consistency and Translation Style in LXX Joshua 18-19

Michelle Hunt, Baylor University

Sacrificial Liturgies at Ugarit and the Hebrew Bible: The Order of Offerings and Their Significance for Understanding Ritual and Rhetoric

Kyle Rouse, Baylor University

Theology, Historical Theology, & Ethics I (NABPR)

Tidwell, 301

Presiding: Anna Redhair Wells

Becoming the "Our" in Our Lady of Guadalupe: Creating Liberating Theo-ethics for Chicanas/Xicanx

Anabella Martinez, Truett Seminary

Storied Sinew: The Stories Bodies Tell

Taylor Long, Campbell University

Church History II (NABPR)

Tidwell, GL01

Presiding: Eric Wickman, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

A Chastened Postliberal Evangelism: Responding to Critiques of Postliberalism

Andrew Christopher Smith, Carson-Newman University

Francis Wayland, the Church, and the Fraught history of the Freedom of Conscience

Charles Regli, Baylor University

Albert Henry Newman and Anabaptist Historiography

Glenn Jonas, Campbell University

Baptist Studies IV (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL04

PANEL: Training Sources of Authority: Northern Baptist Women as Missionary Teachers and Students in the Nineteenth Century

Does She Labor in Vain? Nineteenth Century Northern American Baptist Arguments Over Missionary Women's Work

Laura Rodgers Levens, BSK Theological Seminary

Unlikely Missionaries: Adele Fielde and Bible-Women Challenging Gender Norms, Missiology, and Money in the ABMU's 19th Century Mission to China

Nadia Andrienas, Baylor University

"For the Lost Souls in All this Wide World": Vivia Divers at the Baptist Women's Missionary Training School of Chicago, 1892-1893

T. Laine Scales, Baylor University

Baptist Studies V (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL06

Presiding: Elizabeth Flowers, Baylor University

Blackface on a Church-Related Campus: Baylor University, A Case Study

Doug Weaver, Baylor University

Gender on a Church-Related Campus: Baylor University, A Case Study

Kimberly Kellison, Baylor University

The Waco Policy: The Struggle Between Dallas and Waco for Baptist Supremacy in Late Nineteenth-Century Texas

Joe Early, Campbellsville University

Baptist Studies VI (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL07

Presiding: Jordann Heckart, Baylor University

Good Samaritans: Applications of Social Christianity by Southern Baptists During the Early Twentieth Century

Alyson Fagan, Foundation Academy

Broadcasting the Mission: Processing and Digitizing Material from the SBC Radio and Television Commission, 1939-1997

Taffey Hall, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives

Baptist Students Concerned: 1968-1970

Stuart Sprague, Anderson University

Ministry Studies II (AMGP)

Tidwell, 101

Presiding: Lisa Seeley, East Texas Baptist University

PANEL: Preparing Women for the Challenges of Ministry Leadership

Lisa Seeley, East Texas Baptist University,
Jane Wilson, Baylor University,
Emily Prevost, University of Mary Harding-Baylor,
Maddie Rosenblad, Meadow Oaks Baptist Church

3:30-5:00 pm

PLENARY SESSION III - Panel Seventh and James, Sanctuary

Breaking the Silence: Addressing Abuse in Baptist Communities

Presiding: Jon Singletary

Robert G. Callahan II, Geneece Goertzen, Lucy Huh, Chellee Taylor

Tuesday Evening, May 20

5:00 pm

BHHS and NABPR Dinner on your own.

5:30 pm

AMGP Annual Dinner (local restaurant)

Wednesday Morning, May 21

8:30-10:15 am

CONCURRENT SESSION III

Interdisciplinary Panel I (NABPR)

Tidwell, 101

Presiding: Laura Levens, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Trauma-Informed Study of the Bible

Jennifer Garcia Bashaw, Campbell University

Trauma-Informed Ethics

Jacob Cook, Eastern Mennonite University

Trauma-Informed Teaching of History and Missions

Laura Levens, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

Trauma-Informed Practical Theology

Kathryn House, Meadville Lombard Theological School

Theology, Historical Theology, & Ethics III (NABPR)

Tidwell, GL01

Presiding: Jacob Randolph, Saint Paul School of Theology

Echoes of Paul in Barth's Special Ethics: The Underlying Patterns of Barth's Concrete Ethical Reflection

Kimlyn J. Bender

Confessing the Sins of the Church: Bonhoeffer and a Template Forward

Claire Hein Blanton, Truett Seminary

Theodicy and Racism

Brandon Richmond, Gardner-Webb University

Baptist Studies VII (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL04

Presiding: Doug Weaver, Baylor University

Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart's Historic Sermon and Its Erasure

Ralph Douglas West Sr., Baylor University

Refuting Restrictionists: Texas Baptists Respond to Women Speaking at the SBC 1916 Annual Meeting

Jill Botticelli Cabal, B. H. Carroll Theological Seminary

Taking it Seriously: Responding to Domestic Violence with Baptist Courage

Genece Goertzen, Baylor University

Baptist Studies VIII (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL06

Presiding: Joe Early, Campbellsville University

Tarry Ye Until: Andrew D. Urshan and Baptist-Pentecostal Interactions at The Moody Church

Grace Babayan, Baylor University

More on the Preaching of Nineteenth-Century Scottish Baptist, Peter Grant

Terry Wilder, Campbellsville University

Nothing to Do with God: William Faulkner on Southern Baptists

Wyman Richardson, Central Baptist Church,
North Little Rock, AR

Baptist Studies IX (BHHS)

Tidwell, GL07

Presiding: Alexis Weaver, The Urban Institute

The Influence of the Arts Within Religion

Gwendolyn Y. Blackburn, Simmons College of Kentucky

Are Baptists Anabaptists? It Depends on the Question

Bryan Maine, University of Mary-Hardin Baylor

Evolution and Me

William E. Ellis, Eastern Kentucky University

Ministry Studies III (AMGP)

Tidwell, 304

Group Discussion: Ministry Guidance in Light of the Plenary Sessions

10:30 am-Noon

PLENARY SESSION IV

Seventh and James, Sanctuary

Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse: Impact on Survivors
David Pooler, Professor of Social Work, Baylor University

Plenary Session Descriptions

Plenary Session 1 (Monday 5/19 – 5:30-6:30 PM)

To Suffer in Silence

David Pittman, a survivor of child sexual abuse and founder of Together We Heal, shares his story of being abused in a Southern Baptist church and spotlights how a culture of silence impacts not only survivors but their families, congregations and communities as well, often hindering progress toward accountability and healing. Drawing on his journey of recovery and advocacy, David emphasizes that meaningful actions are the only way to protect, defend and support those who cannot speak for themselves.

David Pittman is the Director of Together We Heal and is a Safeguarding Educator with GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment). David is a survivor of child sexual abuse perpetrated by a Southern Baptist minister. For over 18 years he's worked toward reform within The Church and its abuse issues, with the goal of helping change the culture to one that better protects children and holds perpetrators fully accountable.

Plenary Session 2 (Tuesday Morning 5/20 – 10:30-Noon)

The Lord is an Avenger: Patriarchy, Predators and Preventing Exploitation This session will explore the dynamics of abuse and harassment through power analysis, description of manipulation tactics, and common boundary testing. Through case examples and conversation, approaches to prevention of abuse/harassment and cultivation of safe behaviors will be learned.

Rev. Dr. Meredith Stone has served since 2020 as Executive Director of Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM), an organization advocating for the full affirmation of women in ministry and leadership in Baptist life. BWIM's vision is for women to thrive as they minister and lead within Baptist communities. A graduate of Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University (Ph.D. in Bible Interpretation), she is the author of "Empire and Gender in LXX Esther" (SBL Press, 2018) and has published extensively on women in ministry and religious gender justice. Her advocacy for women among Baptists has been featured in national news outlets such as CNN, The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today, NPR, and Religion News Service.

Rev. Dr. Jay Kieve serves as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Director of Ministerial Transitions and Abuse Prevention and Response Advocate. He is also passionate about helping churches become places free from abuse where everyone can thrive. Jay is a safeguarding specialist for GRACE (Godly Response to Abuse in the Christian Environment) and a facilitator for Darkness to Light's "Stewards of Children." He routinely seeks trauma-related learning and is trained as a victim's advocate. Jay volunteers with local rape crisis/child advocacy centers and supports churches as they develop great policies and procedures for preventing abuse.

Plenary Session 3 (Tuesday Afternoon 5/20 – 3:30-5:00PM) – PANEL

Breaking the Silence: Addressing Abuse in Baptist Communities

Abuse within Baptist communities takes many forms—clergy sexual abuse and misconduct, domestic violence and racialized spiritual abuse—yet Baptist churches and institutions often struggle to respond effectively. This panel brings together legal, theological, social work, and survivor perspectives to examine the challenges of addressing abuse and creating safer, more just Baptist communities. Robert G. Callahan II, Rev. Geneece Goertzen, Lucy Huh and Chellee Taylor will discuss institutional accountability, survivor advocacy, and practical steps for reform. This conversation will explore how Baptists can confront abuse with both courage and conviction.

Presiding: Dr. Jon Singletary, Dean of the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, Baylor University.

Robert G. Callahan II is a Baylor Law School graduate, adjunct professor, award-winning attorney, and author of the book Fire in the Whole: Embracing Our Righteous Anger with White Christianity and Reclaiming Our Wholeness which tackles spiritual abuse in the form of racism, misogyny, and bigotry. His firm, Callahan & King, PLLC, handles several practice areas, including cases of clergy abuse filed on behalf of survivors of sexual abuse in the church.

Rev. Geneece Goertzen, MDiv/LMSW, is a Ph.D. candidate in the Garland School of Social Work at Baylor University. Her research focuses on the intersection of faith and practice regarding domestic violence. As a survivor, she is passionate about turning pain into purpose for helping others, as evidenced in her 2024 book, Taking it Seriously: A Faith Leader's Guide to Domestic Violence. Additional resources are available at HopeRiseThrive.com.

Lucy Huh is a Ph.D. student and doctoral research fellow at Baylor University's Center for Church and Community Impact, where her research and advocacy focus on preventing clergy-perpetrated abuse of adult women through legislative and institutional reform. She has led policy initiatives including California Senate Bill 894, and serves on the boards of The North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) and Awake, a national organization working to address abuse in the Catholic Church.

Chellee Taylor was an active community member and employee of Baptist churches for 14 years until clergy-perpetrated sexual abuse abruptly ended her involvement. As a survivor, she faced poor institutional response, betrayal, a legal battle, and rejection from the church she once cherished. Now, Chellee is involved in multiple nonprofits focused on abuse, advocating for and empowering survivors, and seeking dialogue with institutional leaders to create safer Christian communities and promote lasting reform.

Plenary Session 4 (Wednesday 5/21 – 10:30-Noon)

Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse: Impact on Survivors

This plenary session will define Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse (ACSA) and describe the impact. ACSA involves pastors using their power and position to engage in sexual acts with those in their care, leading to severe psychological and spiritual harm. The status quo in 2025 is tragic: Congregations often blame victims and perpetrators are rarely held accountable.

Dr. David Pooler is a Professor of Social Work at Baylor University, where he has taught clinical intervention courses for 16 years. He is the Director of the Adult Clergy Sexual Abuse: Advocacy and Research Collaborative, exploring ACSA by combining research with clinical insights from treatment of survivors. This approach provides unique perspectives on how ACSA occurs, how healing happens, and what justice should look like.