



# Baptist Beacon

## NASHVILLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

11:00 AM on September 20

Nashville First Baptist Church

**The 123rd Annual Meeting of the Nashville Baptist Association** will take place on **Wednesday, September 20.**

This is an important meeting for associational churches in which we will conduct the business of the association, hear, see, and read reports of God's work in our midst over the past year, and present opportunities for churches to help churches in the coming year. It is also a wonderful chance to get to fellowship, pray, and strategize with other churches in Middle Tennessee.

Please make plans in advance to join us for the meeting, and also let us know of your planned attendance.

This year's meeting will begin at **11:00AM** at **Nashville First Baptist Church** (108 7th Ave S) and will include lunch. In order to help us plan, please register as soon as possible.

**Registration can be found at:**

<https://www.nashvillebaptists.com/annual-meeting>

## Around the Association

### Children's Ministry Network

The Middle Tennessee Children's Ministry Network is hosting a gathering for kids' ministry leaders at Judson Baptist Church on August 24 at 1:30 pm. For more information, please call Rich Smith at (615) 829-9834.

### Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

The TN Baptist Regional Worship Summit is an excellent opportunity for the church worship teams to receive practical training—worship leaders/ministers of music, worship bands and worship teams, choir leaders and members, children's choir/worship leaders, pianists and keyboardists, bi-vocational worship leaders, audio-visual teams, and more!

The Middle Tennessee Worship Summit will take place at Belle Aire Baptist Church in Murfreesboro on Saturday, August 19. Visit [www.worshipsummits.com](http://www.worshipsummits.com) for more info.

### Brentwood Baptist Church

Brentwood Baptist Church is hosting MedAdvance 2023 on August 3-5. Whether you are interested in a short-term trip or serving long-term, MedAdvance brings together healthcare professionals, healthcare students, church leaders and individuals involved in mobilizing healthcare professionals. You'll interact with and learn from International Mission Board missionaries currently engaged in this type of ministry. More at <https://bit.ly/MedAdvance2023>.

### Judson Baptist Church

Licensed professional counselors, leaders of Daystar Counseling Ministries in Nashville, and award-winning authors Sissy Goff and David Thomas are hitting the road on their very first Raising Boys and Girls Podcast Tour, and one of the stops is at Judson Baptist Church on August 27. This will be a great evening of laughter and insight. Register for this event here: <https://www.raisingboysandgirls.com/speak/podcast-tour-nashville-tn>

*To see your church event, need, or accomplishment listed here, please call the NBA office or email Alicia at [adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com).*

**Follow us on Facebook for more church news and events.**

## Webinars

### Peer Learning Webinar

Each month, the association will offer a Peer Learning Webinar in which a church leader from our association will share valuable and practical skills and insight relevant to a particular area of ministry.

**Topic:** Partnering with an International Congregation

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 15 at noon

**Presenter:** Terry Hudgins, Tusculum Hills Baptist Church

**Registration:** [nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning](http://nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning)

Check this page regularly for upcoming topics and presenters.

Last month's webinar, "Engaging the Church is Foster Care and Adoption," led by Ryan Wicker of First Baptist Dickson, is available to watch at [nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning](http://nashvillebaptists.com/peer-learning).

### Churches Planting Churches Webinar

Our Church Planting Strategist leads a discussion about how our churches can plant and grow new congregations in Nashville and the surrounding areas.

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, Aug 29 at 11am

**Presenter:** James Dean, New Day Church

**Registration:** [nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches](http://nashvillebaptists.com/churches-planting-churches)

## Openings and Opportunities

To have your resume forwarded to churches seeking a pastor, worship leader, or other ministry personnel, please submit a current resume to [general@nashvillebaptists.com](mailto:general@nashvillebaptists.com).

**Walker Baptist Church** is looking for a Pianist/Organist/Vocalist. If interested, please call or text Troy at (701) 441-9027. See [nashvillebaptists.com/nba-jobs](http://nashvillebaptists.com/nba-jobs) for a more detailed description.

Job descriptions and more openings can be found of our website at [nashvillebaptists.com/nba-jobs](http://nashvillebaptists.com/nba-jobs).

*Nashville Baptist Association has a policy of publishing job openings for ministerial and support positions when a church requests us to do so. In our desire to assist churches to fill vacancies, NBA will continue to offer this service at no charge. For more information call (615) 259-3034.*

# Pastor Profile

## Book Cook

The Church at Grace Park  
[gracepark.org](http://gracepark.org)

I was born in Springfield, TN, April, 1946, into the home of a Baptist minister and wife. I grew up with two sisters, one sister a year older...the other one a year younger. I gave my heart and life to Jesus when I was six years old, and totally surrendered my life to Jesus at the age 16, the summer before my junior year of high school.

The next year, I surrendered to vocational Christian ministry. I began college pursuing music and continued to do so, until my junior year when God called me to preach. I graduated from Tennessee Temple College in 1969 and from Temple Theological Seminary in 1972 with my M. Div. and M.R.E.

Upon finishing seminary, I pastored my home church, Tabernacle Baptist Church. I have now pastored Tabernacle's mission church for 47 years, The Church at Grace Park. In 1981, Grace Park became affiliated with the Nashville Baptist Association and the Southern Baptist Convention. In 2002, the church founded and opened the Christian Community School which continues to this day with approximately about 375 students.



## What is your favorite local Nashville restaurant?

Wanda and I are simple salad lovers...we like Cheesecake Factory and Rafferty's.

## How would you spend a day off with no ministry responsibilities?

Either working around the house...or reading.

## What Bible verse or passage is particularly meaningful to you right now?

I am more of a 'book' guy than a 'passage' guy...the Book of Colossians has been a rich study in recent weeks.

## Is there a quote that has stuck with you and influenced the way you have thought or behaved?

We should begin every day looking at life and the world (and our relationship with it) through the gospel window. Four words shape my faith: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration...thus everyday, I am called to live in a "redeem and restore" posture with this world.

## What is one exciting thing God is doing in your church right now?

We have divided our congregation into "Summer Squads" through Labor Day Weekend. Our theme is: "Summer Fun in the Son," and every squad member is challenged to focus on 7 areas: Pray, Attend, Serve, Give, Huddle, Invite, and Share! Many special fellowship activities and outreach events have been planned. It continues to be a great summer!!!

## Free Resource

Each month, the association will provide a free resource to the readers of the newsletter. These resources are meant to be practical, helpful, and relatable, just as we are working to be as an association.

This month's free resource is a PDF entitled "Protecting Your Ministry: 10 Best Practices to Prepare Your Ministry for Religious Freedom Legal Challenges," which can be downloaded by filling out the form at <https://bit.ly/protectingyourministryform>.

## NBA Staff

**Michael Kelley**, Executive Director  
mkelley@nashvillebaptists.com

**Alicia Darnell**, Office Manager  
adarnell@nashvillebaptists.com

**Dwayne Lewis**, Church Planting Strategist  
dlewis@nashvillebaptists.com

**Brett Boesch**, International Ministry Strategist  
bboesch@nashvillebaptists.com