

# 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

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

## BHHS / NABPR / AMGP Joint Meeting

### Monday Evening, May 20

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

7:30-8:30 am	Fellowship of Baptist Historians Breakfast	Tidwell, 101
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**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 Bradly, 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)**  
**Presiding: Andrew Christopher Smith, Carson-Newman University**  
*Bridging Baptist Traditions: A Personal and Historical Exploration*  
Michael Wicker, Texas Baptist Institute and Seminary

Tidwell, GL06

*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)**  
**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

Tidwell, GL07

*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 Faight, Wayland Baptist University

**Ministry Studies I (AMGP)**  
**Presiding:**  
*Engaging Contemporary Teaching Methods in Theological Education*  
Sarah Boberg, Campbell University

Tidwell, 304

*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**  
**BHHS Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting**  
**AMGP Box Lunch and Business Meeting**

Tidwell, 101  
Tidwell, GL01  
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

*Using an Allegorical Novel about Jesus in a Required General Education Religion Class: The Results of a Twenty-Five Year Experiment*

E. Wray Bryant, Capital 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

*A Mennonite Seeks Help from a Baptist: Correspondence Between Harold S. Bender and Albert Henry Newman*

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*

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

**Tuesday Evening, May 21**

5:00 pm

**BHHS and NABPR Dinner on your own.**

5:30 pm

**AMGP Annual Dinner (local restaurant)**

**Wednesday Morning, May 22**

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*

Theology, Historical Theology, & Ethics III (NABPR)  
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*

Tidwell, GL01

Kimlyn J. Bender, Truett Seminary

*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)  
Presiding: Doug Weaver, Baylor University  
*Rev. Dr. Gina Stewart’s Historic Sermon and Its Erasure*

Tidwell, GL04

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)  
Presiding: Joe Early, Campbellsville University  
*Tarry Ye Until: Andrew D. Urshan and Baptist-Pentecostal Interactions at The Moody Church*

Tidwell, GL06

Grace Babayan, Baylor University

*More on the Preaching of Nineteenth-Century Scottish Baptist, Peter Grant*  
Terry Wilder, Campbellsville University

*Robert Emmett Bell: Baptist, Pastor, Texan*  
John N. Davis, Hardin-Simmons University

Baptist Studies IX (BHHS)  
Presiding: Alexis Weaver, The Urban Institute  
*The Influence of the Arts Within Religion*

Tidwell, GL07

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)  
Presiding: Dennis Horton, Baylor University  
Ministry Guidance in Light of the Plenary Sessions, Discussion

Tidwell, 304

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.*

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### 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.

***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](https://www.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. Moderator: Dr. Jon Singletary, Dean of the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work, Baylor University.*

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### 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.*