

Coordinator's Reflection

DREAD → ENJOY → MISS

What happened at our second virtual General Assembly

Did you ever have one of those experiences that you dread as you prepare, enjoy while it's happening, and miss when it's gone? That's how I experience our annual General Assembly.

Every year there are dozens of choices to be made on the way to General Assembly. Who will preach? Who will lead workshops? What technology do we require and will it work?



By Jay Kieve
Coordinator

There's a guidebook to assemble, "swag" bags to compile, and registration forms to collect. Even with the help of a great General Assembly Team (thanks, Tony Vincent and the Team) and the gifts of Debbie and Lane, I still worry that I will forget something...and I do most years!

But then General Assembly arrives! This year by Zoom again and Facebook but it came and was terrific.

What a joy to see the faces and hear the voices of friends from across the state. How amazing to see the faithful and innovative things our missions partners are doing. Even in a pandemic year, our committees and teams celebrated successful events, initiatives, and grants.

Turns out that General Assembly is actually...fun! All the planning pays off in renewed relationships

and elation over the works of God in and among us.

Worship was inspiring because our readers from across the state did a superb job. Kyle Matthews musical offerings were just perfect for the service and for us. It was so much fun being with Jennifer and Chris at First Baptist, Pendleton, as we planned and recorded worship.

So now that General Assembly is over I miss it. I long to be together again to experience the fellowship that comes from shared faith and shared work.

It is great seeing people at their churches throughout the year (and I'll be doing that again soon!) and that feeling is amplified when we are together in one place.

Even though I'll probably feel a little dread as we plan next year, too, I'm already looking forward to it. I love when we are together! Mark your calendars for April 1-2, 2022 when we gather at St. Matthew Baptist Church with Metanoia, Inc. in North Charleston.



**CBFSC 2021
CHRISTIAN ACTION
AWARD**

Presented to BRENDA KNEECE for her ministry addressing the systemic challenges of racial inequity, injustice, and access to resources in South Carolina.

Brenda retired this year as executive minister of the South Carolina Christian Action Council.

Minding Our Business AT THE 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina met in annual business session on Friday April 16 as part of General Assembly.

Moderator Dr. Matt King led the Fellowship through the agenda that included committee reports, partner updates, and reports from CBFSC staff.

Following the approval of last year’s minutes, treasurer Dave Strum reported a strong financial footing with over \$969,000 in reserve cash and designated funds. He also reported that the Finance Committee worked recently to simplify our banking relationships and make it easier to receive contributions of stock.

In separate financial action, the Finance Committee recommended, and the Fellowship adopted, a 2021-2022 budget of \$454,586. The Fellowship also adopted the Nominating Committee report, filling officers, committees, and teams for 2021-2022.

Highlights of CBFSC’s committee and team reports included:

- Advancement supported technology grants for churches during pandemic lockdown;

- Personnel conducted staff reviews and approved sabbatical leave for Jay;
- Congregational Life supported a “Growing Young” cohort with Fuller Youth Institute and is hosting two upcoming conversations on caring for people with dementia;
- Leadership Development awarded over \$13,000 in master’s and doctoral scholarships;
- Missions awarded grants to numerous congregations and missions partners.

A highlight of the business session was the inaugural presentation of the CBFSC Christian Action Award to Rev. Brenda Kneece, the recently retired executive minister of the South Carolina Christian Action Council.

The award was presented in recognition of her service in addressing systemic issues of racial inequity, injustice, and access to resources.

In future years, the award will be called the Brenda Kneece Christian Action Award as a lasting tribute to her leadership and work.

BUDGET SUMMARY 2021-22

This budget was adopted at the assembly.

	2020-2021	2021-2022
Advancement Team	\$1,900	\$1,900
Baptist World Alliance	\$1,500	\$1,500
CBF Governance Board Travel Fund	\$1,000	\$1,000
Church Resources	\$1,200	\$1,500
Communications	\$35,550	\$35,500
Congregational Life Team	\$15,500	\$15,500
Finance Committee	\$8,300	\$9,400
General Assembly Team	\$11,450	\$11,000
Leadership Development Committee	\$18,500	\$18,500
Missions Committee	\$65,000	\$66,000
Networking Expense	\$30,500	\$30,500
Office Expense	\$31,950	\$31,450
Personnel Committee	\$219,676	\$225,836
SC Christian Action Council	\$5,000	\$5,000
TOTAL:	\$447,026	\$454,586

Financial report

2019-2020

2019-2020 F/Y Budget	\$446,854
2019-2020 F/Y Income	\$423,509
2019-2020 F/Y Expenses	\$379,296
2019-2020 F/Y Surplus	\$44,213

2020-2021 (NINE MONTHS)

2020-2021 F/Y Budget	\$447,026
2020-2021 F/YTD Income (9 months)	\$355,227
2020-2021 F/YTD Expenses (9 months)	\$279,252

Next General Assembly
April 1, 2022
Hosted by Metanoia
in North Charleston



Rev. Bill Stanfield is excited to welcome CBFSC to St. Matthews Baptist Church in 2022 for our General Assembly.

Our mission partners update us on their Covid year

By Lane Riley

CBFSC Associate Coordinator

One of the highlights of General Assembly is hearing updates from our mission partners. This year, our mission partners sent video updates highlighting what they've been doing, and they all expressed their thanks for the financial support and prayers for their ministries. Here is a summary of what they've been doing.

METANOIA

Metanoia is currently constructing two homes in their neighborhood as part of a housing suite of 18 rental and 4 ownership properties to provide quality, affordable housing in North Charleston.

They are planning for in-person summer youth activities, and are connecting youth entrepreneurs with local small business owners, including a new bakery just down the street from Metanoia on Reynolds Avenue.

The Old Chicora Elementary School renovation is still a planned project, and they are working through an insurance claim after a fire burned part of the building last year.

Metanoia is looking forward to hosting CBFSC General Assembly in 2022.

PALMETTO WORKS

Palmetto Works is encouraging people to get vaccinated and stay safe in Horry County. Palmetto Kids youth and leadership programs, and the CHOPS produce store have pivoted this year to continue serving their community in different ways.

They provided tablets and internet for all their children to use for schoolwork and to stay connected with Palmetto Works online. They also have passed out food to their community.

KOINONIA

Koinonia is excited to have new staff members for their afterschool and summer programs, and they are planning in-person summer camp.

They are expanding their community garden to teach gardening skills to children and to provide fresh produce in their community.

They are also working on their first housing renovation to provide quality, affordable housing in the Eau Claire neighborhood of Columbia. All house renovations are done by local tradesmen with youth apprentices.

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Mission reports—

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CAROLINA IMMIGRANT ALLIANCE

Carolina Immigrant Alliance has provided immigration legal aid to victims of domestic violence, people stuck in the US because of covid travel restrictions, and people applying for visas.

They expanded their services and represented their first family seeking asylum because of terrorism in their home country.

They hosted a virtual 5-k with great participation from CBFSC congregations. Some of their in-person programs, like their educational program in partnership with the Mexican consulate, are about to reopen.

SOUTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN ACTION COUNCIL

South Carolina Christian Action Council has a new executive minister, Rev. Regina Moore, after Rev. Brenda Kneece retired last year. They've been promoting social justice issues, racial justice and reconciliation, and advocacy on behalf of 3,800 churches and about 1 million South Carolinians.



Larry Harden shows the carpentry and plumbing renovations he's completed at Koinonia's house as part of the missions report at the 2021 virtual General Assembly.

If you would like to watch the partner update, you can find it on the CBFSC General Assembly page on our website.



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E-NEWS

In addition to this printed newsletter, we also send an e-newsletter usually once a week. If you would like to subscribe, send your email address to office@cbfsc.org.

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE
CBFSC.ORG | DISCOVER CBFSC | PEOPLE AND STORIES

We have published numerous articles about CBFSC life on our website since our last newsletter in February. Here's a sampling:

- Encourager churches: Ways to deepen missions commitment
- Jay is CBF's point person for abuse prevention
- The search for resurrection
- Single mother of Koinonia family among most engaged
- Living out the actions of scripture in the classroom from teacher of the year Justin Hicks, a member of Fernwood Baptist Church in Spartanburg
- Two South Carolina ministers join CBF Youth Ministry Network board
- Asylum, visa delays impact immigrants during Covid from Carolina Immigrant Alliance
- Leigh Reynolds, one of our scholarship recipients, finally said yes to divinity school
- CBFSC social media grant helps keep church strong during Covid, New Hope Christian Fellowship
- Foster children ministry big part of FBC Belton
- The nitty-gritty of how Palmetto Works helps families