

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Executive Committee  
Southern Baptist Convention  
Nashville, TN

To the Executive Committee, CEO, and EC officers,

We, the undersigned pastors and church leaders from Alabama, join many brothers and sisters across the Southern Baptist Convention today in writing to you at a moment of consequence in our cooperative work. The eyes of survivors, the messengers, and indeed the world, now fall upon us. How we navigate this moment will say much about our convictional beliefs and about our ability to carry out true Gospel mission going forward.

In June, the messengers of our convention made their desire undeniably clear: Attorney-Client Privilege must be waived. Your failing to do so would represent an unprecedented move away from our well-established polity and would potentially give cover to those the investigation was meant to confront. We write today that you may know the truth "on the ground" among many Alabama Baptists. Our desire is for the truth to prevail.

The preservation of our cooperative witness and work depends upon your action in the coming days. Many in our convention are discussing how we can best move forward from here. These conversations are heart-wrenchingly necessary given your unwillingness to heed the call of the messengers.

For our part, we want to be unashamedly clear. We repudiate any form of sexual abuse and any attempt to cover up such abhorrent sin. We rejoice that the Executive Committee shares the same sentiment. Following the directive of the messengers is the best way to affirm support for survivors of abuse and to walk in a manner "worthy of your calling." The loss of our witness on such a large scale would violate the spirit of fiduciary trust that you, serving as our Executive Committee, have been given.

We sincerely urge you to waive Attorney-Client Privilege, as instructed by the messengers in June, when you meet again on Tuesday. For the sake of those whose lives are deeply affected by sexual abuse, for the sake of our ability to earnestly engage our neighbors, and above all for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ, please hear our hearts on this matter.

As we labor in the fields together,

R. Benjamin Curlee  
Lead Pastor  
Lineville Baptist Church  
Lineville, AL

Zach Van Gieson  
Pastor  
Lakeview Baptist Church  
Oxford, AL

JD Thorne  
Pastor  
Point Mallard Parkway Baptist  
Decatur, AL

Dane Hays  
Student Pastor  
Point Mallard Parkway Baptist  
Decatur, AL

Matt Haines  
Lead Pastor  
Central Park Baptist Church  
Decatur, AL

Kevin Daniel  
Student Pastor  
Pine Grove Baptist Church  
Centre, AL

Cody Hale  
Lead Pastor  
Iron City Baptist Church  
Anniston, AL

Andy Frazier  
Lead Pastor  
Grace Baptist Church  
Sumiton, AL

Joseph Morris, Jr.  
Lead Pastor  
Mignon Baptist Church  
Sylacauga, AL

Tyler Gresham  
Administrative Pastor to Students  
Fairhaven Baptist Church  
Demopolis, AL

Reese Gill  
Student Pastor  
Munford Baptist Church  
Munford, AL

Jason Bachus  
Lead Pastor  
The Church at Pleasant Grove  
Heflin, AL

Tommy Martin (TJ)  
Pastor  
Eulaton First Baptist Church  
Anniston, AL

Jaime Early  
Student Pastor  
Central Park Baptist Church  
Decatur, AL

Luke Robinson  
Pastor  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church  
Hamilton, AL

Ben Smith  
Church Planter  
Lineville Baptist Church  
Lineville, AL

Eric Taylor  
Senior Pastor  
Bethel Baptist Church  
Pleasant Grove, AL

Brad Williams  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Hazel Green  
Hazel Green, AL

Daniel Atkins  
Senior Pastor  
Taylor Road Baptist Church  
Montgomery, AL

Robert D. Joplin  
Pastor  
Macedonia Baptist Church  
Gadsden, AL

Kenneth Bruce  
Senior Pastor  
Westwood Baptist Church  
Alabaster, AL

Josh Watford  
Associate Pastor  
Siloam Baptist Church  
Marion, AL

Tyler King  
Worship and Administration Pastor  
Parkview Baptist Church  
Decatur, AL

Robert Paul  
Senior Pastor  
Huffman Baptist Church  
Birmingham, AL

Dr. David Hobson  
Director of Missions  
Mud Creek Baptist Association  
Bessemer, AL

Brett Self  
Pastor  
Stone Ridge Baptist Church  
Alexander City, AL

Terrence Jones  
Pastor  
Strong Tower at Washington Park  
Montgomery, AL

Alonzo Brown  
Pastor  
Strong Tower at Washington Park  
Montgomery, AL

Derek Staples  
Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, AL

Taylor Rutland  
Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Dothan  
Dothan, AL

Dustin Laney  
Pastor of Students and Outreach  
Lineville Baptist Church  
Lineville, AL

Joshua Doss  
Pastor  
Hamilton Baptist Church  
Robertsdale, AL

Jonathan Sorensen  
Senior Pastor  
Cowarts Baptist Church  
Cowarts, AL

Greg Pate  
Pastor  
Salem Macon Baptist Church  
Notasulga, AL

David Eldridge  
Pastor  
Dawson Memorial Baptist Church  
Homewood, AL

Buddy Gray  
Pastor  
Hunter Street Baptist Church  
Hoover, AL

Peyton Hill  
Pastor  
First Baptist Church Prattville  
Prattville, AL

Joseph Stanford  
Pastor of Student Ministries  
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Ashland, AL

Adam Rice  
Associate Pastor  
Capshaw Baptist Church  
Harvest, AL

Bill McCall  
Pastor  
The Baptist Church at McAdory  
McCalla, AL

Mark Walker  
Lead Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Weaver  
Weaver, AL

Matt Mason  
Senior Pastor  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

Sean Gould  
Pastor of Member Care  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

Chris Kinsley  
Elder/Communications Director  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

Nate Farrow  
Young Adult & Pastoral Care Minister  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

Bart Box  
Senior Pastor  
Christ Fellowship Church  
Birmingham, AL

Ryan Adams  
Associate Pastor  
Christ Fellowship Church  
Birmingham, AL

Ethan McCreary  
Lead Pastor  
The Well Church  
Huntsville, AL

William Shepard  
Associate Pastor  
Christ Fellowship Church  
Birmingham, AL

Scott James  
Pastor/Elder  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

Jason Moye  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Butler  
Butler, AL

Curt Mize  
Senior Pastor  
Concord Baptist Church  
Salem, AL

John Butterfield  
Pastor of Local Disciple-Making  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

Kyle Sullivan  
Senior Pastor  
Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church  
Hueytown, AL

Shaphan Helms  
Pastor  
North Brewton Baptist Church  
Brewton, AL

Jacob Simmons  
Pastor  
Hope Community Church  
Birmingham, AL

Dr. Ben Hayes  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Dadeville, Alabama

Will Jones  
Associate Student Minister  
The Church at Brook Hills  
Birmingham, AL

John Sloan IV  
Senior Pastor  
Capshaw Baptist Church  
Harvest, AL

Matt Fuller  
Layman  
Eastaboga Baptist Church  
Eastaboga, AL

John Thweatt  
Pastor  
FBC  
Pell City, AL

Keith Warden  
Northbrook Baptist Church  
Cullman, AL

John Thomas  
Mission Strategist  
Southeast Alabama Baptist Association  
Dothan, AL

John Lemons  
Minister to Young Adults  
First Baptist Church  
Huntsville, AL

Travis Collins  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Huntsville, AL

Mark Bethea  
Senior Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Montgomery, AL

Danny Courson  
Mission Strategist  
St Clair Baptist Association  
Ashville, AL

Jon Glass  
Senior Pastor  
Cropwell Baptist Church  
Pell City, AL

Brett Pitman  
Senior Pastor  
Highland Park Baptist Church  
Muscle Shoals, AL

Scott Ferguson  
Pastor  
LaFayette First Baptist  
LaFayette, AL

Zack Brown  
Student Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Dadeville, AL

Scott Slayton  
Lead Pastor  
Mt. Olive Baptist Church  
Monroeville, AL

Michael J. Brooks  
Pastor  
Siluria Baptist Church  
Alabaster, Alabama

David Strickland  
Youth and Worship Pastor  
Eureka Baptist Church  
Talladega, AL

Chris Beck  
Lead Pastor  
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church  
Cropwell, AL

Jason Watkins  
Pastor  
Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church  
Ashland, AL

Dr. Michael Mills  
Senior Pastor  
Greensport Baptist Church  
Ashtville, AL

Erik Varnum  
Pastor  
Wayside Baptist Church  
Ashford, AL