

Southwestern Association (SWA)

2020 Annual Meeting Report

Meeting Time & Place:

August 7-9, 2020

Highland Baptist Church – Junction City, KS

Highland is a congregation that began in 1881. Dave Martin is currently the senior pastor, having recently assumed that role when Brad Seifert stepped down to become the new Regional Minister of the Central Plains Region (which includes the SWA). Of further note: Kristi TenClay, NAB missionary in Cameroon, is also from Highland Baptist.

Regional Leadership Team – Central Plains Region of the NAB



Brad Seifert (Junction City, KS) is our new Regional Minister for the Central Plains Region (CPR). Three Associations comprised of 50+ churches all together make up the CPR, which includes NAB churches in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and even one church in Florida! As the Regional Minister, Brad is somewhat of a “pastor to the pastors” and

assists the Associations and churches in church planting, leadership development, conflict resolution, pastoral placement, vision-casting, and so much more! We welcome Brad to this new role!

Church Planting Report:

Andy & Sara Wesner (First Baptist, Ellinwood, KS) were recently sent to a Discovery Days Weekend to assess their fit for church planting and explore God’s call on their life. They gave a great report at the SWA Annual Meeting detailing how the Lord has led them in this direction and expressing thanks to the SWA and CPR for being instruments in God’s hands to point them along the way thus far. They are currently looking into possible locations in Kansas where the Lord may be sending them. They are also beginning to build a prayer team. If you would like to join their team or learn more about what they’re doing, you can contact Andy at andywesner6@gmail.com, or just contact First Baptist in Ellinwood and they will get you connected.



North American Baptist Conference Updates

Some of you may already be aware that the NAB Conference is in a season of transition, actively looking for the next Executive Director who will give us leadership into the future. They hope to present a candidate for affirmation at the 2021 NAB Triennial Conference in St. Paul, MN next summer. Until that time, our own **Dan Heringer** (former CPR Regional Minister) is serving as the Interim Executive Director for the Conference. We know he will do a great job serving our churches through this transition. Please keep Dan & Geri Heringer, as well as the whole NAB Conf and search team, in your prayers.



Praise the Lord!: Celebrating with a Sister Church

Some of you will remember the beginning of **Purpose Church** (then called Prairie Community Church) when it was started in Firestone, CO by the SWA in the early 2000’s. Since then it has always met in a school building. Though property was purchased years ago, financial ability and regulatory issues have not allowed them to accomplish their dream of putting up a permanent structure for worship and ministry....until now. This past spring, in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic, Purpose Church broke ground on a new facility hoped to be completed by spring/summer of 2021. There are still some hurdles to overcome before it all becomes a reality. Let’s join the people of Purpose in praying that God will continue to provide, and they will be able to celebrate in a permanent facility next year that will allow them much greater flexibility as they reach out to the Firestone community with the truth and grace of Jesus Christ!



New SWA Moderator:

Josh Wesner (Emmanuel Baptist, Marion, KS) has moved into the role of SWA Moderator, after serving the past two years as Moderator-Elect. If you have any questions, concerns, ideas, prayers about the SWA or its ministry, please don’t hesitate to contact him (joshuwesner@hotmail.com). He would love to hear from you!

Next Year’s SWA Meeting:

Hosted by – TBD.

Tentative dates are likely August, 2021.

The Southwestern Association is a group of 21 North American Baptist churches in Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. www.nabconference.org.