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Orlando pastor David Uth to be Pastors' Conf. nominee

by Art Toalston, posted Monday, May 20, 2019 (9 months ago)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) – David Uth, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, will be nominated for president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference in June, Georgia pastor James Merritt has announced.

"David is a pastor's pastor, a spiritual statesman, and is universally respected in his state and across our convention," Merritt, pastor of the Atlanta-area Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, said in a May 17 announcement to Baptist Press.

Merritt said he looks forward "to the leadership he will bring to this important role if it is God's will for him to be chosen" during the June 9-10 Pastors' Conference in Birmingham, Ala. Uth currently is the sole nominee to date as president of the conference that precedes each year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Uth has led First Baptist Orlando since 2005. He is a former president of the Florida Baptist Convention and former International Mission Board trustee chairman.

First Baptist Orlando recorded 1,326 baptisms in 2018; church membership stood at 20,539, with the church reporting an average of 7,800 in morning worship.

"Nearly 25 percent of the church speaks and worships in Spanish or Portuguese," Merritt said, noting that First Orlando "leads the way in multicultural ministry."

"The church was lead partner in planting Storyline Fellowship in Denver, Colo., in 2015 and has works flourishing in Madagascar (since 2014) and East Asia (since 2017)," Merritt, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said. "The church has ongoing partnerships and missions activities in Cuba, Burkina Fossa, Mexico, Brazil, Haiti and Jordan."

In its support of Southern Baptist causes, First Orlando reported gifts of \$450,000 through the Cooperative Program to support missions and ministries in North America and around the world during the 2018 calendar year, or 2.38 percent of undesignated receipts of \$18,912,559.

First Orlando gave \$1,100,000 in the Great Commission Giving category established by SBC action in 2011 encompassing CP giving for state and SBC ministries as well as direct gifts to SBC entities, associational giving and giving to state convention ministries.

Uth had served as pastor of churches in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas prior to leading First Baptist Orlando.

An Arkansas native and son of a pastor, Uth holds Ph.D. and M.Div. degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, teaching New Testament courses for three years. He also earned an undergraduate degree in religion from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

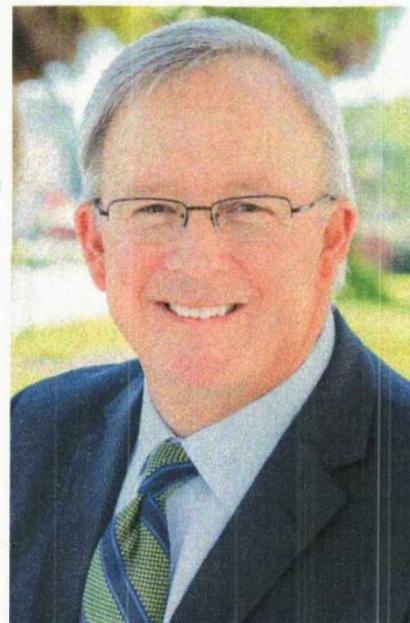


Photo submitted

Uth and his wife Rachel have two grown sons and a daughter and one grandchild.

Danny Wood, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham since 1997, is this year's Pastors' Conference president. The Sunday-Monday event, under the theme of "Kingdom Character," will focus on Jesus' Beatitudes in Matthew 5. The four sessions will feature more than 20 speakers and roundtable participants.

Next year's Pastor's Conference will be in Orlando prior to the June 9-10 SBC annual meeting.

Art Toalston is senior editor of Baptist Press.

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David Uth

Born on May 31, 1957, David Uth was licensed to preach on May 5, 1976 by Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas and ordained by Immanuel Baptist on December 5 of that year. David graduated from Pine Bluff High School in 1975, and in 1979 he received a B.A. in Religion from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. This was followed by a M.Div. in 1983 and a Ph.D. in 1991 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Also from 1985-1988 David taught New Testament Studies at Southwestern. He has had pastorates in Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana, and from 1996-2005 he was the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in West Monroe, Louisiana. He has also served as both President of the Florida Baptist Convention and Chairman of the International Mission Board of Trustees.

David is currently the Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Florida and is married to the former Rachel Leigh Moore of El Dorado, Arkansas and they have three children; Joshua, Andrew, and Hannah. They are also the proud grandparents of Sawyer Beau. David's hobbies include spending time with family, hunting, and fishing.