

Florida Baptist Historical Society Biography Collection

This link provides the specific resource information which documents and undergirds the biographical resource information on a specific Florida Baptist pastors, church staff or significant laity leaders.

The link you have chosen connects to the specific individual's resource files that provide the basis for information which the Historical Society has used to develop the respective biographical profile. The sources attached may include copies of articles gleaned from back issues of the *Florida Baptist Witness* and other news publications. Other resources include books, historical journal articles and church histories that are cited as documentation for the biography.

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Guy S. Sanders III (1948-2024) was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He graduated from Clemson University (1970, B.A.), and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (1973, Th.M.). He served in Kansas, and at LifeWay in Nashville, Tennessee, as a consultant for FAITH. He has served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Lake Wales (1982-1994), and First Baptist Church in New Port Richey (2000-2015). In 1991, Sanders served as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention. He and his wife, Phyllis Jean Sanders, had two daughters.

Guy St. Claire Sanders Iii

September 27, 1948 — February 6, 2024

Rev. Guy St. Claire Sanders III of Lake Wales reached his heavenly home on Tuesday, February 6, 2024. He claimed to have been born in Clemson, SC but was actually born in Orangeburg, SC on September 27, 1948, to the late Guy and Alice Sanders.

Guy answered the call to preach before graduating from Clemson University in 1970. Graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1973. From 1975 to 2015 Guy pastored First Baptist Church in Daytona Beach, FL, First Baptist Church in Lake Wales, FL, Celebration Baptist in Wichita, KS, and First Baptist Church in New Port Richey, FL. 1990-1991 he served as President of the Florida Baptist Convention. In 1998, Guy was employed by the Baptist Sunday School Board as National Consultant for the FAITH Evangelism Strategy.

Guy loved Clemson, even when they never won a football game. He was also a competitive golfer. He enjoyed time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. But he was most passionate about sharing Jesus with everyone he encountered.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Phyllis Jean Sanders; two daughters, Ashleigh Harrison (Lee) of Babson Park and Andrea Bredow (Beau) of Meridian, MS; sister, Linda Moore (Steve); brother, Nick Sanders (Sherrie); five grandchildren, Hunter, Austin, Macey, Blake and Barrett; and four great-grandchildren, Karleigh, Tinley, Conley and Hadlee.

Memorial service will be held 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 17, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Lake Wales with Rev. Brad Smith officiating. For those who wish, donations may be sent to Gideons or First Baptist Church Mission Fund.

<https://www.marionnelsonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/guy-sanders-iii>

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ed, Most new SBC trustees first-time nominees

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — New trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's entities are diverse, have an average age of 48 and are overwhelmingly first-time nominees.

Of the 105 nominations made by the Committee on Nominations, only three have ever served on an SBC board, messengers were told in approving the new trustees June 13.

"That is absolutely extraordinary," SBC President Bobby Welch said. He commended the 70-member committee for "reach[ing] down into the body life of this convention and find[ing] more folks to fill more places at a time like this."

"We've worked cooperatively with a good committee," said committee chairman Guy Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Port Richey. "All along the way I believe we've evidenced love for the Lord Jesus Christ, a commitment to excellence and the real spirit of enjoyable unity."

Sanders emphasized that the committee's report broadens the first-time representation of people in the convention, demonstrates financial cooperation and enlists people who will encourage evangelism as they guide the SBC's entities.

The churches which nominees represent give an average of more than 9 percent of their budgets through the Cooperative Program and have an average of 48 baptisms per church. "If we all did that, we'd baptize 2 million a year," Sanders noted.

Church attendance ranges from 43 in a newly planted church to congregations with thousands of members. The youngest nominees are two pastors,

both 29, and the eldest is a 75-year-old female.

"Our committee has worked very diligently to present to this convention a slate of nominees full of diversity, free of personal agenda and faithful to the Great Commission through Southern Baptist cooperation," Sanders said.

"It follows the full gamut of who we are as Southern Baptists."

In an interview with *Florida Baptist Witness* following his report, Sanders spoke to some criticisms of the nominations process, including the nominations of a father and son from different churches and a Nevada woman related by marriage to Southwestern Seminary president Paige Patterson.

Sanders called "unfounded" charges that the Committee on Nominations process this year or in the past has been the subject of "manipulation."

Regarding the nomination of Kathleen Kelly of Nevada to the International Mission Board and the fact that she is the sister of Dorothy Patterson, Sanders told

the *Witness*, "I don't think we can somehow disqualify someone simply because they're related to another. The nominators from Nevada both addressed that issue in the meeting and said this woman is not voting for somebody else, she's her own person, she's one of the best laypeople we have in the state of Nevada. ..."

Sanders, who served on the Committee on Nominations once before ten years ago, said the committee's work, although stressful at times, was "an excellent experience."



■ Guy Sanders, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Port Richey, chaired the 2006 Committee on Nominations.

Photo by James A. Smith, Sr.

one million baptisms in 12 months' ... some year

attempted to talk him out of such a high, if not impossible goal. that he's chiding "them bloggin' boys. Why, you run around with that wireless our opportunity as a convention. That's what we need to fear."



Guy Sanders

Guy S. Sanders, 1991

Guy S. Sanders, III (b. 1948 to present), at the time of his election as State Convention president, was serving as pastor (1982 – 1994) of the First Baptist Church, Lake Wales. Between 1994 and 1998, Dr. Sanders served as co-pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas, and later returned to Florida in 2000, to accept the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, New Port Richey.

As occurred in the prior year's annual meeting, several messengers attempted to amend the report of the Committee on Nominations to replace as many as five nominees. Messenger Joyce Page of Daytona Beach, without citing specific rationale moved to delete five nominees from the Committee's report. The presiding officer ruled the motion out of order. Almost immediately messenger Henry Green of Cocoa moved that, "the Committee on Nominations go back into session and consider re-appointing" nominees that reflected diversity based upon gender and provide an equal representation between clergy and laity. The presiding officer ruled the motion out of order, which was challenged, but messengers voted to support the president's ruling. A third messenger, Charles Horton of Orlando, made a motion that the Committee on Nominations replace three nominees (these were among the five previously identified by messenger Joyce Page's motion). The presiding officer ruled the motion out of order. The same messenger challenged the presiding officer's ruling by calling for a ballot vote. Through a show of hands, a majority of the 1202 messengers present upheld the ruling of the presiding officer. Finally, the messengers voted to approve the Committee's report as presented, without any amendments.

In other actions, messenger approved 17 recommendations that defined various revisions to the State Convention's Constitution and Bylaws. One specific recommendation clarified the State Convention's "right to elect and remove any and all persons who are nominated to serve as members" of any State Convention committees, agency boards or institution trustee.

Edward D. Johnson, 1992

Edward D. Johnson (b. 1943 to present) was serving as pastor (1983 – 2006) of the First Baptist Church, Ocala, at the time of his election as State Convention president to serve in 1992. From Ocala, Dr. Johnson accepted a position as director of the Cooperative Program [promotion] Office, Florida Baptist Convention.

The affects and aftermath of the August 23-24, 1992, Hurricane Andrew was at the forefront of the attention of messengers attending the annual meeting held in Fort Myers. The once in 100-years catastrophic hurricane had destroyed or damaged 137,000 homes which resulted in 250,000 people being left homeless, in addition to the severe damage done to 35 Southern Baptist churches in Dade County.

Messengers approved a resolution of appreciation to Cecil W. Seagle, then director of the Florida Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department, who led Florida Baptists volunteers in their herculean response by helping people and churches affected by the devastating hurricane. Messengers also saluted by resolution the nine state conventions which provided volunteers, feeding units and financial contributions in the Andrew relief effort targeted to South Florida. The State Convention messengers additionally authorized the State Board of Missions to earmark \$200,000 in Hurricane Andrew relief efforts.



Ed Johnson



O. G. "Tim" Locher

O.G. "Tim" Locher, 1993

O.G. "Tim" Locher (b. 1939 to present) was one of 16 laypersons – whose Convention service was featured in the February, 2019, issue of *Legacy* – served as Convention President in 1993. He was a member of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church, Hollywood, before retiring and moving out of state.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Guy S. Sanders, III
6561 Circle Boulevard
New Port Richey, FL 34652
(727) 849-4210

Date of Birth: September 27, 1948
Place of Birth: South Carolina

Wife: Phyllis
Children: Ashleigh Elizabeth July 8, 1977
 Andrea Lindsay September 12, 1979
2 Grandchildren

FORMAL EDUCATION

| | | |
|----------------------|------|--------------------|
| Bamberg High School | 1966 | |
| Clemson University | 1970 | Bachelor of Arts |
| New Orleans Seminary | 1973 | Master of Theology |

AWARDS, HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:

| | | |
|---|------------------|---------|
| Licensed to Gospel Ministry | FBC, Bamberg, SC | 1970 |
| Ordained to Gospel Ministry | FBC, Kenner, LA | 1973 |
| Chairman, Florida Baptist State Board of Missions | | 1989-90 |
| President, Florida Baptist Convention | | 1990-91 |
| Executive Committee of Southern Baptist Convention | | 1986-94 |
| Awarded Doctor of Ministry, Gulf Shore Baptist Seminary | | 1993 |
| Committee on Nominations, SBC | | 1996-97 |

Biographical Sketch

Guy S. Sanders, III

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Guy Sanders graduated from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1973 with a Masters of Theology degree. Upon graduation he was called by the First Baptist Church of Kenner as a full time Associate Pastor in Children's work and Evangelism. While he was at Kenner the church grew to over 2700 members with an average Sunday School attendance of over 1000. In addition to his other responsibilities while at Kenner, he served as Minister of Youth.

From 1975 to 1982 he served First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Florida, as Associate Pastor/Minister of Evangelism under the ministry of Dr. Bobby Welch.

From 1982 to 1994 he served as pastor of the First Baptist Church of Lake Wales, Florida. During this period of time the church experienced a steady growth with triple growth in the Sunday School enrollment and attendance. New outreach and caring ministries were begun that resulted in a threefold increase in annual baptisms. Morning and evening worship services were televised. Three modern buildings were built to accommodate the new growth including a 1600 seat worship center.

From 1994 to 1998, Dr. Sanders served as Co-Pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church of Wichita, Kansas, a "congregation of churches" with four satellite locations and the largest membership of churches in the Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists. His priority focus while in Wichita was developing a new congregation, Celebration Baptist Church, which was constituted as a new church in January 1996, with Dr. Sanders as its Pastor.

Beginning in April 1998, Dr. Sanders was employed as a Consultant for the FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Since September, 2000, Dr. Sanders has been the pastor of First Baptist Church, New Port Richey.
