

## 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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Shepherd, Richard (1952- ) was born in Mobile, AL. He graduated from Mobile College, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Shepherd served as director, Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Department Evangelism Division of the Florida Baptist Convention. He and his wife, Linda Gail Fisher Shepherd have four children.





Five persons were elected to fill three vacancies and two newly created positions on the Florida Baptist Convention staff in personnel action taken by the State Board of Missions, which met May 18 at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly.

Elected to newly created positions were Willie McPherson of Atlanta, Ga., coordinator of the Interdivisional Church Planting Office; and Brad Gill of Milton, Baptist Collegiate Ministry Director in Palm Lake and Gulf Stream Baptist associations.

Elected to fill staff vacancies were Rick Shepherd of Chattanooga, Tenn., director of the Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Department; Daniel Paixao of Orlando, director of the Language Church Development Department; and Roy Lee Saint of Madison, associate director of the Pastoral Ministries Department.

McPherson will handle administrative issues and assignments related to the convention's church planting efforts. Currently three divisions within the convention's organization are responsible for starting churches in the state-- African-American, Language Missions and Missions. This position will manage administrative activities among the three divisions.

McPherson brings with him a wealth of church starting administrative experience, having served for 14 years with the North American Mission Board (formerly Home Mission Board (HMB) as director and associate director of the Black Church Extension Division from 1989-1997, and national consultant for the Black Church Department from 1984-1989. He also served as a HMB-appointed missionary and director of the Black Church Ministries Department for the Southern Baptist General Convention of California from 1980-1983.

He most recently has served as pastor of Sandtown Baptist Church in Atlanta since 1997.

A native of Okolona, Miss., McPherson, 60, received a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and a bachelor of arts degree from California Baptist College in Riverside in 1974.

He will begin to serve as church planting coordinator June 1.

Saint, 48, will fill the associate position left vacant when Bob Bumgarner was promoted as director of the Pastoral Ministries Department, effective June 19.

He has served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Madison since 1989. During this time, he served as a state convention contract worker with this department, leading conferences and helping smaller churches in the area of church administration. Prior to that, he served as pastor of churches in Louisiana, Florida and Tennessee.

A native of Nashville, Tenn., Saint received a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans in 1988. He also holds a doctor, master and bachelor of theology degree from Mountain Empire Bible College and Seminary in Johnson City, Tenn.

Effective July 3, Rick Shepherd will take the position left vacant with the retirement of Tom Kyzer, who had served as director of the Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Department since its inception nearly five years ago.

Shepherd will come to Florida from Woodland Park Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he served as associate pastor-teacher. While there, he initiated multiple prayer ministries including the Watchman Prayer Ministry, Sunday School Prayer Ministries, church prayer chains, Intercessors ONLINE and a missionary-focused prayer ministry. He served in a similar capacity at Southcliff Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

A native of Mobile, Ala., Shepherd, 48, holds doctor of philosophy and master of divinity degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he wrote his doctoral dissertation on strengthening prayer ministries through spiritual awakening. He received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Mobile in 1974.

The position of director of the Language Church Development Department was left vacant with the resignation of Guillermo Soriano, who returned to the pastorate. In 1985, Brazilian-born Daniel Paixao spent seven years leading church development work for the Baptist Convention of New York and became the pastor of First Portuguese Baptist Church of New Jersey. He most recently has served as pastor of First Brazilian Baptist Church in Orlando since 1997. He also served churches in Texas and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Paixao, 60, received a doctor of ministry degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1997 and a master of psychology degree from North Texas State University in Denton in 1975. He earned a bachelor of theology degree from South Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary in Rio de Janeiro. He is fluent in four languages: English, Portuguese, Spanish and French.

The newly created campus position will combine two part-time positions in Palm Lake and Gulf Stream associations. The director will focus his efforts on Florida Atlantic University and Palm Beach Community College campuses, which serve approximately 25,000 students. Additionally, the director will initiate ministries on the campuses of the Nova Southeastern University and Broward Community College.

Since 1998, Gill has served as minister to students for First Baptist Church of Milton and held a similar position at Valley Ranch Baptist Church in Coppell, Texas. He has served as a Baptist Student Union campus president, summer missionary to St. Petersburg, Russia, and on the staff of Centrifuge in Glorieta, New Mexico.

A native of Louisiana, Gill, 29, was awarded a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1997 and a bachelor of arts degree from University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette in 1994.

He will begin the position, effective June 15.

In other personnel matters, the board established the position of associate director of theological education and distance learning; approved a resolution for Tom Kyzer upon his retirement after nine years of employment; and amended the convention's annuity plan to enable participants to withdraw money contributed by the convention prior to retirement.

FILE COPY *OK*

State Board of Missions  
Administrative/Personnel Committee  
November 9, 2015

Resolution of Appreciation for Richard L. Shepherd

**BACKGROUND:** Since July, 2000, Richard L. (Rick) Shepherd, has served on the staff of the Florida Baptist Convention. Recently Dr. Shepherd indicated to the executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention that he would retire from service by October 31, 2015. As an expression of appreciation and gratitude for Rick Shepherd's 15 years of service to Florida Baptists, Convention administration is recommending the approval of the attached resolution.

**STAFF**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Administrative/Personnel Committee of the State Board of Missions recommend that the Board approve the attached resolution of appreciation for Richard L. Shepherd, and recommend its adoption by the Florida Baptist State Convention, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
RICHARD L. SHEPHERD

WHEREAS, Richard L. (Rick) Shepherd served the Florida Baptist Convention since the year 2000, and after serving 15 years and 3 months, retired on October 31, 2015, from service as the Strategist, Prayer/Spiritual Awakening Team, Evangelism Group, Florida Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepherd accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 16 and was baptized in the First Baptist Church, Chickasaw, Alabama; and responding to the call of God was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepherd graduated from Mobile College (now University of Mobile), Mobile, Alabama, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974; and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree in 1977, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1982; and

WHEREAS, during his ministry career serving in associate pastor and teaching roles that emphasized prayer and spiritual awakening, Dr. Shepherd served churches in Tennessee and Texas; and

WHEREAS, during his 15 years' service with the Florida Baptist Convention, Dr. Shepherd, served as director of prayer/spiritual awakening, a task which was committed to providing resources, encouragement and training of Florida Baptist church leaders and members to commit to and organize for personal and corporate prayer; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Dr. Shepherd has assisted churches and its members to be transformed by prayer resulting in a spiritual awakening that not only strengthened and undergirded the mission and ministry of local churches, but demonstrated the Biblical truth that if we pray first and plan second, Florida Baptists have seen and benefitted from God's response; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Dr. Shepherd's constant focus on encouraging and emphasizing special prayer vigils over the years, Florida Baptists have seen the positive response of God who has heard and worked in their midst, seeing lives changed and Jesus Christ exalted; and

WHEREAS, Rick Shepherd's commitment and service to Florida Baptists has been motivated by the scripture passage of Romans 12:1-2 in which God's people are encouraged "to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. . .;" now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Baptist State Convention meeting in annual session, November 9-10, 2015, in Panama City, Florida, express gratitude to God for the faithful and committed service of Richard L. Shepherd, given to our Lord and to Florida Baptists, and we assure him and his wife Linda Gail, of the prayers, love and best wishes of this Convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to Richard L. Shepherd, as an expression of our love and appreciation to him.