



**William Earnest “Willy” Rice
Serving as 64th SBC President:
2026 to 2027**

Florida Pastorates:

Cypress Lake Baptist Church, Tampa, 1987 – 1992
Hillcrest Baptist Church, Pensacola, 1997 – 2004
Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater,
2004 to present

Introductory Overview

“Willy” Rice is a Florida native whose spiritual journey included learning and being mentored under the ministry of William Anderson, pastor of Clearwater’s Calvary Baptist Church. And in God’s timing, Rice came to follow in Anderson’s footsteps to fill the pulpit and lead the Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater, Florida, beginning in 2004. While at Calvary, Rice was elected to two one-year consecutive terms as president of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

His pastoral service included tenures as pastor in several Baptist churches in the towns and small cities of Alabama and Florida. These were preparatory to his calling, to serve as pastor of a church characterized by *Outreach* magazine as one of 100 fastest growing churches in America – Calvary Baptist Church, Clearwater, Florida – where he has served the past 22 years. In 2026 Rice was elected to his first one-year term as the 64th president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Responding and Preparing for Ministry Service

William Earnest “Willy” Rice (b. 1964), a native of Tampa, Florida, is a fourth-generation Floridian. On the first day of his birth, Rice said his parents – Earnest and Judith Rice – enrolled him in Sunday school at the Jackson Heights Baptist Church (org. 1917), Tampa.¹ Willy had two siblings, a sister Sharon and a brother David.

At the age of nine, Rice’s maternal grandparents took him to a revival service held in Tampa’s East Chelsea Baptist Church. Although Rice was the only person who made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ that night, it was said of Willy Rice, “it was a significant one as he showed a keen interest in the spiritual

things of life that point on.” Subsequently the Rice family moved across Tampa Bay and settled in Pinellas County where the Rice family joined First Baptist Church, Indian Rocks, in Largo. It was at that church where Willy Rice was baptized.² The family moved their membership to Clearwater’s Calvary Baptist Church. At the time, Rice was 12-years old and William E. Anderson was the pastor (served from 1975 to 2001). Willy Rice attended Seminole High School and became a leader in Calvary’s youth group, which served as preparation “to be used of God.” A church history book said of the young Willy Rice, “He rose to leadership positions in the youth group, memorized vast passages of scripture, sang in the youth choir and eventually surrendered to the call to pastoral ministry that God placed on him . . .”³ Eventually, it was at the Calvary Church that Rice was licensed and ordained to the gospel ministry.⁴ In the summer after his ninth grade year of school, Rice’s youth group went to a summer youth week held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center. It was during worship services there that Willy Rice felt God’s call to the pastoral ministry.⁵ During the ensuing years Rice was mentored and encouraged by the church’s longtime pastor William Anderson. While involved in Calvary’s youth ministry Rice became acquainted with Cheryl Lynn Baker (b. 1964), also a Tampa native. Her family also had moved across Tampa Bay from MacDill Air Force Base and settled in Seminole, a community in mid-Pinellas County. The Baker family was invited to attend the Calvary Baptist Church (org. 1866) – then located in downtown Clearwater – where they visited for several months. However, when Cheryl was 16 years old, the family attended a Jay Strack evangelistic crusade. During that revival Cheryl Baker was convicted of her sins and stepped forward to make a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. After graduating from high school, Cheryl decided to attend Samford University, perhaps

influenced by other young people in the Calvary youth group, including one Willy Rice.⁶

University, Marriage and Growing a Family

At the age of 17 years old (1981), Willy Rice enrolled in Samford University located in Birmingham, Alabama. Meanwhile Willy and Cheryl, who had become a boyfriend-girlfriend couple while at Calvary Church, continued a long-distance relationship during the next two years while Rice was attending Samford. Two years passed and Cheryl Baker, having graduated from Osceola High School in 1983, also enrolled in Samford. Rice completed his studies and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1985. Subsequently Cheryl Baker graduated cum laude from Samford University in 1987.

While Willy and Cheryl were still enrolled at Samford they agreed to get married. The wedding was held December 29, 1984, in Calvary Baptist Church's historic downtown chapel rotunda. They were both aged 20. During the ensuing ten years, the couple had three children that included: Amanda Leigh (b. 1988); Anna Ruth (b. 1990); and Stephen Benjamin (b. 1993).⁷

Willy Rice was a youth revival speaker for the Alabama Baptist State Convention

Preparing for Ministry Service

During his university years, Willy Rice was a youth revival speaker for the Alabama Baptist State Convention preaching across the state. At age 20, while still enrolled in Samford, Rice was called as pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church, located in the rural community of Dora, Ala. Located approximately 40 miles north of Samford, the travel to and from the church field was

convenient in fulfilling the weekend responsibilities of visitation and leading worship services. He began serving the congregation in 1984, subsequently graduated from Samford the following year, and continued serving the congregation until 1987.

**Cypress Lake Baptist Church,
Tampa, Florida, 1987 – 1992**

Meanwhile back in Clearwater, the leadership of Calvary Church decided to establish a satellite campus north of Oldsmar (midway north between Clearwater and Tampa). This was designated as the Cypress Lake Baptist Mission. In seeking someone to serve as pastor of the new church, the Calvary leadership turned to one of their homegrown boys. They called Willy Rice, who recently graduated from Samford and had gained pastoral experience at the Bethel Baptist Church to enhance his preparation for the pastoral ministry.⁸ In taking lead of the new church, Rice started with a nucleus of approximately 30 Calvary members and local residents who lived in the Oldsmar area. “They were trained and sent out as a core group,” Rice said at the time. “These are fantastic people, ambitious, energetic. They are highly successful, I think.”⁹ While serving the mission Rice started academic work through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. By 1990 Rice completed academic requirements and received the Master of Divinity degree. By 1992 the church had grown to over 120 members.

**Gladeview Baptist Church,
Anniston, Alabama, 1992 – 1997**

In an interview with the *Anniston (Ala.) Star* Rice spoke about his days at Gladeview Baptist Church with nostalgic fondness. “Gladeview was a vibrant church,” Rice recalled, “and I made so many friends there and have such good memories in Calhoun County.” The interview with the *Anniston Star*

followed soon after his June 2026 election as SBC president. Rice was 28 years old when he was called as pastor of Gladeview. Under his five-year tenure as pastor, Rice said the church grew to over 250 members from about 180 members. To accommodate the church's growth Rice led the congregation in 1993 to 1994 to raise the funds to construct a worship center that could seat about 500 people. Reflecting upon that endeavor Rice said, "We thought we'd built the biggest thing in the world." The church's membership and visitor attendance growth was enhanced by Jacksonville State University students, who were attracted by the dynamic young preacher. "It was a wonderful time, a great time with that huge college group."¹⁰ The church was located about a six-hour drive southwest to the New Orleans Seminary campus. The distance made it reasonable for Rice to travel back and forth for a day or two to attend doctoral seminars. In 1996 he completed his dissertation to earn the Doctor of Ministry degree.

Hillcrest Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida, 1997 – 2004

In 1997, Rice was contacted by the pulpit committee of the Hillcrest Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida, that extended a call to Rice to serve as their pastor. When Rice went to the church it recorded an average Sunday school attendance of 550, while an average 600 persons participated in the worship services. During the next seven years, under Rice's leadership, the average Sunday school attendance grew to 1,200 and the several worship services had reached an average of 1,600 people in attendance.¹¹ Statistics reflected significant membership growth during Dr. Rice's tenure. Membership in 2004 stood at 3,181 having grown from 2,005 in 1997. Additionally, Sunday school enrolment grew to 2,767 enrollees from 1,133 in 1997. By 2004 the church contributed

\$243,663 annually through the Cooperative Program having grown from \$73,897 in 1997.¹²

To better serve the needs of the congregation, Rice demonstrated the ministry possibilities with additional ministerial staff. Soon five additional ministry staff were enlisted to serve in the areas of: children’s ministry; preschool ministries; evangelism and missions; collegiate and single ministries; and leadership and adult discipleship.¹³

To accommodate the attendance growth, the church membership agreed to proceed with a fund-solicitation effort to underwrite the planned construction of a new worship center that would seat 2,000 persons. After two years, the new sanctuary was completed and dedicated in 2002. In the Spring 2004, the church undertook a fund-solicitation drive to underwrite the planned construction of a children’s ministry building.¹⁴ That project was subsequently placed on hold.

**“For me, Hillcrest
represents a
Camelot of sorts”**

In August 2004, Dr. Rice announced to the congregation that God was leading him to return to his home

church in Clearwater. Rice told the congregation, “For me, Hillcrest represents a Camelot of sorts, a time when every hope and aspiration for ministry came true. We had big dreams and because of the support of the Hillcrest family and the blessings of God we got to take an incredible journey together.”¹⁵

Reflecting upon Rice’s service at Hillcrest, one member observed, “He’s probably one of the best pastors I’ve ever been under.” At the time of Rice’s departure to Clearwater, Ron Sherrell, chairman of the deacons at Hillcrest Church said, “He doesn’t

apologize for anything. We are all brokenhearted he's leaving, but we understand God moves his people around."¹⁶

**Calvary Baptist Church,
Clearwater, Florida, 2004 to present**

"In a landslide vote of 1,068 to 14, Calvary Baptist Church selected Dr. William 'Willy' Rice to be its new senior minister, replacing interim pastor, Dr. Ken Alford," reported the *Tampa Bay Times* newspaper. The 2004 newspaper account went on to contend, "Rice's hiring signals a move by church members to get past more than two years of stress that began after the retirement of longtime senior pastor Rev. Dr. Bill Anderson in 2001." Those years were filled by two different interim pastors.¹⁷

Dr. Rice told the newspaper that, "My hopes for this church are that it can be healthy and strong again." Continuing, Rice stressed his goal that the church would be to "speak the message of the Gospel so that it's clear and compelling."¹⁸ He assumed leadership of the congregation September 12, 2004.

Rice took the reins of leadership at a critical time in the history of the 138-year-old church as it was in the midst of constructing a \$22 million church campus on 11 acres, six miles north of downtown Clearwater. The new complex was officially opened in mid-December 2004. The church's former downtown majestic sanctuary, with a domed ceiling constructed in 1926, on top of six acres on a 40-foot limestone bluff that overlooked Clearwater harbor, was sold in 2004 to a developer.¹⁹

Calvary Baptist Church experienced statistical growth, under Dr. Rice's leadership. In 2004 the church was reporting 5,611 members with 2,909 enrolled in the Sunday school/Bible study groups. Although actual

attendance did not reflect the membership counts. However, Dr. Rice led the church to fulfil its commitment to reach the world for Jesus Christ. As a result of the church’s effort to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and follow-through discipleship, the church regularly conducts beachside baptisms. Those efforts have recorded in excess of 400 to 500 baptisms annually. Cooperative Program giving – based upon recent giving trends – reflect the church earmarking 7.5 percent of its undesignated budget through the Cooperative Program (which in a recent year amounted to over \$532,000). Additionally, the church members financially support the Annie Armstrong Easter and Lottie Moon Christmas offerings.

On its 150th anniversary (2016) the church launched a commitment to start 150 new churches – including 100 international congregations – within a decade. By 2026 the church had reached and surpassed its goal with 171 church starts. The effort was in support of the Southern Baptist’s International Mission Board’s “Vision 2025.”²⁰ Locally, Calvary Church started and maintain five mission campuses: Crystal Beach; East Lake; Seminole; Safety Harbor; and Calvary Espanol. In addition, as a part of its evangelism emphasis to prepare generations of young people who can impact the world for Jesus Christ, the church started a Christian high school and a Christian college. To support these outreach efforts the church enlisted and trained 159 persons in its 150-goal for mission volunteers.

Pastor Rice does more than promote missions and enlist volunteers, he leads by example. A case in point, in 2022, Willy and Cheryl Rice traveled to Indonesia to lead training and encouragement sessions with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries and local pastors. “They

were consistently authentic, humble and gracious,” wrote missionary/seminary professor Christopher Cole. “The conditions weren’t great. Even for Indonesia, this was largely a backwater group of Baptist leaders that had been gathered.” Despite the less than perfect conditions, Rice persevered, going anywhere he was needed. “The little mountain churches Willy preached in often didn’t have finished walls let alone fans or air-conditioning. . . Cheryl was by Willy’s side through the large public events and met with pastor’s wives in smaller groups to teach and encourage them,” Cole wrote. “They treated us missionaries like we were their heroes even when we didn’t have solutions to the challenges they were facing.”²¹

Service in 2007 and 2008 as President, Florida Baptist State Convention

The 2006 annual meeting of the Florida Baptist State Convention convened in Fort Myers in the McGregor Baptist Church. Messengers voted to elect a new president who would serve the following year. There was only one nomination – William E. Rice – and it was made by Ken Whitten, pastor of the Idlewild Baptist Church, Tampa. Rice was elected by acclamation.²² While serving as convention president in 2007, Dr. Rice was nominated to serve a second one-year term as president in 2008. Bob Greene, director of missions, Pensacola Bay Baptist Association, made the nomination for William Rice. And again, there was no other nomination, and Dr. Rice was elected by acclamation.²³

In his service as state convention president for 2007 – 2008, Rice told the *Florida Baptist Witness* that in his official capacity he traveled the state and spoke in churches and at associational events. “A highlight,” he said was traveling to Haiti, where Florida Baptists have ongoing partnership missions work. “I am the

first sitting president that had ever come,” Rice told the *Witness*. “I enjoyed that opportunity and was [emotionally] moved by what people face and what the struggle is down there.” Dr. Rice went on to say that it was “heartening” to see the church planting efforts and ministries that Florida Baptists support. Another enlightening aspect of his around the state tours was to witness what he called “the incredible ethnic diversity,” ranging from Anglo to Haitian to Hispanic to Brazilian churches.²⁴

**“God’s people
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During the 2008 state convention annual meeting held in Lakeland, Rice preached his swansong message as out-going president. He reportedly “struck a

triumphant note” that messengers responded to with applause and shouts of “Amen.” “God’s people have no business being afraid, no business being anxious. We know who holds the future in his hands.” Rice went on to stress, “God’s kingdom is going to prevail. These are tough days, but opportunity is knocking at the door.” He observed that, “Many of our churches are struggling with a crisis of purpose. We’ve forgotten why we’re here. We’ve got too much activity and too little productivity.”²⁵

Willy Rice’s popularity was reflected in his being tapped as a speaker during several of the future annual meetings of the state convention. He was selected to bring the official convention sermons in the years of 2016, 2021, 2022 and 2024.

Involvement in Southern Baptist Convention

Beginning as a student observer, Willy Rice has been an active participant in Southern Baptist life since he was a teenager. “I attended my first Florida Baptist

[State] Convention as a college freshman,” he recalled in 2016. At that time, “I sat on the platform representing the youth speaker’s tournament from those days while my pastor, Dr. Bill Anderson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church . . . presented the convention sermon. I thought it was one of the greatest messages I have ever heard, and I remember it still,” he said.²⁶ Since the early 1980s, Rice said he has attended nearly every – except two or three – annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Highlights of his involvement in SBC life came to the forefront when he was appointed to serve as chair of the 2010 SBC Committee on Committees and chaired the 2016 Committee on Nominations. In 2015 Rice served as president of the SBC Pastor’s Conference. He also was later selected to bring the convention sermon during the 2021 SBC annual meeting.

Then in early March 2022, Clint Pressley of Charlotte, North Carolina, announced that he intended to nominate Willy Rice for the SBC presidency to serve in 2023. Pressley told *Baptist Press*, the Southern Baptist Convention’s news service, that “Willy Rice represents who Southern Baptists are at their best.” He went on to explain that Rice has a “Great Commission passion” and a “fierce dedication to Scripture.”²⁷ A month later, Rice issued a statement citing “sensitive information” in which, as a result, he would not seek the nomination of the 2023 SBC presidency. A video released April 1 by Dr. Rice noted “. . . a member of our deacon body had committed sexual sin that could also be described abusive.” He stated, “It did not involve criminal charges, and he had never been identified by law as a sexual offender.” In light of that developing situation, Dr. Rice said, “My calling is to my local church, my family and to the mission field God has given me. I wish to return my time and attention to those things.”²⁸

In 2025, when the Southern Baptist Convention met in Dallas, Texas, Willy Rice presented a motion to abolish the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). “Many have been stunned to learn that outside progressive advocacy groups have financially supported our ERLC, and there’s been no public repentance, no rejection of those alliances,” Rice said. He further admitted, “My head has to admit what my heart didn’t want to believe. Facts are stubborn things, and the evidence is clear and the trust is broken.” Rice went on to emphasize that his goal was “to abolish the ERLC,” but he clarified it was “not to erase it, but to restore it” and “reforge it into a voice unincumbered by outside interests.” When messengers voted with 6,581 ballots cast, a majority of 3,744 (56.89 percent) were opposed to the motion to abolish.²⁹

Elected SBC President for 2026

At the end of October 2025, Willy Rice issued an on-line video announcing his plan to be nominated for SBC president to serve in 2026-2027. Rice said by his being nominated, he hoped to bring spiritual renewal to the SBC. “In this hour of apostasy and idolatry, we need to reaffirm and restate our convictions. Such a time calls, not for fuzzy lines in a mushy middle, it calls for clarity and courage. We don’t need to look for something new. We need to stand on what we know is true,” he said.³⁰

When the 2026 SBC annual meeting convened in Orlando, Florida, the Tuesday election of convention president revealed two candidates. The first was Willy Rice, who was nominated by Adrian Taylor, pastor of Spring Hill Baptist Church in Gainesville. The other nominee was Josh Powell of South Carolina. When the 9,063 ballots were cast, the final tally revealed Rice received 5,271 votes (58.15 percent) while Josh

Powell received 3,821 votes (42.16 percent) and 25 votes were disallowed.

The day following Rice' election, Adrian Taylor said, "Dr. Willy Rice's election is good for Florida because it reminds the entire SBC that faithful Baptist leadership is alive and well in the Sunshine State. What excites me most is that Dr. Rice brings a pastor's heart, a preacher's conviction, and a renewed call to keep our eyes on Scripture, cooperation, evangelism, and the Great Commission." ³¹

In a post-election news conference, newly elected president Willy Rice addressed several topics. First, he confessed, "I'm very humbled and honored, obviously, to be elected to this position and I think it's been a good two days for Southern Baptists." He went on to observe, "I think that anyone who may be concerned about a leftward undertow, a woke riptide in the SBC, I think we leave Orlando with that firmly dispelled." He further stressed, "The Southern Baptist Convention is not eroding [or] equivocating. The Southern Baptist Convention is enduring. . ." ³²

The new SBC president noted, "The Southern Baptist Convention is best when it is led by local churches and pastors." He continued by stating, "I think everyone says that, but over time, institutions drift toward maintenance and preservation. It's important that pastors and churches lead." Summarizing, Rice said, "Baptists are a local church people. We are not top-down. We're not run out of Nashville, Louisville, Wake Forest, Atlanta or anywhere else. We're independent, autonomous churches." ³³

"The Southern Baptist Convention is best when it is led by local churches and pastors."

Dr. Rice briefly spoke to the prophetic role of Southern Baptists. “You don’t want the challenging issues of the day to keep you from seeing the mission, but you don’t want to focus on the mission so that you ignore the challenges that you need to address, because ultimately the mission will be imperiled if the institution suffers. As president, there will be no greater joy for me than to talk about the Great Commission.”³⁴

Dr. Willy Rice will preside over the 2027 SBC annual meeting to be held June 15-16, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Seven Pillars

by Dr. William “Willy” Rice

I believe the Southern Baptist Convention is at its best when it is rooted in biblical conviction, gospel mission, and spiritual dependence. This is a call to **choose obedience over observance, faithfulness over ambition, and biblical conviction over compromise**, so that future generations will say, “*They kept the faith.*” To achieve these aspirations, will require practicing these biblically foundational seven pillars:

The Seven Pillars*

1. **Convictional Clarity** – Standing firmly on Scripture and historic Baptist convictions, resisting cultural drift, and maintaining doctrinal integrity;
2. **Denominational Accountability** – Ensuring that Baptist institutions serve churches, not the other way around, with greater transparency and trustee oversight;
3. **Missional Integrity** – Advancing God’s Kingdom through faithful disciples, healthy congregations, and gospel multiplication;

4. **Cultural Responsibility** – Speaking truth courageously into moral and cultural issues of every generation;
5. **Biblical Unity** – True unity rooted in the gospel, not politics, ethnicity, or social theories;
6. **Global Intentionality** – Keeping the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19) as the central mission until Christ returns; and
7. **Spiritual Vitality** – Renewal through prayer, repentance, humility, and wholehearted dependence on God.

*[SOURCE: Dr. Willy Rice at <https://baptistrenewal.us/>]

ENDNOTES:

Editor's Note: This profile of William E. “Willy” Rice was written by Donald S. Hepburn, managing director, Florida Baptist Historical Society, using the following resources:

¹ *Hillcrest Heritage A Lasting Legacy: 1955 – 2005*, (Pensacola, FL: Hillcrest Baptist Church, 2005), 56.

² Joni B. Hannigan, “Daytona Beach nominations declared: FBSC president Rice to run for 2nd term,” *Florida Baptist Witness*,¹; the story is held in the William E. Rice file of the Florida Baptist Historical Society, Graceville, Florida, [hereinafter similar news publication stories to be identified as: story held in Rice’s bio file].

³ *150 Year Celebration: 1866 – 2016*, (Clearwater, FL: Calvary Baptist Church, 2016), np.

⁴ Hannigan.

⁵ *Hillcrest Heritage A Lasting Legacy*, 56.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 57.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Sharon Kirby, “Minister Chosen to Head New Mission,” *Tampa Bay Times*, September 5, 1987, 4-5; [story held in the Rice’s bio file].

⁹ Sharon, Kirby, 5.

¹⁰ Sherry Kughn, “Former Gladeview pastor elected Southern Baptist president,” *The Anniston (Ala.) Star*, June 17, 2026, accessed June 20, 2026, at

<https://www.annistonstar.com/news/calhoun/former-gladeview-pastor-elected-southern-baptist-president/>; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

¹¹ *Hillcrest Heritage A Lasting Legacy*, 58.

¹² Pensacola Bay Baptist Association, “Statistical Reports,” *Florida Baptist Annuals*, 1997 through 2004.

¹³ *Hillcrest Heritage A Lasting Legacy*, 58.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 59.

¹⁶ Eileen Schulte, “Favorite Son to Lead Calvary Baptist,” *Tampa Bay Times*, August 22, 2004, 123; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Aaron Sharockman, “Church finds buyer for downtown sites,” *Clearwater (Fla.) Times*, November 1, 2004, 1; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²⁰ David Roach, “International mobilization at heart of SBC’s Vision 2025,” *Baptist Press*, April 12, 2021, 1; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²¹ Christopher Cole, “SBC Voices: One California Pastor’s Experience with Willy Rice,” March 4, 2022, accessed June 30, 2026, at <https://sbcvoices.com/author/guest-blogger/>; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²² Proceedings, item 26, *Florida Baptist Annual*, 2006, 40.

²³ Proceedings, item 24, *Florida Baptist Annual*, 2007, 40.

²⁴ Hannigan.

²⁵ Proceedings, item 12, president’s address, *Florida Baptist Annual*, 2008, 38; also see “Southern Baptists Focus on Optimism,” *The (Lakeland, FL) Ledger*, November 12, 2008, 14; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²⁶ Florida Baptist Convention staff, “Willy Rice to bring Convention sermon at FBSC,” November 4, 2016, accessed April 25, 2026, at <https://flbaptist.org/news/willy-rice-to-bring-convention-sermon-at-fbsc/>; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²⁷ Jonathan Howe, “Florida pastor Willy Rice to be nominated for SBC president,” *Baptist Press*, March 2, 2022; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²⁸ Brndon Porter, “Rice withdraws as SBC president candidate,” *Baptist Press*, April 6, 2022; 1; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

²⁹ Proceedings, items 15, 65, 148, and 154, *Southern Baptist Convention Annual*, 2025, 52, 59, 82, and 84; hereinafter referred to as *SBC Annual*; also see “SBC Rejects Willy Rice’s Motion to Abolish the ERLC,” *Christianity Daily*, June 12, 2025, 1; accessed June 30, 2026, at <https://christianitytoday.com/news/sbc-rejects-willy-rice-motion-to-abolish-erlc/>; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

³⁰ Brandon Porter, “Florida pastor Willy Rice to be nominated for SBC president in Orlando,” *Baptist Press*, November 1, 2025; 1; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

³¹ Tanner Cade, “Florida Pastors and Leaders respond to Rice winning SBC President,” accessed June 22, 2026, at <https://flbaptist.org/florida-pastors-leaders-respond-to-Rice-winning-SBC-president/>; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

³² Scott Barkley, “Rice speaks on Southern Baptists’ past, present, future at press conference,” *Baptist Press*, June 10, 2025, 1; [story held in Rice’s bio file].

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 2.

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