



ANNUAL REPORT

ELLIS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

October 4, 2026

TABERNACLE BAPTIST
CHURCH , ENNIS TEXAS

Agendas for 2026 Big E Messengers' Meeting and Annual Celebration

Order of Meetings

Messengers Meeting - 4:45 p.m.

Call to Order - Richard Cody 120th Annual Celebration

Seating of the Messengers - Nicole Lucas

The number of messengers seated

The number of churches sending messengers

Recommendation from Leadership Team

New Leadership Team members

John Croasdale - Eastridge Red Oak

Treasurer

David Northcut - FBC Midlothian

Membership

Church Partner

TCAL Mansfield - Paul Mints

Provisional Partner

Friendship Missionary Waxahachie - DeMaudree Massey

Future Team-Update

Vote on 2027 Budget - David Northcut

Proposed 2027 Budget

Proposed Supplemental 2027 Budget

Meeting Adjourned

Annual Celebration - 6 p.m.

Worship Music - Moise & Mariangel Fuenmayor

Welcome & Prayer - Zach Crook

Introduction - Richard Cody

New Pastors

Jeff Morrison - Southlake Waxahachie

Jeremy Venable - Friendship Ennis

Jordan McKinney - Hillcrest Cedar Hill

Retired Pastors

Joe Langley, 39 years - Park Meadows WX

Mike Simmons, 34 years - Hillcrest Cedar Hill

Pastor-less Churches

FBC Waxahachie

Stagecoach Cowboy Church Waxahachie

Park Meadows Waxahachie

History of EBA - Larry Johnson
Recognition of Tabernacle - Richard Cody
Worship Music - Moise & Mariangel Fuenmayor
Next Steps - Richard Cody
Church Multiplication - Brent McNeal
Church Health
Prayer - Rick Cantu
Stewardship - David Northcut
Bridging Communities
African American Ministries-Demetrius McClendon
Ellis Christian Disaster Relief - Dan Sell
Future Steps - Richard
Welcoming Ellis County churches into EBA

Closing Prayer

Messenger or Celebration Speakers

Rick Cantu — Rick serves on EBA's Leadership Team as Prayer Champion. Prior to this role, he spent 18 months serving on EBA's Future Team. He also serves on the Advisory Team at First Baptist Church Red Oak and is retired from the City of Dallas.

Richard Cody — Richard has served as EBA's Executive Director since 2016, helping lead the association as it networks churches to cultivate kingdom advancement.

Zach Crook — Zach serves on EBA's Leadership Team and is pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church, one of EBA's three founding churches.

Moises & Mariangel Fuenmayor — Moises and Mariangel have led Tabernacle Español since its launch on Easter 2025. Both are natives of Venezuela and Moises is helping EBA expand its ministry among Hispanic/Latino churches in the Greater Ellis County Area.

Larry Johnson — Larry retired as EBA's Executive Director in December 2015 after more than 30 years of service in associational ministry. He is a longtime member of First Baptist Church Waxahachie.

Nicole Lucas — Nicole joined EBA in 2025 as Communications and Administrative Specialist. She and her family are part of Remedy Church.

Demetrius McClendon — Demetrius, also known as “Pastor Mac” of One Church, has served on EBA’s Leadership Team for several years, both as an at-large member and as the leader with EBA’s African American Ministries.

Brent McNeal — Brent has several years of service on EBA’s Leadership Team both as an at-large member and, due to being an experienced church planter, as a representative of EBA’s Church Planting Team. He is pastor of Longbranch Baptist Church.

David Northcut — David serves as EBA’s Treasurer and brings extensive financial experience from his career as an international accountant. Now retired, he also serves as treasurer at First Baptist Church Midlothian].

Dan Sell — Dan has been instrumental in the Ellis Christian Disaster Relief Team’s chainsaw ministry and recently became the organization’s president. He also serves on EBA’s Leadership Team and is a member of the Cowboy Church of Church of Ellis.

Budget 2027 (Final Draft)									
2026					2027 (Final Draft)				
Sources of Funds					Sources of Funds				
	Association Contributions		\$129,000.00			Association Contributions		\$147,000.00	
	Interest from Foundation Funds		\$32,300.00			Interest from Foundation Funds		\$38,000.00	
	Transfer from Foundation Principal		\$59,280.00			Transfer from Foundation Principal		\$71,765.32	
Total Sources of Funds			\$220,580.00		Total Sources of Funds			\$256,765.32	
	Additional Transferred from Principal		\$18,000.00			Additional Transferred from Principal		\$18,000.00	
Total Sources of Funds with Supp Budget			\$238,580.00		Total Sources of Funds with Supp Budget			\$274,765.32	
Use of Funds					Use of Funds				
	Core Ministry Initiatives					Core Ministry Initiatives			
	Bridging Communities					Bridging Communities			
	Next Steps *					Next Steps *			
	Communications					Communications			
	Website/Promotional Material		\$3,750.00			Promotional Material		\$2,250.00	
	Community Needs					Community Needs			
	African American Ministries					African American Ministries			
	African American Ministries					Fellowship		\$1,000.00	
	Fellowship		\$2,000.00			Temporary Director		\$0.00	
	Temporary Director		\$6,000.00			Hispanic/Latino Ministries			
						Fellowship		\$1,000.00	
	CMJC		\$1,200.00			Temporary Director		\$6,000.00	
						Ellis County Jail Chaplains		\$1,000.00	
	ECDR		\$1,200.00			ECDR		\$1,200.00	
						BSM Ellis County		\$1,000.00	
	RA Outreach		\$175.00			RA Outreach		\$175.00	
	Catalyzing Church Multiplication					Catalyzing Church Multiplication (SEND)			
	Next Steps *					Next Steps *			
	Church Planting / Satellites		\$44,000.00			Church Planting / Satellites		\$80,000.00	
	Church planting and Multiplication		\$2,000.00			Church planting and Multiplication		\$2,000.00	
	Church Vitals					Church Vitals			
	Assessing Vitality					Assessing Vitality			
	Next Steps *					Next Steps *			
	Revitalization / Equipping		\$200.00			Revitalization / Equipping		\$200.00	
	Grants		\$7,825.00			Grants		\$3,000.00	
	Cultivating Leaders					Cultivating Leaders			
	Next Steps *					Next Steps *			
	Replicate		\$1,000.00			Developing Leadership Skills		\$1,000.00	
	Leadership Summit		\$1,000.00			Leadership Summit (Thrive 2027)		\$2,500.00	
	Developing Preaching Skills		\$5,000.00			Developing Preaching Skills		\$1,250.00	
	Leadership Development					Leadership Development			
	Pastoral & Ministerial SS Outreach		\$1,300.00			Pastoral & Ministerial Support		\$1,300.00	
	Leaders Training Event		\$250.00			Leaders Training Event (SS Conf)		\$500.00	
	Pastor's Training / Coaching		\$200.00			Pastor's Training / Coaching		\$200.00	
	Sacrificial Stewardship					Sacrificial Stewardship			
	Next Steps *					Next Steps *			
	Promoting Strategic Prayer					Promoting Strategic Prayer			
	Next Steps *					Next Steps *			
	Promotions		\$500.00			Promotions		\$500.00	
	Annual Celebration		\$1,500.00			Annual Celebration		\$1,750.00	
Ministry Leadership & Support Staff					Ministry Leadership & Support Staff				
	Executive Director					Executive Director			
	Salary		\$77,332.00			Salary		\$78,105.32	
	Benefits		\$5,080.00			Benefits		\$5,200.00	
	Retirement		\$7,750.00			Retirement		\$7,811.00	
	Christmas Gift		\$1,000.00			Christmas Gift		\$1,000.00	

[illegible]

Table 1

Balance Sheet

Ellis Baptist Association (EBA)

As of January 8, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
1010 Cash operating - Citizens	2,584.08
1200 Savings - SBTC	
1204 6-month CET	0.00
1206 EBA Daily (102)	13,813.13
1207 Hispanic Fund (203)	0.00
1208 Mission & Ministry Fund (200)	0.00
1209 13-month CET	0.00
1210 5-month CET (10086)	0.00
1211 5-month CET (10087)	0.00
1212 7-month CET	13,038.84
1213 11-month CET	895,017.49
Total for 1200 Savings - SBTC	\$921,869.46
1300 Savings - CNB	0.00
Total for Bank Accounts	\$924,453.54
Other Current Assets	
1800 Receivables	
1801 ECWJC	0.00
1803 Account Analysis Charge Rec	432.76
1804 ECDRT	-240.45
Total for 1800 Receivables	\$192.31
1810 Prepaid Next Steps	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$192.31
Total for Current Assets	\$924,645.85
Fixed Assets	
1610 Land - operating	
1611 Grove Creek Property - Sold	0.00
1612 Sardis Property - Sold 8/9/2021	0.00
Total for 1610 Land - operating	\$0.00
1620 Buildings - Sold 8/9/2021	
1621 Main Office at 3080 - Sold 8/9/	0.00
1622 Modular Building (ECWJC) - Sold	0.00
Total for 1620 Buildings - Sold 8/9/2021	\$0.00
1640 Furniture & Equipment	12,000.00
Total for Fixed Assets	\$12,000.00
Total for Assets	\$936,645.85

Balance Sheet

Ellis Baptist Association (EBA)

As of January 8, 2026

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Other Current Liabilities	
2100 Payroll Liabilities	\$2,243.75
2101 FICA Payable	4,495.76
2102 Medicare Payable	1,051.42
2103 Federal Withholding Payable	11,569.34
Total for 2100 Payroll Liabilities	\$19,360.27
2200 Designated Funds	\$250.00
2201 Honduras General	0.00
2202 Crisis Relief	0.00
2203 Agricultural Projects	625.00
2205 Ellis CMJC	0.00
2211 Ministers of Education Fund	0.00
2218 Equipping a Better You	0.00
Total for 2200 Designated Funds	\$875.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$20,235.27
Total for Current Liabilities	\$20,235.27
Total for Liabilities	\$20,235.27
Equity	
3001 Opening Bal Equity	429,922.43
32000 Retained Earnings	487,068.18
Net Income	-580.03
Total for Equity	\$916,410.58
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$936,645.85

Ellis Baptist Association (EBA)
Budget vs. Actuals
January - December 2025

	Total	
	Actual	Budget
Income		
3000 Source of Funds	0.00	0.00
3050 Association Contributions	0.00	0.00
4000 Member Church Support	0.00	0.00
4001 Baylor	1,200.00	6,741.00
4004 Central	3,097.08	4,192.65
4005 CC of Ellis County	17,622.00	18,000.00
4006 Eastridge	8,439.26	7,643.31
4007 Ferris Baptist Fellowship	550.00	600.00
4008 FBC Maypearl	1,100.00	1,800.00
4009 FBC Midlothian	21,001.04	20,000.04
4010 FBC Milford	4,336.65	3,923.53
4011 FBC Red Oak	4,200.00	3,733.36
4012 FBC Waxahachie	25,119.00	0.00
4013 Forreston	1,600.00	1,200.00
4014 Fourth Ward	675.00	900.00
4016 Friendship	1,325.00	900.00
4017 Hillcrest	10,867.99	11,019.07
4019 Longbranch	3,291.01	1,982.16
4021 Mountain Peak	901.65	504.00
4022 Ovilla Road	999.96	999.96
4024 Primera Iglesia Waxahachie	1,375.00	1,500.00
4025 Ranchhouse CC	3,300.00	3,600.00
4026 Rockett	4,026.35	3,641.40
4027 Southlake	2,599.00	2,689.00
4029 Tabernacle	5,503.11	6,370.67
4032 The Avenue	1,500.00	1,500.00
4033 Wagon Wheel CC	600.00	600.00
4035 J-Bar-C	300.00	300.00
4037 Remedy	3,314.84	2,552.31
4038 Stagecoach CC	1,810.68	2,253.56
4039 Community - Ferris	1,227.91	653.98
4040 Stonegate	1,416.69	600.00
4043 One Church	600.00	750.00
4047 El Bethel Baptist Church	450.00	600.00
4048 House of Transformation	0.00	0.00
4049 Anthony Drive	900.00	0.00
4215 Triumphal Christian Fellowship	0.00	50.00

Total 4000 Member Church Support	\$	135,249.22	\$	111,800.00
4200 Non-Member Church Support		0.00		0.00
4204 TCAL		1,200.00		1,200.00
Total 4200 Non-Member Church Support	\$	1,200.00	\$	1,200.00
Total 3050 Association Contributions	\$	136,449.22	\$	113,000.00
4300 Foundation		0.00		0.00
4301 SBTC Foundation Interest Income		34,960.09		28,000.00
4320 Transferred from Principal		0.00		69,220.00
Total 4300 Foundation	\$	34,960.09	\$	97,220.00
Total 3000 Source of Funds	\$	171,409.31	\$	210,220.00
4425 Block Party Trailer Rental		3,591.80		0.00
Total Income	\$	175,001.11	\$	210,220.00
Expenses				
4250 Giving Platform Fee		305.77		0.00
5400 Use of Funds		0.00		0.00
5410 Ministry		0.00		0.00
5500 Bridging Communities		0.00		0.00
5600 NS - Promotions/ New Website design		9,514.84		14,050.00
8176 Ellis Christian Disaster Relief		1,300.00		1,200.00
8178 Royal Ambassadors		0.00		175.00
8180 Annual Celebration Expense		1,840.61		1,500.00
8183 Latham Springs		600.00		600.00
8190 NS - Afr Amer Min Temp Director		6,000.00		6,000.00
8191 NS - African American Fellowship		0.00		2,000.00
8195 NS - CMJC		6,200.00		6,200.00
9101 International Missions		1,805.00		1,665.00
Total 5500 Bridging Communities	\$	27,260.45	\$	33,390.00
6000 Church Vitalization and Leadership		0.00		0.00
8101 Leadership Training Event		0.00		250.00
8102 NS - Revitalization/Equipping		0.00		200.00
8105 Pastoral Training/Coaching		0.00		200.00
8130 NS - Replicate		258.00		2,000.00
8135 NS - Leadership Summit		0.00		1,000.00
8140 NS - Developing Preaching Skills		0.00		2,500.00
8184 NS - Grants		4,500.00		7,825.00
8185 Ministry Support Staff Outreach		600.00		1,300.00
Total 6000 Church Vitalization and Leadership	\$	5,358.00	\$	15,275.00
8150 Church Multiplication		0.00		0.00
8152 Church Planting		2,430.41		27,270.00
Total 8150 Church Multiplication	\$	2,430.41	\$	27,270.00
Total 5410 Ministry	\$	35,048.86	\$	75,935.00
7200 Personnel Expenses		0.00		0.00
7201 Executive Director		0.00		0.00
7210 Exec Dir Salary		34,270.16		41,870.00

7211 Exec Dir - Housing	36,800.00	33,600.00
Total 7210 Exec Dir Salary	\$ 71,070.16	\$ 75,470.00
7213 Exec Dir - Christmas Gift 1%	1,000.00	1,000.00
7215 Benefits	0.00	0.00
7212 Exec Dir - Health Insurance	1,895.00	0.00
7312 Exec Dir - Retirement	6,699.96	7,550.00
7313 Exec Dir - AD&D / Long Term Dis	235.98	540.00
7314 Exec Dir - Dental	64.86	580.00
7331 Exec Dir - Life insurance	1,952.88	3,960.00
Total 7215 Benefits	\$ 10,848.68	\$ 12,630.00
Total 7201 Executive Director	\$ 82,918.84	\$ 89,100.00
7202 Communications Director	2,326.50	0.00
7230 Comm Dir Salary	19,114.57	27,126.00
7231 Comm Dir - Payroll Tax Expense	1,609.71	2,089.00
7232 Comm Dir - Christmas Gift 1%	777.00	600.00
Total 7202 Communications Director	\$ 23,827.78	\$ 29,815.00
7203 Finance Director	0.00	0.00
7205 Finance Director - Salary	8,500.00	0.00
7206 Finance Director - Payroll Tax expense	650.25	0.00
7207 Finance Director - Christmas Gift 1%	450.00	0.00
Total 7203 Finance Director	\$ 9,600.25	\$ 0.00
7300 Other Personnel Expenses	0.00	0.00
7310 Exec Dir - Exp Reimbursement	4,446.94	3,000.00
7311 Exec Dir - Conferences/Travel	1,323.00	1,000.00
Total 7300 Other Personnel Expenses	\$ 5,769.94	\$ 4,000.00
7350 Worker's Compensation Insurance	488.00	620.00
Total 7200 Personnel Expenses	\$ 122,604.81	\$ 123,535.00
Total 5400 Use of Funds	\$ 157,653.67	\$ 199,470.00
7500 Operation Expenses	0.00	0.00
8420 New Equipment	0.00	200.00
8430 Office Supplies	2,910.37	1,000.00
8445 Insurance - Office & Liability	11,011.86	4,000.00
8455 Software/Subscriptions	2,514.67	2,600.00
8465 Website Hosting	554.26	450.00
8475 Security system	100.00	0.00
8477 EBPT Upkeep	0.00	100.00
8480 Telephone and Internet	2,193.23	1,600.00
8495 Luncheons (LT)	1,313.23	800.00
Total 7500 Operation Expenses	\$ 20,597.62	\$ 10,750.00
Total Expenses	\$ 178,557.06	\$ 210,220.00
Net Operating Income	-\$ 3,555.95	\$ 0.00
Other Income		
5000 Block Party Trailer	250.00	0.00
Total Other Income	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.00

Net Other Income	\$	250.00	\$	0.00
Net Income	-\$	3,305.95	\$	0.00

Thursday, Jan 08, 2026 01:56:04 PM GMT-8 - Accrual Basis

CHURCH PLANTING

AS ELLIS COUNTY CONTINUES TO GROW IN POPULATION, WE ARE PRAYING TO SEE A MOVEMENT OF CHURCH PLANTING FROM WITHIN OUR LOCAL CHURCHES THAT MATCHES THIS GROWTH. OUR EBA CHURCH PLANTING TEAM CONSISTS OF MYSELF, AARON CLAYTON, AND JUSTIN JACKSON.

THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENTS THIS YEAR:

TABERNACLE EN ESPAÑOL: WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR OUR CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH MOISÉS AND TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH. EBA FUNDS DESIGNATED FOR A SPANISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION HAVE BEEN UTILIZED TO FURTHER THE MISSION IMPACT OF THIS NEW CONGREGATION.

REMEDY EN ESPAÑOL: WE HAVE ADDED AN EXCITING NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TIM RAMOS WITH REMEDY CHURCH IN WAXAHACHIE. TIM IS COMPLETING A YEAR-LONG CHURCH PLANTING RESIDENCY AND WILL BE TRANSITIONING TO PLANTER STATUS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. EBA FUNDS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO HELP TIM AND REMEDY FOR THE RESIDENCY AND THE PLANTING JOURNEY.

LOOKING AHEAD:

WE ARE PRAYERFULLY WATCHING CHURCH PLANTING EFFORTS ACROSS ELLIS COUNTY. WE ARE PRAYING FOR POTENTIAL PARTNERS WHO DESIRE TO BE DISTINCTLY BAPTIST AND INTENTIONALLY EVANGELISTIC TO REACH OUR GROWING POPULATION.

THE CHURCH PLANTING TEAM WILL CONTINUE TO EVALUATE OUR CURRENT PROCESSES, EXPLORE STRATEGIC LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE CHURCHES, READY FINANCIAL SUPPORT AS NEEDS ARISE, AND PROVIDE RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN AND MOBILIZE OUR LOCAL CONGREGATIONS FOR THE MISSION OF PLANTING NEW CHURCHES.



Ellis Christian Disaster Relief, a ministry of the Ellis Baptist Association, exists to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in times of crisis. We serve communities affected by disaster with compassion, practical assistance, and the message of God's enduring love. Through volunteer service, prayer and the sharing of hope, we strive to bring restoration, healing and the light of Christ to those in need.

Ministry Report

Between October 2025 and the end of September 2026, the Ellis Christian Disaster Relief (ECDR) Team utilized our own units and/or provided volunteer support for both disaster and non-disaster events. Disaster deployments included flood in Kerrville, TX and tornados in Mineral Wells TX, Glenwood IL and San Antonio TX.

Our non-disaster deployments included:

- Chainsaw ministry assisted 17 Ellis and surrounding county residents. We purchased a Vermeer CTX100 mini skid-steer with a logging grapple in Q4 2025. This has enhanced the team's ability to safely and effectively serve. The Lord had blessed ECDR with donations from TXM, churches, businesses as well as individual donors that enabled ECDR to purchase this equipment.
- Fire & Flood ministry provided assistance to 3 homeowners in the DFW area
- Tent deployments for two churches this past summer and two more deployments scheduled for Oct 2026.
- Shower services for 4 student ministry camps and one bicycle race.
- Moving Boxes trailer was deployed to Mineral Wells, TX.
- Provided instructors for TXM for training classes, volunteers to support TXM and/or Mission Days at Ellis County churches and participated in the Ellis County Emergency Preparedness Fair.

In the reporting year (Oct 1, 2025 – Sep 30, 2026) the ECDR volunteers provided more than **5,481 hours** of voluntary ministry service or **1,060 volunteer days**.

EllisChristianDR.org

Or follow us on Facebook at **Ellis Christian Disaster Relief**

Ellis Christian Disaster Relief

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2026

Accrual Basis

Assets

Current Assets

MPOWERED BUSINESS CK (0684) - 3	\$31,495.44
Undeposited Funds	0.00

Total Current Assets	\$31,495.44
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Fixed Assets

DISPOSED Equipment - 2007 TENT UNIT	(\$8,108.64)
Tables/Chairs	4,046.64
Trailer #1-	4,062.00

Total DISPOSED Equipment - 2007 TENT UNIT	\$0.00
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ECDR EQUIP - 2007 Dodge D350	4,150.00
ECDR EQUIP - BOX TRAILER	11,283.00
ECDR EQUIP - CHAINSAW TRAILER	3,762.00
ECDR EQUIP - FIRE & FLOOD	3,762.00
ECDR EQUIP - MANLIFT	50,105.00
ECDR EQUIP - SHOW/LAUN	
ECDR S/L Mat & Labor	28,354.00
ECDR S/L Trailer	13,000.00

Total ECDR EQUIP - SHOW/LAUN	\$41,354.00
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ECDR EQUIP - SkidSteer & Trailer	47,896.31
ECDR EQUIP - TENT TRAILER	11,283.22
Equipment-GENERATOR UNIT	
12.5 KW Generator	10,000.00
ECDR EQUIP - GEN Trailer	1,400.00

Total Equipment-GENERATOR UNIT	\$11,400.00
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Total Fixed Assets	\$184,995.53
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Total Assets	\$216,490.97
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Total Liabilities	\$0.00
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Net Assets

Opening Bal Equity	\$49,549.65
Unrestricted Net Assets	167,862.81
Net Income	(\$921.49)

Total Net Assets	\$216,490.97
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$216,490.97
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**Ellis Baptist Association 2026
Royal Ambassadors / Challengers
Annual Report**

Royal Ambassadors and Challengers programs continue to minister to boys and men in Ellis County as well as across the state of Texas.

WILD Camp, Leadership Training Camp and Latham Springs RA Camp were held this year with representatives from **FBC, Maypearl** and **Central BC, Italy** participating in these events.

We are looking forward to participating in activities during the coming months. **Campout and Mission Mania is scheduled for November 13-15, 2026, at Latham Springs. RA Camp will be held next summer at Latham Springs.** For more information, contact the EBA office and they can get you in touch with me.

Thank you,
Murrie Wainscott
Regional RA Director



2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Another great year has been recorded for Christian camping at Latham Springs Camp & Retreat Center. This marks the 103rd year that Latham Springs has been serving God's people.

Total Attendance: 16,121

Professions of Faith: 877

Rededications: 815

Special Service: 183

Total Public Decisions: 1,875

10,478 campers attended the 10+ weeks of summer camp season. A special 'thanks' goes out to all those whose hard work and dedication made each week of camp a success.

This year has presented new challenges for Christian camps across Texas. Following the heartbreaking tragedy in the Hill Country last summer, state lawmakers enacted new safety requirements for licensed youth camps. In response, Latham Springs has furthered strengthened our commitment to camper safety by enhancing our comprehensive Emergency Action Plan, installing a PA system, improving weather monitoring capabilities, adding additional outdoor safety lighting, expanding staff training and updating our evacuation procedures.

Our new Adult Conference Center is ready to host your next adult church retreat. This new facility includes 80 motel type rooms, a worship center, several conference rooms, lobby/welcome center, fellowship lounge, and a dining facility. We are currently finishing up an outdoor deck and pergola with fire pits behind the fellowship lounge offering a beautiful scenic view of our lake.

The camp is still looking for additional churches/groups to join in our 'Adopt-a-Cabin' program. This gives our local churches the opportunity to partner with us in praying for specific cabins, along with helping provide volunteer labor for annual upkeep. For more information on how your group can get involved with this new program, please contact the office.

Latham Springs is looking for volunteer crews to help with various projects around the campus.

Exciting days are ahead for the ministry of Latham Springs. The Board of Trustees continues to promote the process that will lead to the expansion of facilities, to enhance this great ministry. Please remember that Latham Springs is not funded by any state or national conventions, and depends on camp fees and your gifts to operate. The staff and trustees of Latham Springs wish to thank you for your support during the past year. We pray that this cooperative mission effort to reach and minister to individuals and groups might continue to bring glory to HIM.

Please call the Latham Springs office to let us know how we can help with your camp or retreat needs.

"Come to the waters, all who thirst"

Isaiah 55:1

By-Laws

Adopted October, 2000 (Amended October, 2024)

Article I-Name

The name of this Association is the Ellis Baptist Association, a Texas nonprofit corporation. The Association may adopt and operate under alternative names (i.e., "doing business as" names).

Article II-Purpose

Ellis Baptist Association is a partnership of autonomous churches cooperatively networking to expand God's Kingdom in Greater Ellis County and to support churches globally by:

- "Equipping church leadership teams and ministers. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- "Enabling churches to discover and implement God's purpose. (Proverbs 29:18)
- Establishing new churches. (Matthew 16:18)
- Enhancing the spiritual growth and vitality of each church. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- "Encouraging collective efforts and sharing of resources. (Philippians 1:5)

Article III-Partner Churches

SECTION 1. There are four ways for churches and organizations to relate to the Association.

1. Partner Church - A church approved by the Association at an Annual Celebration.
2. Provisional Partner - A church provisionally approved by the Leadership Team or at the Annual Celebration and seeking Partner Church status.
3. Transitional Partner - A church that is deemed no longer qualified as a Partner Church by the Leadership Team or at the Annual Celebration.
4. Community Partner - (Friends of the Association)
 - A. A church that is financially supportive of the Association but has not requested status as a Partner Church.
 - B. A non-E.B.A. ministry in Ellis County of similar belief and philosophy approved by the Leadership Team.

SECTION 2. The Partner Churches will consist of churches cooperating with the mission and evangelistic purpose of the Association, financially supporting the work, and adhering to the Baptist Faith and Message 1963 (or later version) or a statement of faith that is substantially in agreement with the Baptist Faith and Message. Partner Churches will preserve the doctrinal unity of the Association by upholding the principles reflected in the Baptist Faith and Message, while respecting the autonomy of the local churches.

SECTION 3. Each Partner Church that has financially supported the Association since June 1 of the previous year, is granted messengers to the Annual Celebration. Provisional Partners, Transitional Partners, and Community Partners are not eligible to send messengers. A Partner Church is entitled to send messengers based upon the number of its resident or covenant members, according to the following table:

Resident or Covenant Members	Messengers
1 - 250	1
251 - 500	2
501 - 750	3
751-1000	4
1001 and higher	5

A Partner Church is entitled to send additional messengers based upon its giving to the Association, according to the following table:

Percent of Undesignated & Associational Offerings	Additional Messengers
Up to 0.5%	1
More than 0.5% up to 1%	2
More than 1% up to 2%	3
More than 2% up to 3%	4
More than 3%	5

SECTION 4. Each Partner Church is expected to financially support the work of the Association. When no support has been received for 12 months, contact will be made with the church to determine the reason(s) for non-support. If the Leadership Team receives no response, or otherwise does not find a satisfactory reason for the lack of support, it may: (1) change the Partner Church's status to Transitional Partner; and/or (2) recommend at the Annual Celebration that the church be excluded as a Partner Church, in which case the Association will make the final determination at the Annual Celebration. Future partnership status will be determined under Section 5 of Article III.

SECTION 5. Each church wishing to partner with this Association must submit a request to join to the Association indicating their willingness to partner with other churches and to financially support the Association. The Leadership Team, or representatives of the Leadership Team, will meet with representatives of the church requesting partnership status. The Leadership Team may extend Provisional Partnership status, followed by a recommendation to the Association at the following Annual Celebration that the church should be considered for Partner Church status. Each church

must be sound in doctrine, orderly in practice, cooperative in spirit, and committed to financial support for the Association.

SECTION 6. The Leadership Team may recommend to the Association at the Annual Celebration the removal of Partnership Church status for any church that has become unsound in doctrine or disorderly in practice. In extreme circumstances, the Leadership Team may immediately suspend partnership status pending the Annual Celebration. The Association, upon two-thirds vote of messengers at the Annual Celebration, removes the church.

Article IV-Authority

This Association is for counsel and cooperation only, and the complete independence and autonomy of the Partner Churches must always be fully recognized.

Article V-Annual Celebration

SECTION 1. The Association will meet in Annual Celebration in the fall of the year at a time and place determined by the Leadership Team. This meeting will be for reviewing the past year's accomplishments and the plans for the next year, and acting on business matters.

SECTION 2. Each Partner Church must provide the Association requested information, such as the Annual Church Profile and names and addresses of church leaders.

SECTION 3. Visitors are invited and encouraged to attend, however only messengers sent by a Partner Church are eligible to vote. Messengers must be members of the church from which they are sent.

Article VI-Treasurer

SECTION 1. The Treasurer of this Association will be elected at the Annual Celebration. This person will be nominated by the Leadership Team or a team appointed by the Leadership Team. The Treasurer will make an annual financial report of the Association at the Annual Celebration.

SECTION 2. The term of office for the Treasurer will be the calendar year following the Annual Celebration. The Treasurer will serve on the Leadership Team during that calendar year.

Article VII-Teams

SECTION 1. The work of the Association will be based upon Teams of people.

SECTION 2. Teams are empowered to function within the overall purpose of the Association and are held accountable by the Leadership Team.

SECTION 3. Teams will consist of two or more people who are united in purpose.

SECTION 4. Generally, all church members from Partner Churches, Provisional Churches, and Transitional Churches are eligible to serve on Teams. Teams may further extend eligibility to additional persons, to the extent doing so would be beneficial to the Team's purpose.

SECTION 5. Each Team will have one representative who serves on the Leadership Team.

Article VIII-Leadership Team

SECTION 1. The Leadership Team exists to facilitate and guide the Teams to implement the purpose of the Association through envisioning the future, empowering by providing training,

resources, and accountability, encouraging with affirmation, and evaluating their effectiveness. The Leadership Team is responsible for the ~~administrative~~ functions of the Association, such as budget, personnel and training, building and grounds, and overall strategy development.

SECTION 2. The Leadership Team will consist of the Executive Director, Treasurer, one appointed representative per Team, and a number of at-large persons. There must be at least as many at-large positions as there are Team representatives. The Leadership Team will determine the length of term for the at-large positions (but in no event less than one year). The at-large positions will be initially filled by vote at Annual Celebrations. The Leadership Team is authorized to appoint a person to fill any unexpired term on the Leadership Team.

SECTION 3. The Executive Director is the facilitator of the Leadership Team meetings. The Leadership Team will publicly announce all Leadership Team meetings. All meetings are open for members of any Partner Church to attend and to speak to the Leadership Team.

SECTION 4. The Leadership Team will develop the annual budget in cooperation with all the other Teams and will present it to the Association in the Annual Celebration for approval.

SECTION 5. The Leadership Team is authorized to act as trustees for the Association.

Article IX-Finances

The Association will be generally funded by the Partner Churches to provide sufficient money to fund the annual budget. All funds contributed to the Association will be submitted to the Association and distributed as authorized by the annual budget or as authorized by the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team will administer funds between Annual Celebrations, including the reallocation of funding.

Article X-Amendment

These bylaws may be amended at an Annual Celebration. The Leadership Team must provide ~~written~~ notice to Partner Churches of any proposed amendments at least 14 calendar days before the Annual Celebration. Proposed amendments may be amended at the Annual Celebration. A two-thirds majority vote during the Annual Celebration is required to place an amendment into effect. Amendments newly proposed from the floor will be submitted to the Leadership Team for review and placed on the agenda for the next Annual Celebration, if appropriate.

Article XI-Points of Order

Should questions arise not provided for in these bylaws, reference should be made to Robert's Rules of Order, revised.

Article XII-How to Form a New Team

1. Two or more persons must recognize a ministry need and feel called by God to form a Team consistent with the purpose statement.
2. They meet with the Executive Director to share their plans or ideas for their proposed Team.
3. After the idea/plan for ministry is shared with the Executive Director, he will then assist in the formation of a clear purpose statement for the new Team. This purpose statement will then be shared with the Leadership Team for final confirmation of the new Team.

Article XIII-How a Team Functions

1. Each Team will have a clear purpose statement and Team expectations.

2. Each Team may determine the length of term for its members, but each member will be expected to serve at least one calendar year. Team membership is subject to the approval of the Leadership Team.
3. Each Team will determine its own Team Leader and review annually. The Team Leader may be (but is not required to be) the team's representative on the Leadership Team. The Team Leader will normally:
 - a. Arrange for Team meetings,
 - b. Lead the meetings,
 - c. Encourage participation,
 - d. Encourage openness,
 - e. Work for consensus,
 - f. Keep meetings focused,
 - g. Protect the team process,
 - h. Lead in resolving conflict, and
 - i. Honor expectations, ensuring the team pursues its purpose.

Article XIV-Succession Plan for Retiring Executive Director

1. The current Executive Director provides written notice to the Leadership Team that he will be retiring in no less than 6 months.
2. The Leadership Team will evaluate the current status of the Association and determine whether a succession plan is appropriate. If a succession plan is appropriate, then the Leadership Team will develop and implement a succession plan and communicate the substance of the succession plan to the Partner Churches. Even if a succession plan is implemented, any candidate for Executive Director must be approved by a vote of no less than 80% of the Leadership Team who are present and voting.
3. If the Leadership Team determines that a succession plan is not appropriate, then the Leadership Team will follow the below Procedure for Filling a Vacancy in the Position of Executive Director Without a Succession Plan.

Article XV-Procedure for Filling a Vacancy in the Position of Executive Director Without a Succession Plan

Upon a vacancy, or anticipated vacancy, of the Executive Director position, the following is the procedure for filling the position:

1. Within 14 calendar days after notice of the vacancy or anticipated vacancy, the Leadership Team will provide written notice to each Partner Church requesting the nomination of one person to be considered to serve on the Executive Director Search Team. Partner Churches be allowed 45 calendar days from the notice date in which to respond.
2. From the nominees, the Leadership Team will select a six-member Search Team with the task of procuring résumés, screening applicants, and recommending a qualified candidate to the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team must aim to select a Search Team that reflects the diversity of the Association's Partner Churches—including relative sizes, cultures and ethnicities, economic resources, geographic locations, etc.
3. When the Search Team has selected a candidate (no more than one dissenting vote is allowed among the Search Team), they will then present the candidate to the Leadership Team for review.
4. The Leadership Team will then meet with the candidate. If the candidate is approved for further consideration in a preliminary vote by 80% of the Leadership Team present and voting, written notice is provided to all the Partner Churches, inviting them to an open forum to meet with the

candidate and ask questions. Included in the letter should be the candidate's resume (or a reasonable summary thereon)

5. The open forum must be scheduled to take place a minimum of 14 calendar days and a maximum of 31 calendar days after the written notice inviting the Churches to the open forum.
6. The Leadership Team will not hold its final vote to approve the Executive Director until at least 14 calendar days following this open forum, in order to receive additional input from churches, individuals, etc. The candidate will be approved by a final vote of no less than 80% of the Leadership Team who are present and voting.

Bylaws Revision Team: Lauri Henderson, Scott Poteet and Richard Cody.

Leadership Team approved on ?????

Submitted to the Annual Celebration October 20, 2024