

# THE NAFWB NEWS

2019 FREE WILL BAPTIST NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## LOOKING AHEAD WITH EDDIE MOODY

### 10 Questions for the New Executive Secretary

On Tuesday afternoon, July 23, delegates unanimously approved Dr. Edward E. Moody, Jr., North Carolina native, as the tenth executive secretary of the National Association. *The NAFWB News* staff asked Eddie to share more about himself and his vision for the denomination.

**Tell me about your family.**

Lynne and I have been married almost 30 years. We have two children. Mackenzie is a graduate of Welch College and is currently working for Beaufort Linen Company while she completes her MBA. She and her husband Caleb minister at First FWB Church in Beaufort, North Carolina. Caleb is also a Welch graduate and is completing a master's degree in school counseling. My son Mitchell will major in math and music education at Welch College this fall.



**Besides your family, who has had the most influence on your life?**

The teachers at Bethel Christian Academy in Kinston, North Carolina, and the professors and staff of Welch College have impacted me the most. I suppose if I had to narrow it down to one person, though, it would be David Paramore, who served as pastor at Bethel FWB Church in Kinston for 28 years.

As a young person at the church, I was able to explore my gifts. Pastor Paramore often had me do brief speeches at church as a

teen, and I worked in children's church. He taught me how to interact with people. For example, on visiting someone in the hospital, he would say, "No one sick wants a long visit."

**What will people be most surprised to learn about you?**

Many people will be surprised to learn I am ambidextrous, though I write more with my right hand. Another surprise is that I grew up a North Carolina Tarheel fan but now pull for the Wolfpack. As an instructor at North Carolina State, some of the athletes were my students, and I just couldn't pull against them.

**You have been a pastor, educator, counselor, and leader. How have you juggled all of your responsibilities?**

First, I think time is our most valuable asset, so I try to live out Ephesians 5:16 daily. Second, I really do enjoy what I do! During graduate school, I did career workshops with first semester freshmen. As I left class one day, I thought, "If God doesn't want me to do this, why do I love it so much?"

Lastly, I have learned how to combine things. Counseling church members and veterans and teaching counseling all work together, and in turn, feed the content in my writing.

**How would you describe your leadership style?**

When you go to the doctor with a complaint they usually run a test. Sometimes, it is a blood test or a culture, but they assess the problem before they begin a treatment regimen. I follow that same procedure by assessing a situation to learn as much as I can before jumping into action. Once I've assessed the issue, I try to convey what I have learned to those with whom I am working.

**What do you see as the future for Free Will Baptists?**

In our current environment, we must have healthy pastors and healthy churches capable of reaching an increasingly post-Christian, biblically illiterate population. We need churches that are outward rather than inward focused, and that strive for unity. We must have churchmen and women who model the lifestyle described in Philippians 2: serving others.

**As you begin this new adventure as executive secretary, what would you like to say most to the denomination?**

We are better together. The reasons for coming together and working together are perhaps even more valid today than in 1935. No single church, or handful of churches, can do what 2,100 churches can do together. Together, we can send far more missionaries, educate and equip ourselves, respond to disasters, and meet our own long-term needs more efficiently than we ever could do alone. We may be small, but the parable of the talents teaches us if we are faithful, we will have an impact and together we will hear "well done" when we come into the presence of our Savior.

*Read the entire interview with Eddie Moody in the October-November issue of ONE Magazine.*

# “OOO-klahoma, Where the Wind Comes Sweeping Down the Plains...”

Now that you’ve got this song stuck in your head, here are a few things about next year’s convention city:

## History

Oklahoma City is well known for its Native American heritage. It was reserved as an Indian Territory and, in time, become home to Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, and Seminoles. Its uniquely “western” influence can be seen in many areas, including the University of Oklahoma Sooners, named after early settlers.

## Weather

For those of you from the deep South, I regret to inform you you won’t get much relief from the heat next summer. Make sure to pack cool clothes as temperatures will likely soar into the 90s... but it’s a dry (and windy) heat.

## Food & Fun

Other than typical restaurants ranging from seafood to fast food, OKC also offers stellar barbecue and unique food trucks with coffee, pizza, burgers, cookie dough and much more.

The Boathouse District offers fun for all ages for a wide variety of prices. While the area is an Olympic training facility for rowing and kayaking, you will also find activities for those less than enthusiastic about the water. The district even offers discounted team building tickets for church groups.

OKC boasts several museums—some with free admission. These destinations range from the Myriad Botanical Gardens to the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, the Oklahoma Railway Museum and everything between. For those into science and nature, check out Science Museum Oklahoma, the Oklahoma City Zoo, and the Museum of Osteology.

Now start learning the rest of that song...and plan to join us July 19-22, 2020, in Oklahoma City. And, if your schedule allows, come a day early to join the Impact OKC team.

**A Special Invitation:** During convention business, Moderator Tim York announced the National Association will honor Keith and Debbie Burden during a reception at the 2020 convention in their home state. Please join us as we honor the Burdens.

## A Bit About Convention Business

During convention business sessions, delegates approved a flood of recommendations from the General Board, including the following:

- + A recommendation naming Dr. Edward E. Moody, Jr. as the candidate to serve as the next executive secretary.
- + A recommendation to approve a denominational budget of \$30.6 million for 2020.
- + A recommendation that the 2026 convention be held in Charleston, West Virginia.
- + A recommendation that an extension be granted to the committee studying the procedures and discipline of board members, giving the committee time to work through various questions and concerns.

In other business, during the Executive Office report, Auditor Terry Hill noted a financial turnaround of more than \$1.6 million for the Executive Office over the last 17 years. Hill shared, “At Keith Burden’s first convention in Tampa, Florida, in 2003, I explained what the word *insolvency* meant after the convention

had experienced a number of years with substantial losses. Under Keith’s leadership, the Executive Office and the organizations under his responsibility report a combined cash balance of \$1,554,000, and stored net assets of \$1,662,000. I applaud Keith for his accomplishments.”

Keith Burden thanked the denomination for the privilege of serving as executive secretary and expressed his excitement about Eddie Moody’s election. He thanked his staff for their work, noting, “They have become more than coworkers; they are my friends.” He additionally thanked his wife and family for their help and support during his years in office. Burden’s final report to the National Association was met with an extended standing ovation.

Ryan Lewis, executive administrator for the Executive Office, observed, “Over the last decade, I have watched Bro. Keith bring us together as a denomination, and today, I think we are more unified than we have ever been. In spite of some difficult times, he has brought us to a point where we can step forward with confidence into a bright future.”

*Read the full convention business report in ONE Magazine.*

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## Meet the Speaker

Diego Cueva and his wife Maria Isabel have served as missionaries and church planters since 2005. Diego currently pastors Iglesia Cristiana Casa De Dios in Woodbridge, Virginia. Before his current role as pastor and church planter, Diego was the bivocational pastor in the VERBO Christian Church in Quito, Ecuador. Learn more: [bfbwc.com/casa-de-dios/](http://bfbwc.com/casa-de-dios/)

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## News, Updates & Announcements

**Picture This.** Pictures from the convention are available online. Visit [www.nafwb.yerbyphotography.com](http://www.nafwb.yerbyphotography.com).

**Registration Statistics.** At 2:30 p.m., the 2019 convention had individual registrations of 3,701 for the national convention and 3,299 for Vertical Three, for a total registration of 4,416. (Many individuals register for both conferences.)

**Served the City.** Thanks to volunteers who worked many hours in various service projects around the city, including ministry to the homeless, volunteering in various local outreach ministries, and the annual blood drive. At least one person was saved this week.

**Lost something?** Visit registration following the service to claim the following: Bibles, journals, CD player, various clothing items, necklace, glasses, sunglasses, toys, and water bottle.

**Calling for History.** Today, Eric Thomsen made the following plea during the Historical Commission’s annual report: “I’m convinced attics, hall closets, and church storage rooms across the country are filled with dusty boxes of Free Will Baptist records. Please don’t discard those We want them!”

Please help preserve our history. To donate books, records or other historical materials, contact: [pmorgan@welch.edu](mailto:pmorgan@welch.edu).