Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

A History of the First Twenty-Five Years

1992 – 2017

written (2012) and updated (2017) by
Mary Jayne Allen

Dedication Page

We dedicate this history in memory of the three TCBF Coordinators who have joined the Great Cloud of Witnesses. We express gratitude for their lives and their contributions to our ministry.

William "Bill" Junker
Died June 8, 2011

Adiel Moncrief "Monty" Jordan
Died September 29, 2011

Lloyd T. Householder, Jr.
Died January 30, 2012

A History of the First Twenty-Five Years of the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

ENDINGS AND BEGINNINGS

In 1990, following a decade of frustrating denominational politics in the Southern Baptist Convention, a gathering of moderate Baptists in Atlanta, Georgia, led to the formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) in 1991. Seeking to uphold historic Baptist values and freedoms, the purpose statement that evolved reads "The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is a fellowship of Baptist Christians and churches who share a passion for the Great Commission of Jesus Christ and a commitment to Baptist principles of faith and practice. Our mission is to serve Christians and churches as they discover and fulfill their God-given mission."

On July 24, 1992, two hundred Tennessee Baptists gathered at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville to begin charting a corresponding course for "free and faithful" Baptists in Tennessee. In September, a steering committee chose Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (TCBF) as the organization's name. Work began to determine purpose, by-laws and budget - and to nominate officers. The first state General Assembly was held at First Baptist in Gatlinburg in November. Cecil Sherman, CBF Coordinator, was speaker for the event as articles of incorporation and bylaws were adopted and the first Coordinating Council and moderator were elected.

The next five years were formative for both CBF and TCBF as moderate Baptists sought to establish their identity and lay a financial foundation to assist congregations and support missions. In 1993, TCBF's Coordinating Council met at least five times. General Assembly meetings were scheduled annually. For several years, a Coordinating Council meeting and a business session were scheduled prior to Tennessee Baptist Convention meetings each November. While these Fall business sessions were discontinued in 1997 - with such matters handled at General Assembly meetings – gatherings for worship and fellowship were held in 1999 and 2000.

Realizing the need for a leader in addition to a moderator and the Coordinating Council, Lloyd Householder was retained as the first part-time Coordinator, with an office established in Brentwood in September 1994. Bill Junker (January – April 1996) succeeded him, and Monty Jordan served as interim Coordinator (April – December 1996). Lila Boyd was named Administrative Coordinator in January 1997, serving in that position through August 1998.

With the retirement of Cecil Sherman in 1996, Daniel Vestal assumed the reins of the national organization as Coordinator in December. In June 1998, Ircel Harrison was elected as the first

full-time Coordinator of TCBF.

FORMATIVE YEARS

Ircel Harrison, a 20 year employee of the Tennessee Baptist Convention (TBC) in the area of collegiate ministries, became increasingly aware that he was no longer "in sync" with the Southern Baptist Convention and that the attitudes of the national body were beginning to affect the work of the TBC. Using vacation time, he attended some of the early meetings of CBF and shared its stated values such as the priesthood of all believers, high regard for scripture, commitment to social ministries, and belief that all believers – both women and men – are called to ministry. TBC policy stated that an employee with twenty years tenure could retire at age 55. Harrison determined that he could find another place of ministry by the time he reached age 55 in August 1998. He reflects, "In God's wonderful timing, the Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship began looking for a full-time coordinator in January 1998, and I pursued that position." He began his work in September 1998.

With the expiration of the lease on the office space in Brentwood, one of Ircel's first steps was to relocate the TCBF office to Murfreesboro – where he lived and near the "geographic center of Tennessee." Needing an administrator, he hired Judy Powers Fryer whom he got to know when she asked him to lead a study on women in ministry at First Baptist, Murfreesboro. Married to a minister and with Baptist ministers in her family, Judy had a seminary degree and many creative gifts. Ircel's introduction of Judy was usually, "I turned an artist into a bookkeeper."

In his former position, Harrison developed relationships with leaders and churches across the state. One of his priorities in his first months as TCBF coordinator was connecting and networking with "progressive" pastors and leaders. He found most of them welcoming and supportive of the mission of TCBF. This affirmation and support of TCBF and his leadership was critical as the organization took shape.

Time was spent on administrative tasks: clarifying the status of the organization as "an association of churches" with the State of Tennessee, moving the bank account, securing a post office box, setting up an on-line database and financial records. Eventually a website was created, along with personnel and administrative policies.

Financially, there was a healthy balance in the checking account – invaluable for beginning a full-time operation. The Founding 100 emphasis provided significant financial support. The budget adopted in January 1995 was $9,326; by 1999 it had increased to $165,000. While there were several years of financial growth as churches provided support, finances continued to present a challenge.

Several initiatives were begun. A breakout session at the 1998 General Assembly launched Tennessee Baptists Encouraging Women in Ministry. After incorporation, their first meeting was held in connection with the General Assembly in 1999. In 2000, New Church Starts became a focus. A Young Leaders Network was launched. Seminars and conferences were held supporting these initiatives. Tammy Abee Blom was employed as Next Generation Coordinator. At the Coordinating Council meeting in January 2001, Harrison outlined the work of TCBF in three broad areas:

- Helping churches to fulfill the Great Commission.
- Helping to build healthy, growing churches.
- Helping churches reach a new generation for Christ and His church.

In February 2001, indicative of the challenge of the national organization to find its way as an entity (a fellowship, not a denomination), state and regional coordinators approved a plan to clarify relationships among CBF state, regional and national organizations. The key provision was the initiation of a Leadership Team chaired by the CBF coordinator and composed of state and regional coordinators along with coordinators of the various departments at the CBF Resource Center in Atlanta. Quarterly meetings were begun to implement the national 2000 Strategic Plan.

With missions as a priority, the first mission partnership was with Habitat for Humanity. TCBF provided $19,500 toward the cost of constructing a house in Robbins, Tennessee, as part of the Jimmy Carter Appalachia Blitz in June 1997. At the national General Assembly in 1998, Elizabeth Richards, having served as a two-year missionary, was commissioned a career missionary to Jordan. In 1999, funds supported a summer missionary who led a six-student team to work with CBF field personnel in Vancouver, British Colombia. At the General Assembly in 2001, special guests were Dr. Branko Lovrec, president of the Baptist Union of Croatia and Zeljko Mraz, general secretary of the Union, forging a three-year partnership with TCBF – which actually continued for six years. In 2003, the Tennessee Partners in Missions offering was launched with a goal of $20,000. Initial recipients were: Christian Women's Job Corps, Nashville; Samaritan Ministry, Knoxville; Appalachian Outreach, Jefferson City; InterFACE Ministries, Nashville; and a new church start in the Memphis area. That same year, Mike Young, of Tullahoma, was hired as Missions Coordinator, with responsibility for assisting individuals and churches in fulfilling their calling, serving as a catalyst for mission partnerships, and leading in starting and developing new congregations.

Realizing that healthy, growing churches require healthy, growing members and leaders, TCBF staff provided many opportunities to develop and equip ministers and lay leaders in their roles in their congregations. In February 2000, staff members from five churches met at Fall Creek Falls State Park for the first Church Staff Roundtable. Designed to address key issues and

concerns, these helpful gatherings expanded to include staff from other churches and continued for eight years, eventually adding a second site to accommodate leaders from the western part of the state. Topics for conferences included college ministry, Sunday School leadership training, church growth, worship, church planting and church leadership. In 2001 guidelines were approved by the Coordinating Council to provide Leadership Scholarships for theological education, the first one granted in 2002. After months of planning and effort, seminary classes began in 2005 at First Baptist, Murfreesboro, in partnership with Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas.

One of the challenges faced by TCBF in Tennessee is geographical – locating meetings and learning experiences so they are easily accessible to participants. This is difficult in a state that stretches from the Mississippi River on the west to the Smoky Mountains on the east. Efforts to cope with this challenge include securing volunteer regional field representatives, holding the General Assembly in different parts of the state on a rotating basis, and offering regional meetings and conferences. Travel is one of the important and time-consuming activities of the work. From the beginning, a newsletter has been an important means of communication.

TRANSITIONS

While starting new churches was identified as a priority in 2000, several attempts failed to produce the anticipated results. Efforts in Franklin, Chattanooga, Knoxville and Murfreesboro were terminated, in spite of time and energy given by passionate church planters. However, in 2005, a partnership of CBF, TCBF, CBF of Mississippi, and Trinity Baptist of Cordova did result in the formation of Olive Branch Fellowship: a Baptist Faith Community in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

In January 2002, Tennessee Baptists Encouraging Women in Ministry dissolved its incorporation status and transferred responsibility for activities to encourage women in ministry to the Leadership Development Committee under the guidance of Tammy Blom. When she moved out of state in 2007, three Leadership Development Specialists were employed (part-time) to continue peer groups for women in ministry as well as initiating new areas of ministry. In the face of budget challenges, these positions were eliminated in 2010. Encouragement for women in ministry continues through the presentation of The Betty Galloway Advocacy for Women in Ministry Award to individuals or groups. Named in honor of the first woman in Tennessee to be ordained as a deacon (in 1971), the first recipient was First Baptist, Oak Ridge, the congregation that ordained her.

Organizations change – as they must. Staff members were added as needed and staff members moved on to other responsibilities and callings. In April 2008, Ircel Harrison announced he would step down from his position as Coordinator at the end of the year. His ten years of

ministry and service were recognized at the General Assembly with a book of letters and cards – and the TCBF scholarship fund was re-named the Ircel Harrison Theological Scholarship Fund in his honor.

Asked to prioritize the accomplishments of his tenure, Ircel Harrison listed these as the top six:

- Developing an organizational culture that valued relationships, respect, and agility.
- Initiation of Tennessee Partners in Missions Offering.
- Providing services to churches – Church Staff Roundtable, leadership conferences, placement, etc.
- Advocacy for women in ministry:
    1) Support groups
    2) Partnership with TBEWIM and its incorporation into TCBF
    3) Support for the Betty Galloway Award
- Emphasis on theological education
    1) Launch of Central Baptist Theological Seminary teaching site in Murfreesboro
    2) Provision of theological scholarships
- Creating an organizational structure for TCBF – staff, communications, database, and administrative and financial processes.

IRCEL HARRISION - IN HIS OWN WORDS: *My greatest pleasure came in finding good partners across the state – first, pastors who were committed to the CBF movement and led their churches to be supportive; second, churches that embraced their identities as progressive Baptist churches and "got on board" with TCBF; third, lay people and clergy who gave their time and efforts to serve as officers and Coordinating Council members; fourth, partner organizations who identified with us in many ways, including becoming Tennessee Partners in Missions. I loved the opportunity to network, support and equip moderate Baptists in our state. Even in a digital age, judicatory work is a highly relational activity. I continue to value the relationships that I both made and strengthened during the time as coordinator.*

NEW BEGINNNINGS

Two teams were named to assist with this change in leadership. An Interim Search Team developed a position description and selection process for an interim coordinator, and named a person for the position. A Transition Team was charged to assess the work of TCBF, seek input from various constituencies, recommend changes in staff position descriptions, and provide a process for employing a new coordinator. Their yearlong work resulted in a Covenant Team being appointed to work with a representative from CBF to explore filling the position in a unique covenant relationship between CBF and TCBF. With financial support from CBF, the position of CBF Field Coordinator was developed and advertisements for applications were

posted in October 2009. Numerous resumes were considered, several interviews were conducted, and in March 2010 the Search Committee presented Terry Maples to the Coordinating Council for the position of Field Coordinator of CBF in Tennessee. He was introduced at the General Assembly and began his work in June 2010.

Terry came to Tennessee from Huguenot Road Baptist in Richmond, Virginia, where he served as Associate Pastor for Education/Discipleship for twenty years. With skills and experience in administration, passion for faith formation and missions, a strong commitment to CBF, and positive energy, Terry was prepared for the challenges and opportunities awaiting him at CBF in Tennessee.

TERRY MAPLES – IN HIS OWN WORDS: *While reading the posting for the field coordinator role, I was drawn to the requirements and responsibilities of the position. During the interviewing process I was impressed with each person on the search committee and sensed I could collaborate well with these gifted and talented folks. CBF is my home. I wanted to do all I could to help the Fellowship Community thrive. The call to help individuals and congregations strengthen commitment to our historic Baptist values and convictions, to help congregations become more spiritually vibrant and mission-shaped, and to help people across the state of Tennessee embrace a fresh new symbiotic relationship with National CBF, was strong.*

The leadership of TCBF was honest about the challenges facing Fellowship Baptists in Tennessee:

- *Gain clarity about our identity and direction.*
- *Work more seamlessly with National CBF.*
- *Strengthen our financial position.*
- *Invest resources in ministries that support congregations and the clergy who serve them.*

These challenges provided opportunities for the Coordinating Council to dialogue around our identity, to reaffirm our values and convictions, to chart a new course forward, to discern ways to free resources for ministries, and to find meaningful avenues for partnership with National CBF.

In his first meeting with the Coordinating Council, Terry began to set the course for their work together. A retreat was scheduled for January 2011. With a consultant facilitating the gathering, four priorities emerged as the focus for our energy and resources: faith formation, mission engagement, next generations and networking.

2011 brought several changes for TCBF. In partnership with CBF, e-newsletters were sent twice each month, keeping people aware of both state and national information and opportunities. The printed newsletter, the LINK, was updated and printed in full color as a quarterly mailing. A

new logo for TCBF was introduced, and a new website was launched. The name of the offering for *Tennessee Partners in Mission* was changed to *Tennessee Priorities in Mission*, keeping the acronym TPIM while allocating resources for missional grants. Gifts to the fund exceeded the $25,000 goal by almost $1,000. Funded by a bequest, a summer intern was employed to work with TCBF and First Baptist, Murfreesboro. The bequest also provided funds for three college students to attend Tampa Sessions and the CBF General Assembly in Tampa, Florida. In September, Mike Young concluded his work as Missions Coordinator and in October, Judy Fryer retired from her position as Associate Coordinator for Communication and Administration.

To free money for stated priorities, changes were made in staff and office space. Brittany Jackson was hired as part-time office manager. The office space in Murfreesboro was vacated, with staff members willing and able to work from their homes.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

TERRY MAPLES – IN HIS OWN WORDS: *We are very excited about Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's 20th Anniversary Celebration! Our theme*—TCBF: People of Heritage & Hope—*embodies the conviction we are a people of rich heritage whose hope is in Christ Jesus. Building on the strong foundation laid twenty years ago, we anticipate all the ways God will use the Fellowship Community in Tennessee to nurture life-changing faith in Jesus Christ that results in meaningful kingdom work.*

TCBF is postured to assist congregations as they form faith and connect with God's mission in the world; help clergy and congregations become healthier and more effective; provide meaningful opportunities to engage in mission projects that make a difference; and help individuals and congregations find community in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We face the future with faith in God and trust in each other. The values and convictions that birthed our movement twenty years ago must be preserved, because our faithful, free, thoughtful, and passionate Baptist witness is needed today more than ever.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES - 2012-2017 (added April 2017)

"As we celebrate the first 20 years of CBF in Tennessee, we anticipate even greater days ahead. Fellowship Baptists in Tennessee can look forward to continuing the journey with others around the world, sharing Christ's love with a firm commitment to historic Baptist principles of faith and practice." These closing words from A History of the First Twenty Years: 1992-2012 helped to focus our vision and determine our priorities for the years leading up to the celebration of 25 years as Tennessee CBF.

When Terry Maples accepted the position of Field Coordinator for Tennessee CBF in 2010, he stated his call and commitment "to help congregations become more spiritually vibrant and

mission-shaped, and to help people across the state of Tennessee embrace a fresh new symbiotic relationship with National CBF." As giving increased and our financial situation improved, mission support and engagement became a significant priority.

MISSION SUPPORT AND ENGAGEMENT

Two changes were made that impacted the support and use of the state mission offering. The name was changed from "Tennessee Priorities in Mission" to the Elizabeth Richards State Missions Offering, recognizing the ministry of "one of our own." A member of Trinity Baptist Church in Cordova, Elizabeth served as CBF field personnel for sixteen years in the Middle East. A second change formed four regional councils to foster collaboration and engage more people in service near their home.

With generous gifts to the offering (the goal of $25,000 in 2013 was surpassed by more than $10,000), Tennessee CBF continues to support Samaritan Ministry in Knoxville and the Neverfail Community in Sparta.

In support of the four regions in the state, financial assistance has been available for Appalachian Outreach in Jefferson City, Christian Women's Job Corps in Chattanooga, The Next Door in Nashville, and Mid-South Food Bank's Food for Kids Backpacks Program in Memphis.

In addition, we were able to encourage congregations to engage in meaningful mission projects in their communities by awarding $1000 grants. More than 30 grants have been awarded since 2013, providing seed money that enabled congregations to be the "presence of Christ" in creative ministries appropriate to their communities. These grants have supported a wide variety of ministries, including food pantries, vouchers for needy families at Christmas, a Fair Trade Market, help for a family transitioning from homelessness, assistance for people trapped in predatory lending, ESL ministry, Hispanic ministry, and a shower ministry. These grants continue to be a significant investment in Kingdom work.

For the past three years, the General Assembly meeting has included mission engagement as a significant part of the gathering. Actions have included packing 20,000 emergency meals through Operation Inasmuch in Knoxville, and participation in a variety of community ministry actions in Memphis and Tullahoma.

Tennessee CBF partners with a variety of other ministries to support and engage in missions.

CBF Global (formerly National CBF) receives financial support for Missy Ward in Uganda and Roger and Noy Peeler in Cambodia.

In 2014, we entered a more formal relationship with Together for Hope - the CBF initiative that provides an active presence in twenty of the poorest counties in the U.S. Three of those areas

are in our neighboring states of Alabama, Arkansas and Kentucky. That year, our state General Assembly was held in Memphis and focused on the Together for Hope ministry in Helena, Arkansas. We heard from their leaders, tours were given on the "Stories on Wheels Bus," and the offering – which Tennessee CBF matched up to $2000 – was given to purchase books for their literacy program. The "Extreme Build" in McCreary County, Kentucky has been supported with Tennessee volunteers and financial resources for several years in cooperation with Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

Three Tennessee churches are engaged in the South Africa Ministry Network: First Baptist in Chattanooga, First Baptist in Knoxville, and Second Baptist in Memphis. These congregations have participated in several mission experiences and played major roles in mission projects in advance of the Baptist World Congress in Durban in 2015. In response to an observed need, Tennessee CBF helped purchase a truck for the Refilwe ministry. The offering given at the Tennessee CBF General Assembly in 2015 was used to purchase sleeping bags for the mission volunteers on arrival and were left to be used by our ministry partners.

NEXT GENERATIONS

One of TCBF's goals is investing in Next Generations. Financial support has given college and seminary students opportunities to serve alongside CBF field personnel as Student.Go missioners; to serve as interns while exploring vocational calling and congregational ministry with Student.Church; to explore relevant issues as participants in Sessions while attending a CBF General Assembly. Students involved in these opportunities are encouraged to participate in Selah Vie – an end-of-summer retreat and debriefing experience that takes place in Nashville. In 2015, TCBF provided a copy of Parker Palmer's book, Let Your Life Speak, for each college student who participated.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Tennessee CBF continues to award at least one $1,000 scholarship each year to a student enrolled in a divinity or doctoral program. Financial support is provided for the work of Central Baptist Seminary-Nashville Campus and a $1,000 scholarship is awarded each year. TCBF partners with Central Seminary-Nashville Campus and Scarritt-Bennett Center to provide a monthly peer-learning luncheon and program for women in ministry.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT MINISTRIES

Invested in the Mercer Preaching Consultation in Chattanooga

Supported Youth Winter Summits in Huntsville, Alabama

Provided advocacy resources to help congregations address predatory lending practices in the

state

Helped fund Samaritan Ministries' Faith/Walk for HIV/AIDS in Knoxville

Served as a supporting partner with Nurturing Faith for

Civil War @ 150 in Chattanooga

Gave funds for CBF's Syrian refugee relief

Contributed to CBF's disaster response ministry

Supported flood relief efforts in South Carolina and Lousiana

Supported fire relief efforts in the Smoky Mountains

Supported the Global Mission Offering and Global Mission Projects

CHANGES AND TRANSITIONS

In March 2013, Suzii Paynter began her work as Executive Coordinator of CBF, the third coordinator of the national organization following Daniel Vestal and Cecil Sherman. A leader at the Baptist General Convention of Texas, she had served as director of the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission and had gained a national reputation as an advocate on ethical issues such as religious liberty, hunger and poverty, human trafficking, immigration reform and the environment. She was guest speaker at TCBF's General Assembly in 2014. She has introduced the term "denomi-network" to describe who we are as CBF.

Terry Maples submitted his resignation as Tennessee CBF Field Coordinator in December 2015 to accept the position of Field Coordinator of CBF Virginia. He met with the Coordinating Council in January 2016 to assist with transitional issues. Terry's parting words: *Please know of my deep gratitude for your commitment to Tennessee Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Thank you for 5 ½ years of meaningful ministry, mission and collaboration. Though TCBF is experiencing a leadership change, our important work proceeds with vigor. May God continue to richly bless the ministry of Tennessee CBF!*

Gene Wilder was named interim field coordinator, having just retired as pastor from First Baptist Church in Jefferson City, where he had served since 2002. With experience on the CBF Coordinating Council and the Global Missions Initiative Team, his leadership was invaluable during the transition.

The Coordinating Council appointed a search team, led by Stephen Cook, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Memphis. Along with Gene Wilder, the team held "listening sessions" during

the next few months with groups across the state, prayerfully considering suggestions, and discerning direction as they received resumes. Interviews were conducted with several candidates and at the August 2016 meeting of the Coordinating Council, Rick Bennett was introduced as their choice and approved unanimously. Rick had served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Elkin, North Carolina since 2012. Prior to that, he served eight years as director of missional congregations with CBF Global and had served as ministerial staff with churches in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. A graduate of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and Campbell University, Rick's family includes his wife, Rebecca, and sons Tyler (15) and Ethan (12). His experience in the local church and CBF makes him a good match for TCBF in our journey.

Rick and his family made several trips to Tennessee and decided on Knoxville as their choice of residence. With a large number of TCBF churches in that area, and with the ability to communicate through e-mail and other media technology, the search team recommended and the Coordinating Council agreed to move the TCBF office from Murfreesboro to Knoxville. Central Baptist Church in Bearden generously offered space for the physical office.

Transitioning between North Carolina and Tennessee, Rick spent his first months as Field Coordinator traveling across Tennessee, getting acquainted with pastors and churches. In February, the Coordinating Council met for an intensive over-night retreat, reviewing TCBF's values, mission and priorities. Much of the discussion centered around plans for the coming year – including the 25th anniversary celebration, scheduled for April 21-22 at Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, where the initial organizational meeting of TCBF was held.

In November 2016, finalizing a decision she had been considering, Brittany Jackson, office manager, offered her resignation. She graciously worked with Rick through the end of the year to help with the transition.

Rick's words as he begins his ministry with Tennessee CBF: My vision for TCBF is a degree of cooperation and collaboration among partner churches that produces a new generation of Baptist disciples for Christ in Tennessee. My mission, toward that vision, is to call churches and leaders into relational and imaginative partnership with the whole through a personal, supportive relationship between leaders and field coordinator. I am excited about returning to service through CBF. I return with a newly cultivated heart for pastors, with a perspective on the unique challenges pastors face in congregational life, and even greater hopes for CBF beyond 25.

At 25 years, CBF Global and Tennessee CBF continue to resource individuals and churches as they seek to meet the challenges of ministry and mission in the 21st Century.

Tennessee CBF Leadership

COORDINATORS

November 1994-95
Lloyd T. Householder, Jr.

January - April 1996
C. William Junker

May - December 1996
A. Moncrief Jordan

January 1997 - August 1998
Lila Anderson Boyd

September 1998 - December 2008
Ircel Harrison, Jr.

January 2009 – November 2009
Donald K. Dixon (Interim)

November 2009 - May 2010
Vacant

June 2010 - February 2016
Terry L. Maples

February 2016 - October 2016
Gene Wilder (Interim)

October 2016 - present
Rick Bennett

MODERATORS

1992-93	Steve Witt, Chattanooga Jack Bishop, Signal Mountain
1993-94	Kreis White, Nashville
1994-95	Earl Davis, Memphis Mike Smith, Memphis
1995-96	Patty Moore, Knoxville
1996-97	Don Dixon, Tullahoma
1997-98	Earl Sears, Memphis
1998-99	Carolyn Blevins Jefferson City
1999-2000	Jeff Lane, South Pittsburg
2000-2001	Nanette Avery, Signal Mountain
2001-2002	Chris O'Rear, Nashville
2002-2003	Lorri Johnson, Murfreesboro
2003-2004	Joe Livesay, Germantown
2004-2005	Ed Sunday-Winters, Knoxville
2005-2006	Becky Frye, Jefferson City
2006-2007	Joel Emerson, Nashville
2007-2008	Vickie Willis, Murfreesboro
2008-2009	Jerry Mantooth, Maryville
2009-2010	John Rohde, Franklin
2010-2011	Mary Jayne Allen, Chattanooga
2011-2012	Kristina Woods Brown, Murfreesboro
2012-2013	Andy Watts, Nashville
2013-2014	Chan Vinson, Rutledge
2014-2015	Melissa Roysdon, Cookeville
2015-2016	Amy Cook, Memphis
2016-2017	Phillip Moody, Tullahoma
2017-2018	Thomas Quisenberry, Chattanooga

Ircel Harrison Theological Scholarship

2017 Michelle Carroll, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Rory Naeve, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
David Warren, Truett Seminary at Baylor University, Waco, TX

2016 Chan Vinson, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, IL

2015 Luke Moody, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Chan Vinson, Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, IL

2014 Megan Hurst Carter, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Ryan Hurst Carter, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Luke Moody, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

2013 Brack Ballard, Gardner-Webb School of Divinity, Boiling Springs, NC
Megan Hurst, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

2012 Megan Turner, Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Jacob Drake, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

2011 Noelle Spears Owen, Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA

2010 Rebecca Mathis, The University of the South Divinity School, Sewanee, TN

2009 Leah Knox, Vanderbilt Divinity School, Nashville, TN
Rebecca Mathis, The University of the South Divinity School, Sewanee, TN

2008 Kara Blankenship, Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
LuAnne Prevost, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Murfreesboro, TN

2007 Kara Blankenship, Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
LuAnne Prevost, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Murfreesboro, TN

2006 Adam Garner, Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Julie Keys, McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Danielle Smith, BTSR, Richmond, VA

2005 Sarah Carver, Wake Forest University Divinity School, Winston-Salem, NC
Rusty Edwards, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC
Danielle Smith, BTSR, Richmond, VA

2004 John Ryan Dix, Wake Forest University Divinity School, Winston-Salem, NC
Elizabeth Evans, Duke Divinity School, Durham, NC

2003 Drew Prince, Mercer University's McAfee School of Theology, Atlanta, GA
Rodney Walls, Campbell University Divinity School, Buies Creek, NC

2002 Melody Maxwell, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, AL

Betty Galloway Advocacy for Women in Ministry Award

2017 Judy Skeen, Professor of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville
Andy Watts, Professor of Religion, Belmont University, Nashville

2016 Mary Jayne Allen, Minister of Education (Retired), First Baptist Church, Chattanooga

2015 Mike Smith, Pastor, Central Baptist Church of Fountain City, Knoxville

2014 Suzii Paynter, Executive Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Atlanta, GA

2013 Ed Sunday-Winters, Pastor, Ball Camp Baptist Church, Knoxville

2012 Amy Butler, Pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Washington, D.C.

2011 Tambi Brown Swiney, Associate Pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Nashville, TN

2010 Melissa M. Roysdon, Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Cookeville, TN

2009 Eileen Campbell-Reed, Associate Director of the Learning Pastoral Imagination Project and Research Faculty at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN and resident of Nashville, TN

2008 Tammy Abee Blom, former Associate Coordinator for Leadership Development, Tennessee CBF, Murfreesboro, TN

2007 Nenette Measels, Assoc. Campus Minister, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN

2006 Molly Marshall, President, Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, KS

2005 Carolyn D. Blevins, Associate Professor of Religion, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN

2004 Neverfail Community Church, Sparta, TN
Providence Baptist Church, Cookeville, TN

2003 Supporting Women in Ministry (SWIM) – Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN
First Baptist Church, Chattanooga, TN