

# **East Mississippi Baptist State Congress of Christian Education**

Congress President: Rev. Carlos Wilson

Congress Dean: Sis. Nickie Irby

## **2022 Congress Report**

The 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Annual East Mississippi Baptist State Congress of Christian Education was held June 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> at Fifth Street M.B. Church, Meridian, MS. First New Hope District and Host Pastor, Bishop William C. Brown, welcomed registered participants with a holy hospitality that extended throughout the three-day Congress. The theme of the Congress was: “Glorifying God Through Our Commitment to Christ-Centered Evangelism.”

### **Day 1:**

#### **Opening Session:**

Anticipation was in the air at the return of the *In-Person* Congress, the first to occur following the Covid Pandemic. The ‘Call to Worship’ indeed called God’s people into His presence. The 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the Congress offered a formal recognition of First New Hope District Officers, Elected Officials, and EMBSC Congress Officers.

The audience was educated by Michael Minor on the H.O.P.E. organization. Mr. Minor blessed the Congress with a financial donation. Another guest spoke on the importance of supporting the Sunday School Publishing Board as the last African American Publication for Christian Education. Churches were solicited to support the organization by purchasing Sunday School Books, Mission Books and Vacation Bible School products along with other study tools.

Congress Dean, Mrs. Nicki Irby, hosted a Commencement ceremony honoring participants who completed all four phases of the Certificate of Progress Program (COPP) in 2020, 2021, & 2022. Dean Irby awarded Certificates of Completion to 22 COPP Graduates; 9 new certified Deans, and 7 Pastor Alternative Completion Studies. Gratitude was offered to churches for presenting structured educational programs to move Christ’s church forward.

A musical explosion guided the audience into an evening of praise and communion in the Presence of God. Music and voices joined in unison to honor and praise the name of Jesus. The opening session adjourned leaving attendees with an appetite for more of what would come during the 92<sup>nd</sup> session of the Congress.

## Day 2:

**Congress Classes:** The Congress Board of Officers strategically coordinated courses to offer classes in a Hybrid format. Live attendees and Zoom participants selected from eight certified courses designed to complement personal and church growth. The congress met challenges with information technology, however, the challenges were addressed in a timely manner and classes continued for virtual participants.

**Registration Bags:** Three hundred conference bags were prepared by congress board members. An event bag was given to each participant during registration. The event bag contained mints, snacks, gifts and stationary items that would be useful over the course of the congress.

**Dean's Address:** Congress Dean, Sis. Nicki Irby, began her address with acknowledgment of lives lost since the last live Congress session. Dean Irby recognized that many were lost in our churches, families and communities. A silent prayer was offered for grieving hearts.

Dean Irby stimulated listeners to hone in on Stewardship by working with what you have been given intellectually, spiritually, and financially. She referenced Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God..." Dean Irby challenged listeners to not sit idly by and allow unrighteousness to grow like a cancer in your church, home or community. "Stand up, and when the Lord says 'Go,' be ready, and go! God will be glorified through Stewardship."

## Day 3:

**President's Address:** Congress President, Pastor Carlos Wilson, stirred the final day of the Congress with an address that motivated every person to "Shift." President Wilson lifted up the Word of God with "Let Brotherly Love Continue," (Hebrews 13:1). He encouraged church members to develop new approaches to reach young people as well as members who have not returned to church following the Covid Pandemic.

The President's address encouraged hearers to consider evolving church meetings by stating: "Don't shut down, shift!" President Wilson further motivated members to "Get Back Up! Get Back In! We serve a God who gives life after death." The president's words elevated to the ceiling with a strong spiritual push to "Face the challenges and come out as conquerors."

**Closing Session:** President Carlos Wilson closed the 92<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Congress by thanking delegates, speakers and guest for their participation in the Congress. President Wilson also thanked First New Hope District, Fifth Street M. B. Church, and Bishop William C. Brown for hosting the Congress. Looking forward to next year's congress, President Wilson expressed encouragement as the Congress grows and evolves to assist in meeting the educational needs to equip disciples for effective ministry.

**Participation:** There were Five (5) District Association and Thirty-eight (38) Churches and Three (3) Individuals registered for the 2022 session of the East Mississippi Baptist State Congress of Christian Education.

**Budget Report:**

Registration of Churches & Districts

Third New Hope District Association	\$500.00
Scott County District Association	\$500.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> New Hope District Association	\$300.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Enterprise District Association	\$500.00
1 <sup>st</sup> Enterprise District Association	\$500.00
New Pilgrim M.B. Church – Waynesboro	\$300.00
Pineville M.B. Church - Waynesboro	\$300.00
Morning Star Baptist Church – Laurel	\$300.00
Truelight M.B. Church – Walnut Grove	\$300.00
New Bethel M.B. Church – Forest	\$300.00
Pleasant Hill – Meridian	\$300.00
Morning Star M.B. Church – Newton	\$300.00
Little Hope M.B. Church – Toomsuba	\$300.00
Mt. Calvary Baptist Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Bethel M.B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church – Morton	\$300.00
Shiloh Baptist Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Porterville Zion M.B. Church – Porterville	\$300.00
Fifth Street Baptist Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Savannah Grove M.B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00
St. Luke M. B Church – Waynesboro	\$300.00
Center Ridge Baptist Church – Shubuta	\$300.00
Greater Calvary M.B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Ebenezer M. B. Church – Hattiesburg	\$300.00
East Mt. Moriah M.B. Church -Meridian	\$300.00
St. Mark M.B. Church – Carthage	\$300.00
Pleasant Hill M.B. Church – Morton	\$300.00
Shiloh M. B. Church – Quitman	\$300.00
Union Baptist Kemper Springs – Dekalb	\$300.00
Galilee M. B. Church – Carthage	\$300.00
Mount Pleasant – Collinsville	\$300.00
Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church – Morton	\$300.00
Shady Grove – Heidelberg	\$300.00
Mt. Olive M, B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00
St. John Baptist Church – Meridian	\$300.00
St. John Baptist Church – Newton	\$300.00
New Hope Baptist Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Mt. Pleasant M, B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00
Mt. Moriah M. B. Church – Pulaski	\$300.00
Faith Sanctuary of Praise – Laurel	\$300.00
Providence Baptist Church – Laurel	\$300.00
Thirty First M. B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00
True Vine M. B. Church – Meridian	\$300.00

*Individual Registration*

Jackie Ward	\$ 50.00
Lewis Williams	\$ 50.00
Dr. Markiet Lewis	\$ 50.00

<b>Total Registration</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>
<b>Offering</b>	<b>\$195.00</b>	<b>\$ 195.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$11,695.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 3,820.63</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>\$ 7,874.37</b>

(Budget Report prepared by Pastor William Griffin)

Final Report prepared and submitted by Angela Snowden McDonald, Recording Secretary for East Mississippi Baptist Congress of Christian Education.