

Keller church hosts SBC presidential candidates forum

April 26, 2022

KELLER (BP)—Tom Ascol, Bart Barber and Robin Hadaway will participate in a panel discussion at First Baptist Church in Keller at noon on Wednesday, May 4.

The discussion, which will be livestreamed at <https://www.fbckeller.org> is set to be hosted by Joe Wooddell and Tony Richmond—both of First Baptist in Keller. The candidate forum is open to the public, and doors open at 11:30 a.m.

Pastor Keith Sanders said his church is happy to host the event, knowing that “these godly men will demonstrate how to converse, agree and disagree in Christian love with civility.”

Sanders said he believes “Southern Baptists should be a light to the world first with the gospel, but also in how we relate to each other in public discussion.”

Ascol, Barber and Hadaway currently are the only announced candidates for the position. The election of a new SBC president will take place on June 14 at the 2022 SBC annual meeting in Anaheim, Calif. Current SBC president Ed Litton announced earlier this spring that he had chosen not to seek a second term in the position.

The candidate forum is scheduled to take place at 12 noon Central, and Wooddell believes, “it will be good for SBC members and friends to hear the candidates’ answers on how to encourage evangelism and missions, what they would prioritize, and how best to navigate denominational and cultural challenges in coming months.”

While questions for the candidates will not be taken from the audience or livestream viewers, those interested in submitting questions before the event can do so at sbc2022presidentquestions@gmail.com.

Ascol became pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral in 1986. Prior to his time at Grace, he was a pastor and associate pastor of various churches in Texas. Ascol is most widely known in the SBC for his work as president of Founders Ministries, an organization Ascol helped start in 1982.

He also is a frequent contributor in TableTalk, the monthly magazine for Ligonier Ministries, has written several books, and he hosts a podcast, The Sword & The Trowel.

Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, serves as the chairman of the committee on resolutions at the June meeting. In addition to his leadership of the resolutions committee this year, Barber served on the committee in 2021, preached at the SBC Pastors' Conference in 2017 and served as first vice president of the SBC from 2013 through 2014.

He also served on the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention executive board from 2008 through 2014 (including serving as chairman and vice-chairman), was a trustee for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary from 2009 through 2019 and served on the SBC Committee on Committees in 2008. He previously taught as an adjunct professor at Southwestern Seminary from 2006 through 2009.

Hadaway began his ministry career as pastor of churches in California and Arizona before serving with the International Mission Board on the field in Africa and South America. While on the field, he was involved in church planting in Tanzania, starting churches among unreached peoples in Northern Africa and directing church planting efforts in Eastern South America. During his stint in South America, Hadaway was a regional leader

for the IMB, leading more than 300 missionaries in the region.

Following his time with IMB, Hadaway spent nearly two decades at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary as a professor of missions and served in a variety of administrative roles including interim president, dean of students, vice president for institutional initiatives, interim CFO and interim administrative vice president. He currently is senior professor of missions at Midwestern.