

Baylor conveys land to BGCT for Baptist Student Ministry

April 22, 2024

Baylor University conveyed to the Baptist General Convention of Texas the deed for a parcel of land set to house the new [12,000-square-foot Baptist Student Ministry building](#) in an April 18 ceremony in Waco.

The property, more than an acre in size, is located at the intersection of Daughtrey Avenue and 4th Street, adjacent to the university campus.

During the ceremony, hosted in the university's Hurd Welcome Center, Baylor President Linda Livingstone and BGCT Executive Director Julio Guarneri signed and exchanged documents to finalize the transfer of the future Baylor BSM site.

"What a significant milestone we reached," Guarneri said. "This action demonstrates the administration's and the university's commitment to fostering the spiritual life of students on the Baylor campus and to a continued strong partnership between our two entities.

"We are very grateful for this gift and believe it is an investment in the kingdom of God and in eternity. We are committed to being good stewards of this trust."

Initial \$3 million goal met

In accordance with a [2023 agreement between the related institutions](#), Baylor agreed to convey the land to Texas Baptists once an initial fundraising threshold of \$3 million was met.



Jerry Carlisle (left), president of Texas Baptists' Missions Foundation, visits with Baylor University President Linda Livingstone and BGCT Executive Director Julio Guarneri. (Texas Baptists Photo)

Jerry Carlisle, president of Texas Baptists' Missions Foundation, notified President Livingstone in March the campaign milestone had been achieved. Upon notification, officials worked to finalize the transfer, which culminated in handshakes and smiles at the signing.

"Today begins an exciting chapter in the long relationship between Baylor University and the Baptist General Convention of Texas as Baylor officially conveys a parcel of land to the BGCT for construction of a new Baptist Student Ministries Building," Livingstone said.

"The BSM center will provide another sacred space on our campus for Baylor students to grow spiritually, know God and make him known globally. It is an honor to join Dr. Julio Guarneri for this special ceremony that upholds Baylor's Christian mission and distinct place in higher education and further strengthens Baylor's historic ties to Texas Baptists."

God moving on the Baylor campus

Mark Jones, director of the Center for Collegiate Ministry with Texas Baptists, attended the signing and spoke of the Baylor BSM's emergence and the movement of God taking place on the university campus.



Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Julio Guarneri and Baylor University President Linda Livingstone shake hands after the university conveyed to Texas Baptists the deed to a parcel of land where the new Baylor Baptist Student Ministry facility will be built. (Texas Baptists Photo)

“Five years ago, Baylor and Texas Baptists reaffirmed the place of Baptist Student Ministry as having priority status as a student organization at Baylor,” Jones said. “BSM leadership, working with Baylor leaders as well as numerous pastors and volunteers from local churches, has seen a historic movement of God among Baylor students.”

Jones pointed to initiatives like FM72, a four-day prayer and worship experience on campus, and Pathway, a freshman-focused discipleship initiative, as examples of God's movement.

“The momentum of this movement of God is having an immediate impact on the experience these students have at Baylor as well as a generational impact that will be seen for years to come,” he said.

“A new building for the Baptist Student Ministry will be a vital place for training, worship and leadership collaboration.”

Seeking to raise additional \$6 million



Conceptual drawing of the new Baptist Student Ministry center on the Baylor University campus

The Missions Foundation, the group tasked with coordinating the fundraising effort for the expanding campus ministry, set the total cost of the capital campaign at \$7 million. An additional \$2 million also is being sought to provide an operating and maintenance endowment for the expanding campus ministry.

Carlisle attended the signing, along with TBMF vice presidents Steve Massey and Eric Wyatt. He expressed appreciation to Livingstone, Baylor University and the donors who helped realize the deed conveyance.

“The Missions Foundation is profoundly grateful for the generous donors who want to see a permanent platform for Texas Baptists to share the gospel on Baylor’s campus,” Carlisle said.

“We look forward to gathering the remaining \$4 million in gifts for the construction of the building, as well as \$2 million to endow the operation of the building.”

Will Bowden, director of the Baylor BSM, was also present for the ceremonial transfer. In January, Bowden gathered students and leaders to [pray over the property](#) and share the vision for the new facility.

The Baylor BSM is one of 137 campus ministries coordinated by Texas Baptists.

Additional information about the Baylor BSM, including renderings of the new facility, is available [here](#). To make a gift to support the campaign, contact Texas Baptists’ Missions Foundation at missionsfoundation@txb.org or (214) 828-5343.