

East Texas pastor nominee for BGCT 2nd vice president

June 28, 2024

Joseph Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church in Hughes Springs, will be nominated for second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas at Texas Baptists' annual meeting, Nov. 10-12 in Waco.

Clint Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Pleasant and a past chair of the BGCT Executive Board, announced his plans to nominate Adams.

"His love for the Lord, his church, his community and Texas Baptists shine through in everything he does," Davis said.

In his seven years as pastor at First Baptist Church in Hughes Springs, Adams has led the church to become "a vibrant, mission-focused congregation," Davis noted.

"Under Joseph's dynamic leadership, the church's commitment to spreading the gospel has flourished," he said. "His passion and vision have inspired the church community to extend their reach far beyond Hughes Springs."

During Adams' tenure at the church, its missions investment has grown from 2 percent to 10 percent of the annual church budget, Davis added.

Adams served five years on Texas Baptists' Missions Funding Council, and has played "a pivotal role in evaluating and supporting church planters," he continued.

"His efforts have led to the establishment of new churches in Washington and Wyoming, exemplifying his dedication to expanding the Baptist

mission,” Davis said.

Wants to ‘bridge the gap’

Adams, who was born in Germany to missionary parents, grew up primarily in New Mexico, where his father was a pastor.

First Baptist Church in Hughes Springs has worked in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention’s North American Mission Board to plant churches beyond Texas, and two of Adams’ brothers have served as church planters with NAMB.

“I want to try to help bridge the gap between the BGCT and NAMB,” he said. “Seeing that relationship go south hurts on a personal level.”

At the recent SBC annual meeting in Indianapolis, [NAMB President Kevin Ezell said](#) the agency will help Texas Baptist congregations start churches outside of Texas. However, it will not fund churches in Texas sponsored by singly-aligned BGCT churches, because the state convention has not affirmed the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message.

Adams hopes to provide representation in Texas Baptist life for East Texas, an area where many churches are affiliated with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. He also said he wants to show fellow pastors in his region “there’s room for everybody” in the BGCT.

Friends involved in [The Pastor’s Common](#), a network of Millennial and Gen Z Texas Baptist ministers, encouraged Adams to consider serving as a BGCT officer.

“A couple of us got together to talk about it. Joseph is a great representative of our younger pastors involved in Texas Baptist life,” said Jordan Villanueva, instructor of Christian studies at Howard Payne University and a former BGCT second vice president.

“Joseph is all about bringing folks together for the sake of the gospel.”

Before coming to Hughes Springs, Adams served eight years as associate pastor of Mountain Springs Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M.

He earned both his undergraduate degree and his Master of Leadership in Biblical Counseling degree from Liberty University.

Adams and his wife Lindsay have five children—Elliott, Noah, Emma, Parker and Walker.