

Villanueva nominee for BGCT second vice president

July 14, 2020

Jordan Villanueva, pastor of Indian Hills Baptist Church in Grand Prairie, will be nominated for second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Dennis Wiles, pastor of First Baptist Church in Arlington, announced his intention to nominate Villanueva in November during Texas Baptists' first online annual meeting.

Wiles called Villanueva "one of our finest young leaders in Texas Baptist life today" who has "distinguished himself as an excellent preacher and an outstanding pastor."

"Jordan has demonstrated his commitment to Texas Baptists through his commitment to our common mission causes, his leadership in a network of young Texas Baptist leaders and his service on the Executive Board of our convention," Wiles said.

"We are in a day where we need to acknowledge and hear from our young leaders. Jordan's voice represents many of these young leaders across Texas."

'Ambassador for the next generation'

Villanueva agreed to allow his nomination after talking with several peers who mentioned the BGCT's first online annual meeting as an opportune time to engage young church leaders and after consulting several mentors who encouraged him.

“I hope to be an ambassador for the next generation of Texas Baptists,” he said. “I hope that this would communicate that we do, in fact, have a seat at the table. I would love to see more on-ramps built for Millennials and Gen-Z to join the work of Texas Baptists.”

While the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic will continue to present challenges to congregations and to the BGCT in the months ahead, it also can be an opportunity for Texas Baptists to consider “what church looks like, what missions looks like and what evangelism looks like in the online world,” he added.

Villanueva called himself “a product of Texas Baptists” who grew up attending the Congreso conference for students and young adults, was baptized in a church Texas Baptists planted and graduated in 2013 from Howard Payne University.

He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and currently is a Ph.D. candidate there, studying church history with a focus on Baptist heritage.

Villanueva has been pastor at Indian Hills Baptist Church in Grand Prairie since 2018. Previously, he was youth pastor at Grace Temple Baptist Church in Dallas, youth ministry intern at First Baptist Church in El Paso and youth minister at Primera Iglesia Bautista in Brownwood.

In addition to serving on the BGCT Executive Board, he also has been involved with Texas Baptists’ Hispanic Education Initiative, the cultural engagement committee and the BGCT en Español planning team.

He and his wife Jamie have been married five years. She is a pre-Kindergarten teacher with the Grand Prairie Independent School District.

Editor’s Note: The 3rd paragraph from the end of the article was edited after originally posted to clarify the name of a church.