

Wright elected executive director search committee chair

March 21, 2023

DALLAS—The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board elected Wendell Wright as chair of the executive director search committee.

Wright, the director of church and denominational relations at Dallas Baptist University and a member of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, has served as a member of the executive director search committee since its formation last July.

As the new chair of the committee, he replaces David Mahfouz, pastor of First Baptist Church in Warren, who [relinquished his role as chair](#) and committee member in early March.

“The Texas Baptists executive director search committee expresses our heartfelt gratitude for the foundational leadership our previous chair, Dr. David Mahfouz, has provided these past seven months,” Wright said.

“As a committee tasked with an awesome responsibility, our confidence remains in the Lord who upholds, strengthens and guides our steps. We call upon Texas Baptists, and friends far and wide, to remain vigilant in prayer efforts as we seek the Lord’s direction to lead us to God’s choice for this critical role.”

Wright has served DBU in various roles, including director of DBU North, director of graduate recruitment, director of ministry engagement and director of recruitment and strategic partnerships.

Prior to his time at DBU, he was minister of music and education at Grace

Temple Baptist Church in Dallas.

Additionally, Suzanne Liner, member of First Baptist Church in Lubbock, was elected as vice-chair of the search committee and Heath Kirkwood, pastor of First Baptist Church in Lorena, was elected to fill the vacancy created when Mahfouz stepped down.

“The task of finding our next Texas Baptists executive director is of paramount significance, and having the right leadership during the search is vital moving forward,” said Bobby Contreras, pastor of Alamo Heights Baptist Church in San Antonio and chair of the BGCT Executive Board.

“I am thrilled Mr. Wendell Wright will be orchestrating the strong search committee team we have assembled. Mr. Wendell Wright is humble, skilled, wise and sensitive to God’s leading. I have full confidence in him and the search team as we all excitedly anticipate the individual God has chosen to lead Texas Baptists.”

The executive director search committee was [formed](#) after David Hardage announced his [retirement](#) following more than 10 years of service. The committee is comprised of seven Executive Board members and eight at-large members. An advisory group also provides advice to the committee at its request but does not vote to nominate.

The committee’s next scheduled meeting is scheduled for later this week. Committee updates may be found online at txb.org/edsc.