

September 1, 2026

Dear Churches of the Calhoun Baptist Association,

It is with great joy and thanksgiving to God that we announce the calling and hiring of Dr. Tim Smith as the new Director of Missions for the Calhoun Baptist Association. Tim's start date will be October 5, 2026.

We are grateful for the Lord's faithfulness throughout this search process. We have prayed, listened, sought counsel, and carefully considered the leadership needs of our association. Through it all, we have been reminded that "*the heart of a person plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps*" (Proverbs 16:9). We believe the Lord has been directing our steps toward this moment and has brought Dr. Smith to us at the right time.

Dr. Smith brings a wealth of ministry experience, a passion for the local church, a heart for pastors and church leaders, and a deep desire to see churches work together for the sake of the Gospel. We believe his gifts, experience, and commitment to Christ will be a tremendous blessing to our churches and to the ministry of the Calhoun Baptist Association.

As an association, we believe our greatest days are not behind us but ahead of us. We are praying and working toward a future marked by greater collaboration, stronger churches, encouraged pastors, and a renewed commitment to reaching our communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Smith will not simply be serving an association; he will be serving alongside our churches. Our desire is to come together as churches—not to compete with one another, but to collaborate for the Kingdom; not to focus on what separates us, but to celebrate what unites us in Christ; and not simply to maintain what has been, but to prayerfully pursue what God desires to do through us.

We ask each church to join us in welcoming Dr. Smith and his family to the Calhoun Baptist Association. Please pray for him as he begins this new assignment. Pray for wisdom, strength, discernment, and a clear vision for the days ahead. Most of all, pray that the Lord would use him to encourage pastors, strengthen churches, and help us fulfill our shared mission of making disciples and advancing the Gospel. We are excited about what God is going to do through the churches of the Calhoun Baptist Association in the days ahead.

This is more than a new leader. It is an opportunity for a new season of ministry. May we move forward together, trusting the Lord, loving one another, serving our communities, and keeping the Gospel of Jesus Christ at the center of all we do.

With gratitude and great anticipation,
Jeff Knight (Chairman), Zach Van Gieson (Secretary), Mary Carr, Scotty Duke, Donnie Sills
Director of Missions Search Team
Calhoun Baptist Association