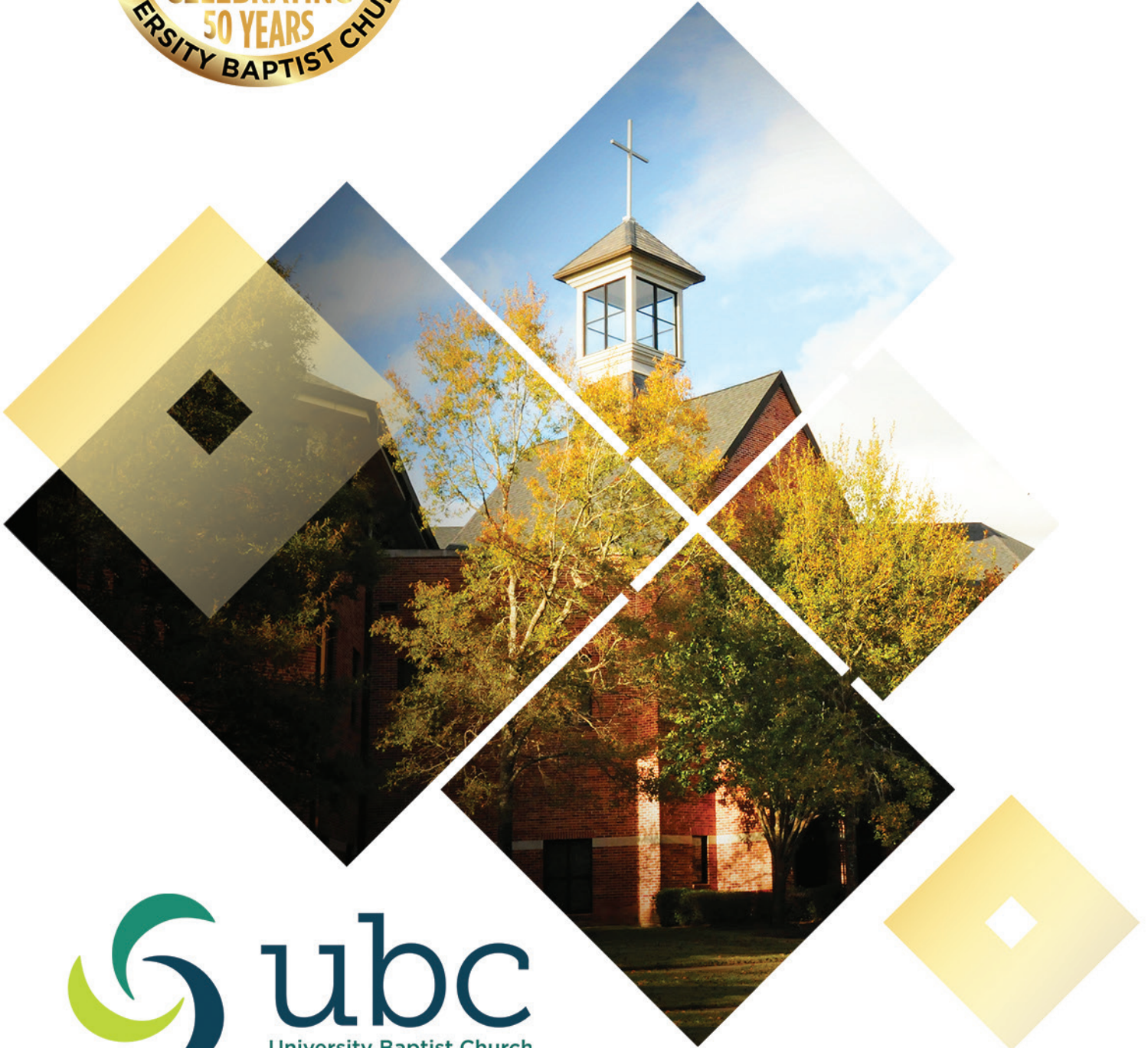


UNIVERSITY BAPTIST CHURCH



ubc
University Baptist Church

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Welcome & Introductions



Welcome to University Baptist Church, commonly known around our community as UBC. We are a vibrant community of Christ's followers nestled in the heart of the Clear Lake area of southeast Houston and Harris County.

This profile was initially developed in the summer of 2021 as we searched for a new Senior Pastor. Now, nearly two years after calling Dr. William Rushing to lead and shepherd UBC and in preparation for the celebration of our 50th anniversary, we've decided to revise and update our profile to present a current picture of our UBC family. Many of the words for this profile come directly from the people of UBC who participated in three congregational conversations. We also received hundreds of responses from an online congregational survey and input from our pastors, associate pastors, directors, and staff. Lay leaders from the UBC Transition Team and the Executive Council provided critical insights along the way.

UBC is located in the center of many dynamic industries, and our church of more than 1500 active members reflects these communities. We are near NASA's Johnson Space Center and enjoy a close relationship with that community of astronauts, flight directors, engineers, and scientists, many of whom serve within our church family. We are also close to the nation's largest petrochemical complex, world-class healthcare centers, biomedical research institutions, and a robust education community with large public and private school systems, universities, and community colleges. UBC is a capable group of people who worship, pray, study, and serve together, seeking to experience our full potential in Christ. We are intentional about our Great Commission calling to make disciples and devote quality time to Bible study and prayer.

We invite you to visit our website at ubc.org to learn more about our worship services (in person and live-streamed), ministries, events, our podcast, Living UBC, and much more. You can find us on social media by searching for [ubchouston](#) on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

In the pages that follow, you will see and read even more about our core values and where we devote our energies, as told by the people of UBC. Whether you are new to UBC, a founder, or a long-time member, we invite you to connect with us as we work together to fulfill our Great Commission vision and mission.



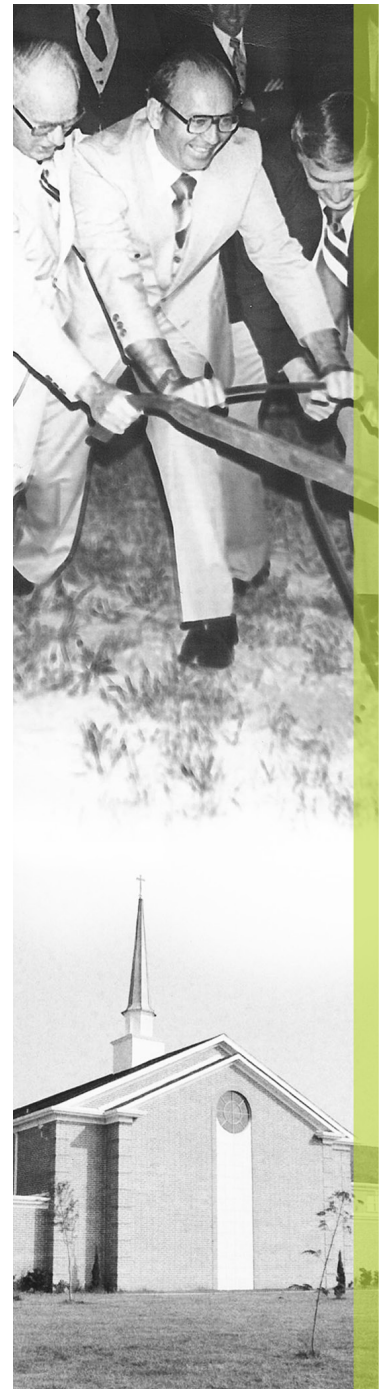
Beginning with Prayer

In 1974, the prayerful vision of five dedicated families became a reality when University Baptist Church was formally constituted in a service at Whitcomb Elementary School. A.W. "Bill" McGregor was called as a part-time pastor in September 1974. Tragedy struck the young church the week after Christmas when Bill McGregor, his wife Shirley, and their daughters Kathleen and Colleen were killed in the crash of their small plane. After an interim period, the church called Dr. Henry Adrion as the first full-time pastor in 1976 and then called George Archer as Minister of Music and Education the following year.

Groundbreaking for the first building occurred on December 19, 1976. The church membership at that time was 252, and since our church had no credit history, 51 members signed personal endorsements to receive financing. The church continued to grow as Dr. David Slover followed Dr. Adrion as pastor in 1984, the year of UBC's 10th Anniversary. Our current Worship Center was completed in the fall of 1985.

Dr. Robert Creech became its third full-time pastor in April 1987, following a professorship at HBU. Dr. Creech's unique talents as a scholar-teacher resulted in a deepening sense of identity and purpose for the congregation and cooperative mission endeavors. Under his leadership, the men's mission team began actively working with the Navajo people to build churches on the reservation, completing the first church in 1990. Shortly after, the women of UBC joined the effort, leading to the first Vacation Bible School, followed by sports camps and other youth activities. The three-story Learning Center was built in 1996 after a successful capital campaign.

As the new millennium dawned, the people of UBC became even more committed to being the hands and feet of Christ in the world. Texas Baptist Men became a major partner in disaster relief training and deployment. Evidence of a new spirit of involvement in the local community allowed for additional partnerships to be developed with various crisis and social ministries. The UBC Foundation was chartered in 2001 to financially expand the reach of UBC by contributing to scholarships and community projects.



Some of our members traveled the globe to participate in international mission projects in Southeast Asia, South Africa, Central America, Europe, Russia, and elsewhere. Others felt called to become career missionaries in various locations around the world. Dr. Creech departed in 2009 after almost twenty-two years of service to accept a professorship at Truett Seminary of Baylor University.

In 2010, our church rejoiced in the calling of Dr. Steve Laufer. During Dr. Laufer's ten years at UBC, the church continued its focus on missions at home and abroad, with as many as thirty mission trips happening in some years. Dr. Laufer became known for pastoral training at some of these locations. Also during his tenure, the UBC campus continued to mature through renovations and additional facilities.

The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-2021 taught the congregation new ways to minister remotely and made us reevaluate how best to be a source of community for the people of the Bay Area. UBC quickly adapted to virtual worship services and developed strategies to equip the congregation to participate and support each other during those trying times.

In 2022, Dr. William Rushing was called as UBC's fifth senior pastor. Dr. Rushing has continued to emphasize the core concepts of Belonging, Preparing, and Serving. These three points of emphasis continue to help shape how we carry out our calling and mission as a part of the family of God. Belonging describes our family responsibility to connect with one another through vibrant worship, authentic fellowship, and genuine concern for one another's needs. Preparing reflects the ongoing process of growing closer to Christ through the regular practice of spiritual disciplines. Serving involves our efforts to fulfill the calling of the great commission by serving our community and the world with the compassion of Jesus and the message of the gospel.



Our Mission, Faith, & Values



UBC has always understood its mission to be a Great Commission church. Over the years, we have expressed that in different ways and highlighted different aspects of UBC life, our values, and what we offer to our community and members. We have always focused on reaching out to invite others into the family and to help lead them to experience their full potential in Christ in some way.

UBC members are intentional people. Over the decades, we have developed and followed a strategy that emerged from wanting to emphasize lay leadership. Our strategy of Belonging, Preparing, and Serving (B.P.S), has communicated a means to fulfilling our vision since the early 2000s. Today, we say that we are “Becoming a family of Christ followers, connecting people with God’s kingdom.” Our sense of family, our styles of worship, Bible studies, ministries, and missions come from these themes.

We describe our faith as that of a covenant community of baptized believers who choose to follow God in faith and practice. Our members are united in covenant together to practice worship, spiritual disciplines, and service. The church is also an autonomous body, and those in covenant with the church are equally responsible for that body. As a covenant community constantly growing in our understanding of God’s ways, we seek to be His presence both locally and globally. We value compassion and we seek to equip people for service. UBC refers to the Baptist Faith and Message, 1963 as an expression of our commonly held beliefs.

Unity Through Diversity

We have a long-standing desire for unity of spirit at UBC, even as we may hold significantly different theological and political viewpoints and have emerged from many different denominational backgrounds. These differences sometimes create disagreements and, less often, tension within our UBC family. Despite that, we continue to aspire to unity while acknowledging our diversity. We desire to be the light of the world [Matthew 5:14] and demonstrate that we are all joined in our common desire to become a family of Christ followers, connecting people with God’s Kingdom, even when we see the world through different lenses.

Denominational Life

UBC is a sending church. We have directly commissioned numerous full-time missionaries who are either independently pursuing their mission calling or have affiliated with various mission organizations. UBC continues to partner with numerous people groups, organizations, and churches around the country and internationally to be the hands and feet of Jesus. UBC is a leading partner with the Union Baptist Association (UBA), serving the greater Houston area, and we contribute to and through the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) to support Texas missions and Truett Seminary. UBC has been dually aligned for over twenty years with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).

Our Congregation & Community

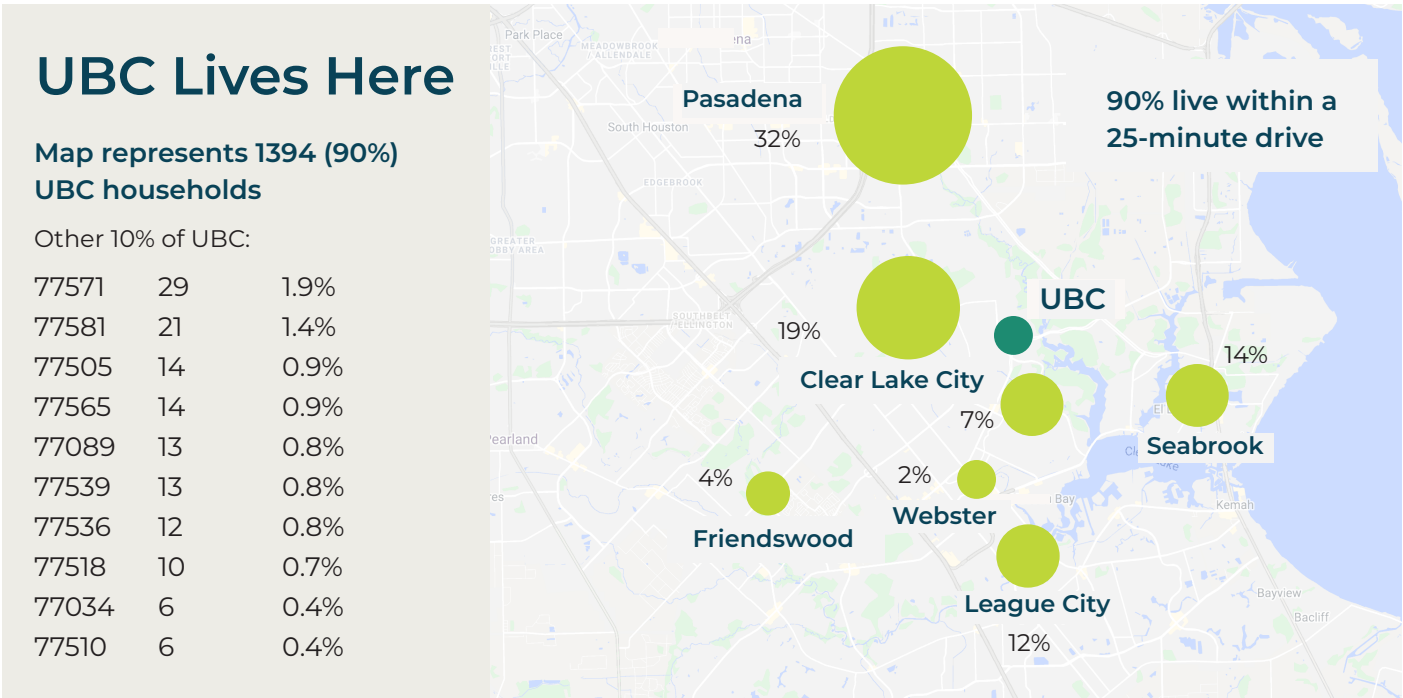
UBC shares common ground with many suburban Baptist churches in faith and worship, yet we believe that God established a congregation here in this community to fulfill his unique purpose. We are a suburban, community church located in the heart of southeast Harris County on 20 acres of land. Our campus is well-developed, serving more than 1500 regularly attending members and visitors. Located off Bay Area Boulevard, UBC's location is within a large residential area of single-family homes and a few miles from the I-45 corridor between Houston and Galveston. Some descriptions of the greater Clear Lake area and UBC's location include:

- UBC is located approximately 25 miles southeast of downtown Houston in the Clear Lake area which includes: Pasadena, Clear Lake City, League City, Nassau Bay, Seabrook, Kemah, El Lago, Taylor Lake Village, Webster, and other areas of southeast Harris County and northern Galveston County.
- The Clear Lake area's primary industries include aerospace, petrochemical, bio-medical, education, maritime, and tourism.
- Over 66% of the residents of Clear Lake hold a white-collar job, and more than 94% have more than a high school education. Significantly, more than 84% of UBC members have one or more college degrees.
- NASA's Johnson Space Center, approximately two miles from UBC, employs 3,000 civil servants and 12,000 aerospace contractors.
- University of Houston, Clear Lake is ¼ mile from UBC and has a total enrollment of over 9,000 students including a large international student body. There are many additional large community colleges and universities in the region.





Over 90% of our families live within a 25-minute drive of the UBC campus, providing a large diverse community footprint. Many residents of our larger community do not have any relationship with a local church. The UBC congregation is made up of believers of all ages who have committed to making a difference in the lives of those with whom they come in contact every day. Our church has a strong family foundation, yet with fewer single adults on average (around 10% of the membership) than our community (almost 45% of the adults in our community are single). The singles in our area span a wide range of ages and life circumstances. UBC enjoys a growing multicultural representation and leadership across the congregation as well as in our small groups. UBC en Español is actively involved in worship, Bible study, and ministry that is tailored for Spanish speakers in the area. Other groups such as Crossing Cultures, are designed to celebrate a variety of cultural traditions while gathering to study the Bible together. We continue to seek partnerships and opportunities to reach additional ethnic populations that represent 30% of the area population.



UBC Facilities and Master Plan

UBC enjoys a beautiful twenty-acre campus in the heart of Clear Lake. Our 1200-seat Worship Center is connected to a 300-seat Chapel/multipurpose venue and our Learning Center, which is a hub for our family ministries. UBC offers a weekday preschool program to the community and hosts a large homeschool co-op. Area schools and other community organizations frequently use our facilities for music competitions, performances, and various other large and small events. The grounds continue to be developed and now include a beautiful outdoor pavilion, a sports field, three playgrounds, volleyball courts, and our Mission Training Center.

Renovations of all the program area facilities as well as the construction of the UBC Pavilion and Mission Training Center have been completed at a cost of several million dollars. All these improvements have been made by the generous contributions of the people of UBC annually without a capital campaign.

UBC continues to look to the future and maintains a living master plan with preliminary plans to complete the park-like character of the grounds, including the completion of a full walking/jogging pathway around the campus. In the future, we hope to add a dynamic welcome center entrance, renovate our existing worship center, and much more.



Serving Together with Intention

UBC created its unique form of governance by called pastors and lay-leaders in the early 2000s following a decade of focus on intentionally fulfilling the mission of UBC. The building blocks for this style included ideas around lay mobilization, creating a tiered decision-making structure, and a more effective and efficient organization. UBC is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit religious corporation and therefore has formal officers in the Trustees, Treasurer, and Secretary. Both men and women serve in all lay leadership roles, including the Executive Council and Trustees. UBC ordains both men and women for vocational ministry.

There are two standing committees: the Executive Council and the Nominating Committee. Other advisory teams and/or task forces may be created for a defined purpose (explained in the by-laws), and ministry teams may be formed at any time with pastor or staff support.

The **Trustees**, along with the Treasurer and Secretary, are the officers of the church.

The nine lay member Trustees are legally responsible to act on behalf of the members of the church. They are responsible for maintaining the by-laws and ensuring that everyone else plays their part and follows the approved church policies. They sign for the property, debt, and legal matters, audit all things, and represent the membership. The Trustees are the corporate foundation of UBC.

The **Nominating Committee (NC)** consists of six (6) members; the Senior Pastor, one of the senior Executive Council members, one of the senior Trustees, and three at-large, lay members. This integrated staff/lay committee fills vacancies on the Trustees and Executive Council as well as for Treasurer, Secretary, and any active committee or task force.

The **Executive Council (EC)** is charged with making decisions on behalf of the congregation to carry out the mission of the church in coordination with the Senior Pastor.

The Executive Council is made up of seven members including the Senior Pastor, and six lay members. The strategic focus of this unified team is to intentionally turn vision into strategy and then implement it through the budgets, facilities, staffing, programs, missions, and other resources.

The members of the Executive Council also act as the Senior Pastor's supervisor by evaluating his performance and managing compensation.

The **Senior Pastor is called by the church** and is responsible for leading the congregation to function as a New Testament church. He has charge of the welfare and oversight of the church and conducts religious services, administers the ordinances, ministers to the needs of the members of the congregation and community, and performs other pastoral duties. The Senior Pastor leads the development and communicates the church vision to the membership.

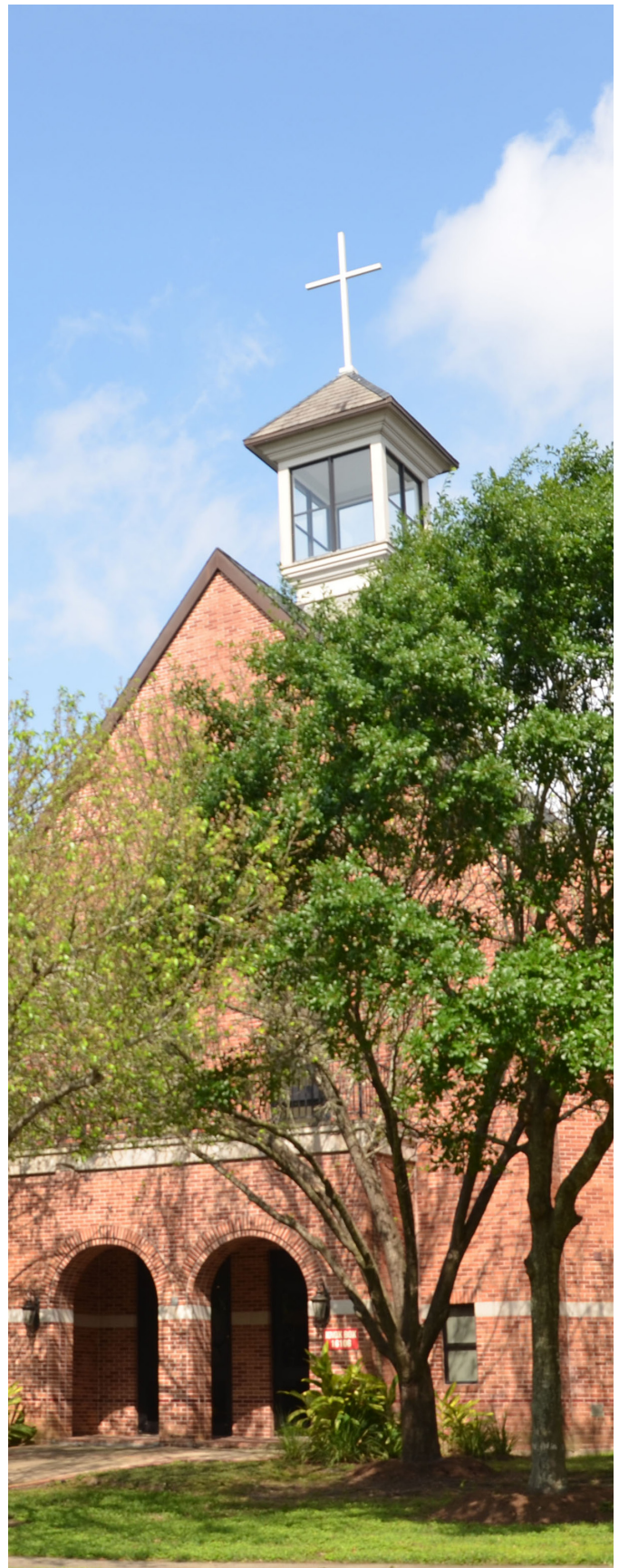
He leads the congregation, the organizations, and the church staff to perform their tasks in fulfilling the mission of the church.

UBC Involvement and Finances

UBC is an established and stable church of around 1000 involved families who are committed followers of Christ. Total worship and small group attendance have increased over the past several years, with between 900 and 1200 people onsite most weekends. Like many churches, onsite weekly attendance declined in 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our adult Bible study groups met online temporarily to support each other and study together. Online worship participation started strong and grew as we launched our live, streaming worship services. Since returning to normal onsite activities, we have seen a continued growing interest in our live-streamed worship services even as our in-person numbers have rebounded.

We see continuous growth and energy in members' involvement in church and their ministry to the community. This is often expressed in crisis intervention (for example, in natural disasters), but also in consistently serving the needs of the community. The breadth of skills and expertise in the congregation lends itself well to those efforts.

Finances are consistently strong and ample to supply the needs of the church. The church anticipates meeting its 2024 budget of \$3.8 million and is currently free of all long-term debt. UBC contributes 10% of all unrestricted budget giving to missions, and nearly 20% of total giving to missions through additional mission-designated contributions. Over half (54%) of the budget is provided by those who are between the ages of 40-64; while 38% of the budget is given by those 65 and older. Finances are provided by a wide range of ages for a church of this size.



Ministry Leaders

The pastoral and ministry staff of UBC today consists of more than forty full and part-time professionals including our Senior Pastor, three additional called Pastors, Associate Pastors, Ministry Directors, and support staff. These men and women bring a wealth of experience in addition to their passion for serving Christ in vocational ministry, and all are dedicated to fulfilling the mission of UBC.



DR. WILL RUSHING, Senior Pastor

Will began serving at UBC in April 2022 and has previously served churches in South Mississippi, the Florida Panhandle, and Northwest Alabama. He grew up in Fort Walton Beach, Florida and became a follower of Jesus at age fifteen. Following a call into ministry, Will received his BA from William Carey College, an MDiv from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and a DMin from Truett Seminary at Baylor University. Will's doctoral work focused on developing a process for churches to discover and meet needs in the community. Will and his wife, Kate, are the parents of Isabelle, Anna, and Luke. They have also served as foster parents through the Alabama Baptist Children's Home. Their family enjoys watching the Atlanta Braves play baseball and making regular trips to Walt Disney World.



AARON GLENN, Pastor of Serving Ministries

Aaron joined UBC in December 2014 after ten years of service with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Los Angeles. In LA, Aaron and his wife Stephanie, worked among immigrants, human trafficking survivors, and international students and their families. In his current role as Pastor of Serving Ministries, Aaron assesses volunteer programs, manages partnerships, and provides consultation about the best practices for serving activities of UBC. Aaron earned an MDiv from Baylor's Truett Seminary and an MSW from the University of Southern California. Aaron loves discovering the diverse food culture of Houston and everywhere he travels.





DR. BART MORRISON, Pastor of Worship Ministries

Bart began serving at UBC in 2019. He has a passion for sharing the gospel through the creative arts and served in ministry at churches in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas before coming to Texas. He has a BME from Oklahoma Baptist University, an MM from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and an EdD from Abilene Christian University with post-grad study at the University of Michigan, Oberlin Conservatory, and Julliard. In 1988, he married Dr. Becky Morrison, Chair of Music Education at Dallas Baptist University. They have two kids, both Ouachita Baptist University grads and gainfully employed.



RANDY COX, Associate Pastor of Family Ministries

Randy has a BS in Sociology from Texas A&M and an MDiv from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Randy has served in six churches across the greater Houston area since 1973. He has been a member of the UBC staff since 2017. He and his wife, Donna, are both native Houstonians and have been married since 1974. Together, they have two children and five grandchildren. Randy enjoys taking long walks on the beach, drinking coffee with friends, and coaching others in leadership, behavioral awareness, and mental wellness.



MELISSA DUTTON, Associate Pastor of Preschool Ministries

After working in public education for 15 years, Melissa began serving at UBC in August of 2002 as a Weekday Ministries Teacher. She quickly moved into the role of Director of Weekday Ministries where she served until 2020. During the pandemic, Melissa felt the Lord calling her into her current position, Associate Pastor of Preschool Ministries, where she could work with young families to partner with them to help lay the foundations of faith in the hearts of young children. Melissa grew up in a small town in the Texas Panhandle (Littlefield) and graduated from Angelo State University with a BS in Elementary Education. Later, she graduated from the University of Houston Clear Lake with an MS in Educational Mid-Management. Melissa has been married to her husband, Jeff, since 1988 and they have two children. In 2022, they joined the grandparents club and they are loving every minute of this season of life!





JENNIFER EBELL, Associate Pastor of Children's Ministries

Jennifer and her family have been at UBC since 2008. She has served in the Children's Ministry since 2020 and has led the UBC Dominican Republic Family Mission Trip. Jennifer has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. She and her husband, Steve, have been married since 1996 and have two children. Jennifer has a passion for helping children know Christ and grow in their faith.



BEN SANDSTROM, Associate Pastor of Contemporary Worship Ministries

Ben has spent much of his career leading worship and developing strong teams. He began his UBC journey in 2013 and is passionate about God's Kingdom and engaging communities of faith. Ben fulfills his purpose by growing a healthy team culture across his adult and student groups while building authentic relationships. He is currently enrolled in the MDiv program at Knox Theological Seminary.



GUY CAGLE, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

Guy came to UBC in May 2019 to serve as the Director of Senior Adults. As a native of Louisiana, he graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a BFA in Church Music/Voice. He attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and graduated with a Master of Church Music degree. Guy is married to LaRinda Horan. His favorite hobbies include camping, hiking, hunting, gardening and musical theater.





FREDDY CORONADO, Director of UBC en Español

UBC en Español was started by Freddy and his wife, Sharon, to serve the Spanish-speaking population of Clear Lake, serving their spiritual, physical, and social needs. Freddy works as a bi-vocational pastor and has dedicated his life to spreading the gospel, including being an overseas missionary to Hispanic and Arabic cultures. Freddy is committed to furthering his knowledge of the bible and received his Professor in Bible degree in 2023.



LAURA DAVIS, Director of Weekday Ministries

Laura has been a member of UBC since 2005 and a Weekday Ministries staff member since 2006. She served as co-director of Weekday for three years and has been Director of Weekday Ministries since 2020, in addition to serving as UBC's Safety Coordinator. Laura received a BS in Political Science from Texas A&M University in College Station. She and her husband, Ernie, have two children: Joshua and Hannah. In their free time, they love to travel and spend time with friends.



CANDACE GRIFFITHE, Director of Women's Ministries

A Texas native, Candace graduated from Texas A&M University and St. Mary's University School of Law. She has worked in the Texas House of Representatives, United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, Vinson and Elkins L.L.P., and the University of Cincinnati Foundation. While never practicing law as a profession, her gifts and skills led her to marketing and non-profit work and eventually into ministry at UBC in 2021. She has been a member of UBC and has resided in the Clear Lake area with her husband, Mark, and son, Will, since 2014.





KATHY OZENBERGER, Director of Pastoral Care

Kathy Ozenberger is dedicated to giving spiritual guidance to all who are a part of UBC through her work as UBC’s Director of Pastoral Care. A certified chaplain, Kathy holds a BS in Elementary Education from Judson College (Marion, Alabama) and an MRE from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Kathy has been married to Keith since meeting in an emergency room in 1996. They have one adult son and one grandchild.



STEVE JOHNSON, Director of Communications

Proud to be a native “Michigander,” Steve served on the pastoral staff at churches in Michigan and Colorado before spending 11 years with CBF Global Missions and Communications. He and Elizabeth settled in Houston and at UBC in 2001 and joined the UBC staff in 2006. He has a BS in Music from the University of Colorado at Denver, an MDiv/CE from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, and an MA in Digital Media Studies from the University of Houston Clear Lake. Steve is an avid sports fan with a wide assortment of creative hobbies.



KYLE WILSON, Facilities Manager

Kyle served as a Student Pastor at First Baptist Church Corsicana for seven years before joining the UBC family in the summer of 2007. Kyle previously served at Lakepointe Church (Rockwall, TX), First Baptist Church (Rockwall, TX), and First Baptist Church (Amarillo, TX). He earned his BA in Biblical Studies from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. Kyle and his wife, Mary Michele, have been blessed to raise four children at UBC: Rylee, Kade, Lily, and Grey. In his leisure time, Kyle enjoys bird hunting, training competitive field trial retrievers, and watching “a few nerdy Sci-Fi shows.”



Belonging

UBC Worship

The people of UBC worship God every Sunday in a variety of ways. The anthems of praise and worship that we sing capture the heart of our church as we celebrate God's faithfulness and our gratitude for the work of Christ in our lives.

In every aspect of worship, we strive for excellence, not perfection, understanding that perfection was only accomplished by our Savior. We seek to share our gifts and best efforts on any given day for the glory of God.

We want to lead our church by empowering each group, preschoolers through senior adults, to lead us in worship with their God-given musical talents. We want people to be able to come to UBC and find a place of service in the worship ministry where they can blossom, becoming more than they can think or imagine, all for God's glory.

Our desired outcome for all areas of the Worship Ministry is for people to be impacted by a greater and more unified praise of God. We also endeavor to deepen our understanding of who God is and what he has done through Jesus Christ, so that we might serve him better and prepare for our eternity of praising our Heavenly Father.

Traditional Worship

Our Traditional Worship service happens onsite and online at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. This approach to worship is a beloved hallmark of UBC. We take Psalm 150 as our foundation and "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." With that in mind, many in our church use their gifts to lead in worship, including an adult choir of over one hundred members, an orchestra of more than forty players, seven handbell choirs, and age-graded choirs from preschool through high school. The largest choir at UBC, however, is our congregation, and when they sing, it is dynamic, energetic, and robust because of their desire to sing their praises to the Father.





Contemporary Worship

At 11:00 a.m. each Sunday, we gather for dynamic, contemporary worship, offered in person and via livestream. This service offers a way for worshippers to bring praise to God in a more casual, comfortable environment regardless of worship background or preference. The environment and music are used to enhance and widen the worship experience and connect people with God in a corporate setting.

Sound of Light, our contemporary worship band, is full of gifted UBC musicians who strongly desire to empower the church through genuine, heartfelt praise to God. Their original songs are the products of revelation from God's Word, personal struggles, and hearts overwhelmed by his goodness and faithfulness.



UBC en Español

A 11:00 a.m. each Sunday, folks gather in the Chapel for a worship service fully in Spanish. This group of people come together as an extension of our worship ministry to serve those who are more comfortable worshipping and hearing the Word taught in Spanish. There is a diversity of nationalities and cultures within this group, as each person comes together to worship God authentically.



Pastoral Care

From its beginning, UBC has been a community of Christ followers committed to caring for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others. Pastoral Care is a foundational responsibility shared between the UBC Staff, Deacons, and UBC members, living out a shared value, “Every person is a minister, a missionary, and a priest.”

Today the care of the congregation plays an active role in the day-to-day life of the UBC family. The ministry is guided by our Director of Pastoral Care, who, alongside other pastors coordinates and leads care ministries. All pastors and associate pastors participate in a monthly rotating system so that a Pastor-on-Call is always available to address immediate needs.

Ministry Teams continue to be strong and active in supporting the pastoral care needs of the congregation. Deacon-led teams minister to those who are homebound or in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, recovering at home, or anticipating surgeries or treatments. Other deacon-led teams and lay-led teams reach out to the grieving and to those who need spiritual guidance.



Preparing



The UBC mission statement begins with an emphasis on family. Family Ministries encompasses all ages of our congregation - Preschool, Children, Students, and Adults. These ministries are strengthened through hundreds of volunteers working together to provide opportunities for growth and fellowship. Some programs include: Bible study groups, serving opportunities, and recreational engagement for each stage of life, and intergenerational opportunities to connect people with God's Kingdom.



Preschool

At UBC, we believe a child's spiritual journey should begin at birth. We want to partner with parents and families as they build a solid spiritual foundation in the lives of their preschoolers (birth through PreK-4). Each Sunday morning, we teach Biblical truths at an age-appropriate level in a safe, loving classroom environment. Beyond the classroom, we offer many other fun, loving, and Christ-centered activities for preschoolers and their families.

UBC Preschool Ministries also supports parents of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in various ways, including a Weekday program, Right at Home Moms (Bible study for mothers modifying their work schedule or leaving the workplace to stay home) and Embrace Grace/Embrace Life (Bible study and support networks for moms of all ages coping with unplanned pregnancies).



Weekday Ministries

Weekday Ministries is a preschool program open to the community for ages six months to four years. We strive to provide a safe, happy, and developmentally appropriate place for each child to cultivate their unique talents during the formative infant, toddler, and preschool years. Our classes are intentionally small, with two teachers per class to allow for one-on-one connections with each child. We believe children learn best through play, so to promote experiential learning, we organize our classrooms in learning centers around a weekly theme. Children explore the theme and the academics that flow through it as they move through the learning centers.

We believe that by ministering to young children, we can also minister to their families. We endeavor to provide experiences for children to build a positive self-image, to develop socialization skills that will assist them in a school environment, and to encourage an appreciation and awareness of God's love.



Children

Kids matter at UBC! We are committed to providing a fun, safe and Spirit-led environment for our kids as we help them learn to understand the gospel. We partner with parents as they lead their children to become followers of Jesus.

At 9:30 am on Sundays, kids meet in grade level groups to learn Biblical truths and build community with one another. At 11:00 am, they gather in The Hangar for Kids' Church- a unique worship experience designed specifically for kids. This high-energy, fun worship time includes Bible study, life application, singing, games, skits and more.

UBC supports and encourages kids to live out faith in Christ through a variety of special activities. During the fall and spring, kids can be part of Children's Handbells, Children's Choir, Kidz Jam (Jesus & Me), Royal Ambassadors, and Girls in Action. In the summer, kids can participate in Children's Camp, "Summer Fun" activities, and VBS. VBS at UBC is a week-long powerhouse of worship, teaching, and fun that draws in volunteers and hundreds of kids from UBC and the community.





Students

Student Ministries at UBC includes intermediate and high school students, grades 6-12. Our goal is to connect students to Christ. We work through every facet of our students' lives with the hope that we can make UBC's Student Ministry the axis point for each of our students. Our volunteers offer faith-building small groups and musical groups, but we also help our students see their involvement in band, sports, schools, and clubs as opportunities to be the incarnate hands and feet of Christ, always connected back to the Church as their main spiritual and social center.



In addition to Sunday morning Bible study groups, there are multiple music, fellowship, Bible study, games, and mission opportunities. Periodic events like student retreats, camps, mission trips, and our annual Vision weekend give our students amazing ways to engage with and serve others in Houston, throughout the U.S., and around the world.



Adult

UBC Adult Ministries seeks to help all adults grow as Christ's disciples and move toward experiencing their full potential in Christ, with a primary emphasis on involving members and guests in Weekend Bible Study (WBS). These small groups of people meet weekly for Bible study and are devoted to making Jesus and His love known to everyone they encounter. The groups also help all those involved find their specific place to connect and belong with others, grow in God's Word and the disciplines of the Christian faith. Each adult group challenges all involved to find their calling in the Kingdom of God through numerous opportunities to serve in the local and global church.



Women

At UBC, we encourage women to come just as they are, to connect and be a part of a community with Christ at the center. We have many opportunities for women of every age and stage to gather and learn together through Bible study groups that meet during the week. There are also four women-only groups that meet for Bible study and fellowship on Sunday mornings.

In the Fall of 2023, Women's Ministries kicked off "Rooted," a weekly gathering of women every Tuesday night for varying activities during the month. Throughout the year, there are many ways women can connect with each other and form community through events such as Fall Kick Off, the annual Tapestry Dinner, and retreats. Serving is also important to our ladies, so Stitches

of Love and Illumination Arts Ministry are great places to get plugged into serving, as well as volunteer teams and happenings promoted throughout the year. The UBC website and "Women of UBC" Facebook page are great places to learn about everything going on with our wonderful women.

Boomers/Primetimers

The Boomers/Primetimers ministry at UBC is designed to minister to ages 60 and up by focusing on the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of senior adults. We reach out through a variety of events, programs, day trips, and monthly luncheons or dinners that are entertaining, family building, and provide valuable information on health and life matters. We regularly host large events that include invitations to the community as well as the Boomers/Primetimers of UBC and provide opportunities to connect to other UBC service ministries and mission projects.





Serving

UBC has been a mission-minded church since the beginning. In recent years, we have sought to be a missional church that not only supports missions but hears and acts on the specific invitation to join in the work of God and to “go” out into our community and around the world. This goes hand in hand with our desire to equip the congregation so that good intentions become tangible good works and good news.

Caring for Our Community

UBC has a rich history of reaching out to meet basic human needs within the community and responding in times of crisis. We partner with key area ministries such as Anchor Point, Bay Area Turning Point, the Crisis Pregnancy Center, The Bridge Over Troubled Waters, and the Clear Lake Food Pantry. We work with prison ministries, social ministries with troubled teens, and other strategic alliances engaging through our internal ministry initiatives like Angel Tree, the Practical Care Ministry, Walden Community Garden, and others. We strive for an ongoing spirit of involvement in the local community to share the light of Christ.



Disaster Response

Living on the Gulf Coast, we have had many opportunities to respond to the needs of people hit hard by natural disasters in our region. UBC has responded significantly with a well-equipped Disaster Relief Team and a noteworthy ability to organize and lead teams. These men and women reach out to victims of disasters, organize relief efforts, coordinate with area government and volunteer organizations, and offer encouragement and a helping hand. We are a problem-solving church by nature and stand ready to jump into action when needed.

UBC’s team is affiliated with Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief Ministry and deploys to help in both national and international disasters. All participants, men and women, receive Yellow Cap (introductory) training, with additional specialized training available in Chainsaw, Cleanout, Mass-Feeding, and other skills. UBC continues to invest in the equipment and training to be able to respond, including our new Mission Training Center which has been a critical resource to equip and house disaster response teams.



Missions

UBC has a dynamic mission history. We are a strong contributor and leader in the Union Baptist Association and in the Baptist General Convention of Texas. UBC dedicates 10% of all unrestricted gifts to missions. Our heritage includes national and global missions through the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

UBC is its own sending organization as well! For over thirty years, UBC building teams have constructed churches in Native American communities in Arizona and New Mexico. UBC members frequently travel internationally to many continents in large, organized groups, or small teams to dig water wells, lead Bible studies, teach new pastors, provide medical services, equip teachers, and build or renovate churches. Many from UBC have also become career missionaries abroad.



Deacons and Ordination

The **Fellowship of Deacons** was established at UBC to continue the scriptural mandates for which the office of deacon was created by the apostles in the early days of the Christian church. We believe that deacons can fulfill this purpose by identifying, developing, and implementing ministries that address “the unmet critical pastoral care needs of UBC members and constituents.” Some of the responsibilities of UBC deacons (men and women) include:

- Assisting the pastoral staff in ministering to the needs of the congregation.
- Relieving the pastoral staff of certain routine duties to allow the pastoral staff to “give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word.”
- Overseeing and assisting with the delivery of the ordinances.
- Raising, by example, the level of spirituality, unity of purpose, and cohesiveness of the local church.

The Fellowship of Deacons is not a corporate decision-making body at UBC.



UBC Foundation

The University Baptist Church of Houston Foundation, Inc. was chartered in 2001 as a special stewardship vehicle, giving student scholarships and supporting ministries and missions at UBC and beyond. It is funded by proceeds from its annual golf tournament, “Dine out to Donate” style events, individual donations, and legacy gifts. Recently, the foundation created a unique website, ubcfoundationlegacy.org, to educate church members on ways to give through their estate plans.

Since 2010, the Foundation has distributed more than \$75,000 in UBC student scholarships to high school seniors and seminary students. Additionally, over \$47,000 in grants have been given to support local, national, and international missions. As of May 31, 2021, the Foundation’s assets totaled \$388,000.



SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES
9:30 a.m. - Traditional Service
11:00 a.m. - UBC en Español (Chapel)
11:00 a.m. - Contemporary Service

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