



PRESS RELEASE

Baptist Community Ministries names Inman J. Houston CEO

*CEO-elect “both excited and humbled” by opportunity to lead
one of New Orleans’ most significant foundations*

New Orleans, April 25, 2022: [Baptist Community Ministries](#), the faith-based Christian foundation serving greater New Orleans since 1995, today announced Inman J. Houston as CEO. Currently Senior Pastor of [First Baptist Church](#) in Lawrenceville, Georgia, Houston becomes the first ordained minister to lead the foundation.



**Inman J. Houston, new CEO of
Baptist Community Ministries**

Slade Simons, chair of BCM’s Board of Trustees and a member of the CEO search committee, applauded the appointment. “BCM is such an important entity to the entire community. Inman has shown his leadership skills and his commitment to community as Pastor of his church for the past 14 years. Combined with his prior five

years of service in New Orleans, Inman is exceptionally well suited to honor BCM’s Baptist roots and its continued commitment to Greater New Orleans for years to come.”

Noted Dianne McGraw, chair of the CEO search committee and slated to become Chair of the Board in January 2023, “Inman’s unanimous appointment by BCM’s Board followed an exceptionally thorough search, encompassing nearly 200 sources and prospects from at least 17 states. Inman will add a refreshing perspective to BCM’s important work, and I am excited by the future he represents for BCM and the people we serve.”

Inman Houston has been Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, GA, a suburb of Atlanta, since early 2008. Previously, he served for five years with First Baptist Church in New Orleans, concluding as Associate Pastor of Global Impact and Director of the Baptist Crossroads Project. Among other roles, he coordinated the response to the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, which utilized nearly 10,000 volunteers to assist over 800 homeowners, and he helped start the home rebuilding effort of what is now referred to as Musicians' Village.

“Over 100 years ago,” noted Houston, “Baptists in New Orleans began dreaming of a Baptist hospital, and their legacy of service to God and the community continued with the creation of Baptist Community Ministries. I have long appreciated BCM’s strategic impact, and the opportunity to lead such an institution is both exciting and humbling. I am truly honored by the Board’s confidence.”

Baptist Community Ministries has supported good people and their good works for over a quarter century. Formed in 1995 following the sale of Mercy+Baptist Medical Center to Tenet Healthcare, BCM has evolved over the years, but its mission has remained constant:

In response to the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ and in keeping with our Baptist heritage, Baptist Community Ministries is committed to improving the physical, mental, and spiritual health of people and communities in the five-parish Greater New Orleans area.

The search for BCM’s CEO was led by an eight-person search committee. In addition to Simons and McGraw, the search committee included Philip Brodt, Tom Callicut, Frank Kelly, Merritt Lane, Nathalie Simon and Guy Williams. The committee was advised throughout by Sam Pettway and Michelle Hall of [BoardWalk Consulting](#), a national executive search firm specializing in CEO searches for foundations and nonprofits.

A Georgia native, Houston received his Bachelor of Science in Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). Following graduation, he undertook a nine-month internship with the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. For the 25 years since, Houston has held increasingly responsible roles in Baptist ministry in Georgia and Louisiana, the last fourteen as Pastor in Lawrenceville.

While in New Orleans, he received both his Master of Divinity in Christian Thought and his Master of Theology from New Orleans Baptist

Theological Seminary. He is presently pursuing his Doctor of Ministry in Executive Leadership at Gateway Seminary in California.

While Pastor in Lawrenceville, Georgia, Houston led his church through a \$5.5-million capital improvement project, instituted the launch of five new language missions (Russian, Haitian, Bhutanese/ Nepali, Korean and Romanian), and deepened the church's involvement with the larger civic community.

Houston will begin his new responsibilities with BCM in mid-June 2022. His wife, April, who holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Georgia Baptist College of Nursing, and their six children, ages 4-17, will be joining him in New Orleans as soon as school calendars permit.

"My family and I will embrace everything New Orleans has to offer," Houston added. "We love the city, and we look forward to putting down roots."

About Baptist Community Ministries.

Since its founding, Baptist Community Ministries has been a leading funder of some of the most high-impact organizations in the Greater New Orleans region—organizations that are aligned with BCM's values and its interest in health, education and public safety.

Programmatically, BCM has three fundamental components: *Grants*, *Chaplaincy Services* and *Congregational Wellness*.

- BCM's **Grants** focus on three broad zones of interest: health, education (especially early childhood education) and public safety. BCM's post-Katrina investments in Teach for America were instrumental in the charter school system that replaced New Orleans failed public schools. More recently, BCM has pledged \$5 million over five years to support early childhood education.
- **Chaplaincy Services** provides spiritual support to individuals and groups without regard to religious affiliation. BCM's chaplains are based in five hospitals and all eight New Orleans police precincts.
- **Congregational Wellness** leverages the talents of scores of volunteers among a network of 145 partner congregations of all faiths to provide registered nurses and lay people with tools to support healthy behaviors and wellness activities. A separate program, Behavioral Health Initiative for Pastors, supports the particular needs of pastors and their families.

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April 25, 2022

Page **4** of **4**

Per the audited financials, grants and expenses for all programs and staff in fiscal 2021 totaled \$17.4 million, including over \$12 million in grants. Net assets at the end of fiscal 2021 were \$391 million, up 7.7% from the prior year.

For additional information, please visit BCM's website, www.BCM.org.