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Missouri Baptist Foundation

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Missouri Baptist Foundation Board of Trustees names
Neil Franks as president and treasurer

The Missouri Baptist Foundation has named Dr. Neil Franks as its new president. With a unanimous vote on September 21, 2017, the board of trustees approved the recommendation of the presidential search committee.

Dr. Franks, age 46, leaves a very successful ministry as Lead Pastor of First Baptist Church, Branson, Missouri. Franks served as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention in 2014 and 2015. Stepping into the presidency of MBF will multiply the impact of his energetic leadership throughout the state. He will officially begin serving on October 16.

“Neil Franks is the man God has appointed to lead the Foundation,” said Larry Shoaf, chair of the presidential search committee. “Franks has a passion to share the good news and believes the Missouri Baptist Foundation is the greatest opportunity to accomplish this God given directive”, he added. Shoaf further commented, “The Board of Trustees and staff have enthusiastically received Dr. Franks and welcomed he and his family to Foundation life. I know Missouri Baptists around the state will be excited as well.”

Missouri Baptist Convention Executive Director John Yeats said, “Dr. Neil Franks is one of the most gifted leaders in the state of Missouri. He instantly brings to the table creativity, integrity, and a comprehensive vision. It’s a new day for the Missouri Baptist Foundation.” Franks has already met with the MBF staff and shared his emphasis on building upon the strong and capable staff and furthering healthy relationships with an increasing number of clients.

A native of Malvern, Arkansas, Dr. Franks earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech Communications from Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas. He holds a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas and a Doctor of Ministry from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas

City, Missouri. Dr. Franks met his wife, Kendra, while both were students at Henderson State University. They have two sons, Nathan and Travis. The family plans to make their home in Central Missouri to be near the MBF offices in Jefferson City and geographically available to all of Missouri Baptists.

Retiring interim president and executive vice president of the MBF, Stephen Mathis noted, “Dr. Franks has a contagious excitement for encouraging Christian stewardship that will help Missouri Baptists advance Kingdom ministry through wisely planned and carefully managed legacies. It will be a privilege to assist with a smooth transition to new leadership. I am confident that a new generation of Missouri Baptists will be well served.”