



Brent Leatherwood



Since September 2021, Brent Leatherwood has served as the Acting President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, where he is providing steady leadership for the organization's staff and continuing the mission of the ERLC during this interim period. Prior to serving as Acting President, Brent served as the Chief of Staff at the ERLC, as well as the entity's Director of Strategic Partnerships. He brings an expertise in public policy to his work, having been the Executive Director of the Tennessee Republican Party, the Director of Communications and Policy Strategy in the Tennessee General Assembly, and working for several years on Capitol Hill. Brent is a dedicated member of The Church at Avenue South in Nashville, Tennessee, where he has served as a deacon since 2014. Brent is married to Meredith, and they have three children.

In my last months as President of GuideStone I had the opportunity to work with and observe first hand the passion for all things important to Southern Baptists in the life of Brent Leatherwood. He brings a new and needed energy to the ERLC and I join all Southern Baptists in praying for him and our Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission as the days unfold before us.

O.S. Hawkins

President Emeritus, GuideStone Financial Resources

I consider it a privilege and an honor to endorse Brent Leatherwood's nomination as president of the ERLC. Brent has led wisely and courageously as the interim president during what can only be described as a tumultuous and strident period in our nation and our convention. Southern Baptists and America both desperately need the information, inspiration, and guidance the ERLC can provide under Brent Leatherwood's leadership.

Richard Land

President Emeritus, ERLC

I believe Brent Leatherwood will serve Southern Baptists well in this strategic position. He is a gifted and godly man with firm biblical and baptistic convictions.

Daniel Akin

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

It is my privilege to recommend Brent Leatherwood to you as the next president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). Brent has the spiritual grounding, experience, and skill set necessary to lead the ERLC at this unique time in our Convention's and nation's history.

As I have observed, Brent has a strong faith, knowledge of Scripture, and an unbounding love for Jesus. These are critical tenets for anyone who leads one of our Southern Baptist entities.



Kevin Ezell

President, North American Mission Board

Brent Leatherwood strikes me as the sort of man who loves Southern Baptists—who we have been, are, and hope to become. Such a man as that can rise as a statesman to speak for Southern Baptists. Such a man can also come alongside Southern Baptists and gently speak to us as a brother.

Bart Barber

Pastor, FBC Farmersville, TX

President, Southern Baptist Convention

The National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention (NAAF) wishes to express our strong support of Mr. Brent Leatherwood's candidacy for President of the ERLC. Brent is a proven leader and trusted partner. His commitment to Gospel-centered public policy is seasoned by his sensitivity to the nuanced lived experiences of our diverse Southern Baptist (SBC) family.

Rev. Frank Williams

President, National African American Fellowship, SBC
and

Rev. Dennis Mitchell

Executive Director, National African American Fellowship, SBC

Brent Leatherwood would be an excellent choice for President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission. Brent is exactly the sort of thoughtful, wise, convictional, and encouraging leader that Southern Baptists need at the ERLC. He has been an outstanding Acting President, he is respected by pastors and other leaders across our Convention, and he has the right vision for how the ERLC can help lead Southern Baptists to be salt and light in the public square for the sake of the kingdom in the coming years.

Nathan Finn

Provost, North Greenville University
Recording Secretary for the SBC

Tennessee has a long history of faithful men and women who love their neighbors through service in the political arena. Believers must view engagement in government as the opportunity that it is. I can think of no one better than Brent Leatherwood to be the next President of the ERLC, leading Southern Baptists as they strive to represent Jesus through faithful and humble engagement in the public square.

Bill Lee

50th Governor of Tennessee

It is an honor and pleasure to recommend Brent Leatherwood. I have been able to observe his work and passion for the sanctity of life. We met at the ROE50 event in Anaheim just prior to the 2022 National Southern Baptist Convention. I have observed him to be passionate in this area of great need in our world today. My observation helps me to believe that he would be a great fit for the Ethics Religious and Liberty Commission.

Pete Ramirez

Executive Director, California Southern Baptist Convention

Brent Leatherwood has proven himself as a trusted leader and godly statesman with a heart to serve Great Commission Baptists through the ministry of the ERLC. Our churches cannot afford to lose their voice in today's culture, especially on issues of life and religious liberty. Brent has the conviction and competence to help us navigate the waters ahead. N.C. Baptists have enjoyed a strong partnership with the ERLC under his interim leadership, and we look forward to the days ahead as we continue living on mission together.

Todd Unzicker

Executive Director-Treasurer, North Carolina Baptists

As a trustee of the ERLC and a member of the presidential search team, my interactions with Brent Leatherwood and observations of his leadership have convinced me that Brent is the leader the ERLC needs at this hour. During a time of difficulty, Brent has proven himself more than capable, and I look forward to seeing how the Lord will use him to serve Southern Baptists in the days to come.

Juan R. Sanchez

Senior Pastor, High Pointe Baptist Church, Austin

Brent has been a helpful partner as interim ERLC President and I know that will continue moving forward. More than once I have reached out to him in need of information and found him ready and willing to assist. Brent's familiarity with grass roots Southern Baptists, as well as the issues that matter most to us, will help him succeed as he leads in providing resources to help churches address the pressing cultural issues of our day as well as represent us on a national level. I look forward to working with Brent and the ERLC in the years to come.

Todd Gray

Executive Director-Treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention

As a former Baptist state executive director, I am excited about the recommendation of Brent Leatherwood. He understands the cooperative breadth of the SBC and will be a leader who values unity among us. As a local church pastor, I value his commitment to providing resources for local congregations focusing on the challenges of religious liberty, ethics, and the complicated technologies of our day. Additionally, he's no stranger to Washington and many of our state capitols.

Kevin Smith

Teaching Pastor, Family Church, West Palm Beach

It is with great enthusiasm that I heartily endorse Brent Leatherwood in nomination for the President of the ERLC. I find him to be authentic, sincere, humble, passionate, informed, and of the highest caliber of leader. It is evident that Brent is respected and loved by other SBC leaders. He would be a great blessing to Southern Baptists and find a wide array of acceptance. He possesses the skills and ability to lead the ERLC into a new era of impact with the SBC.

Dr. J.D. "Sonny" Tucker

Executive Director, Arkansas Baptist State Convention