



Dear Pastor,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I know your time is extremely valuable, but I have some critical information that I need to share with you.

Earlier today, I presented a detailed overview to the Executive Committee regarding actions taken to right-size the Georgia Baptist Mission Board staff in order to meet our present and future financial realities.

As you may know Cooperative Program giving has been trending downward in Georgia and nationally for over 15 years. This decline has been brought about because fewer churches are participating in CP giving and many that are participating are giving a smaller percentage of their undesignated funds.

My desire is for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board to be the most efficient and effective entity possible, and we greatly appreciate every dollar that is given for mission causes.

But the decline has forced the executive staff at the GBMB to make some very difficult decisions. Due to financial constraints and our commitment to be fiscally responsible, we have taken steps toward reducing staff.

To be transparent, these have been some of the most difficult decisions in my ministry because they affect the lives of those who are dedicated to their calling.

While this will have an impact on the overall size of our team, we will still be able to fulfill our commitment of serving you and your church.

I wanted you to be informed of this action as soon as possible because I value you and your church's partnership.

I am including a copy of [an article from The Christian Index](#) that provides more detail.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support as we reach Georgia together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. Thomas Hammond Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "H".

W. Thomas Hammond

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Gifts of Georgia Baptists through the Cooperative Program enable us to partner together in fulfilling the Great Commission.