

### **Statement to Press regarding MBA Executive Committee Meeting (REVISED 4/4/2018)**

On Tuesday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM the Executive Committee of the Mallery Baptist Association held a special called meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a recommendation from the administrative team of the association. The recommendation called for the removal of one of our churches from the fellowship of our association. The reason for this action involved the church's un-Christian attitudes and acts toward another associational church. These attitudes and acts were racially-motivated. Thus they do not reflect the values and mission of the Mallery Baptist Association.

The recommendation also included returning all 2018 financial gifts made to the association back to the removed church, informing the Georgia Baptist Mission Board and Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention about our actions taken, and a pathway to reinstatement to fellowship with our association if the church openly repents of their sin against the other church and demonstrates the genuineness of repentance by allowing an associational-appointed mediator to work to reconcile biblically the relationship between the congregations so that both churches can minister effectively to the surrounding community. The Mallery Baptist Association shall actively pursue a location for New Seasons Church to meet for worship and ministry.

Twenty-six churches of the association met for the meeting. Following much discussion, the members of the executive committee voted unanimously to accept the administrative team's recommendation.

The recommendation called for serious actions, but they were not meant simply to punish but ultimately to bring about reconciliation and strengthen our association's witness in the communities in which we minister. We seek above all to advance the Gospel and honor our Lord Jesus Christ.