

**General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia  
Congress of Christian Education**

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**ORATORICAL CONTEST 2017**

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**Speech Submission Deadline**  
July 1, 2017

**Preliminary**  
July 17 – 19, 2017

**Final Competition**  
July 21, 2017

**President**  
Rev. Benjamin E.V. Lett

**Oratorical Contest Coordinator**  
Mr. Gregory L. Bailey  
(770) 923-1936

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

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The Oratorical Competition is designed to provide a public platform for youth to exhibit speaking, organizational and elocutionary skills. GMBC Congress Competition is divided into two categories. Category I Competition is designed for youth grades 1 through 10 and will follow local guidelines and rules. Category I topics will be a designated Article of Faith. Category II Competition is designed for young people grades 11 and 12. The Category II Competition will follow the guidelines and rules of the National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest and participants will speak on the official National Contest theme.

The Oratorical Contest will be held the week of the GMBC Congress of Christian Education.

### **Category I Guidelines and Rules**

1. Each participant will recite the designated Article of Faith.
2. The specific Article of Faith will serve as the introduction to the speech.
3. The oration will be written by the speaker, with assistance from a speech coach.
4. Only one contestant per church/association per division will be accepted. All ties must be decided at the church/association level.
5. Preliminary competitions will be held Monday – Wednesday at 2:00 – 4:00. The Final Competition will be Friday, July 21, at 8:00 a.m.
6. Speech format:
  - a. The speech must be typewritten with one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point, Times-Roman (or equivalent) font.
  - b. The contestant's name should be typed as a header, flush right. The contestant's name, church, city and speech word count should be typed at the end of the speech, bottom left. If the contestant is representing an association, then the contestant's name, association and speech word count should be typed at the end of the speech.
7. Speech submission:
  - a. Email as an attachment to [OratoricalContest@GMBC.org](mailto:OratoricalContest@GMBC.org). Save document using the contestant's name. No hand delivered copies will be accepted.
  - b. Also mail three copies to the following address with return receipt:  
Gregory L. Bailey  
1944 Herbert Drive Tucker, Georgia 30084
8. Entry fee:
  - a. \$20 (Twenty Dollars) per contestant
  - b. Mail check or money order to the following address:  
GMBC Headquarters  
P.O. Box 92340 Atlanta, GA 30314
  - c. Payment must be received by deadline or contestant will be disqualified.
9. Deadline: All speeches must be received by July 1. Please allow five days for postal delivery.

## Category II Guidelines and Rules

1. The speech topic will be the official theme of the National Baptist Congress Oratorical Contest.
2. Juniors will use the current theme while seniors will use the theme for next year's national contest.
3. The speech must be original and prepared by the contestant.
4. Only one contestant per church/association per division will be accepted. All ties must be decided at the church/association level.
5. Preliminary competitions will be held Monday – Wednesday at 2:00 – 4:00. The Final Competition will be Friday, July 21, at 8:00 a.m.
6. Speech format:
  - a. The speech must be typewritten with one-inch margins, double-spaced, 12 point, Times-Roman (or equivalent) font.
  - b. The contestant's name should be typed as a header, flush right. The contestant's name, church, city and speech word count should be typed at the end of the speech, bottom left. If the contestant is representing an association, then the contestant's name, association and speech word count should be typed at the end of the speech.
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  - b. Mail check or money order to the following address:  
GMBC Headquarters  
P.O. Box 92340  
Atlanta, GA 30314
  - c. Payment must be received by deadline or contestant will be disqualified.
9. Deadline: All speeches must be received by July 1. Please allow five days for postal delivery.
10. The winner of the Senior Competition will represent the GMBC of Georgia Congress at the ensuing year's National Congress Contest.

## Topics and Themes

Grades 1- 6 **Article V**, 150 words, 3 minutes

Grades 7 -10 **Article VI**, 250 words, 4 minutes

Juniors\* **“Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as We Equip Disciples for Christ”**

Proverbs 29:18, John 16:13, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:12-13,  
2 Timothy 3:16-17

500 words

Seniors\*\* **“Envisioning the Future Exceptionally as We Lead Disciples to Christ”**

Proverbs 29:18, Matthew 10:1, Romans 12:4, Ephesians 4:11

600 to 800 words

*\*Juniors must be enrolled in their junior year of high school for the 2017-2018 school year.*

*\*\*Seniors must be enrolled in their senior year of high school for the 2017-2018 school year and graduate before August.*

## Speech Presentation/Oration

The contestant's presentation attire is males: slacks, suit coats and shirts with ties and females: business dresses or suits. Please note the contestants may be on an elevated platform facing the audience.

The contestants are to stand, approach the lectern or designated space, state the theme, their contestant number and begin their memorized rendition of the written oration, within the frame of the lectern/podium or designated space (without moving across the stage).

The contestant's oratorical presentation must avoid speaking in sermonical tones with excessive gestures.

The contestants are not allowed to use props, costumes, clothing or prompts.

***While contestants are not required to recite their speech verbatim, the style, theme, structure and organization of the presentation should closely adhere to the written documentation and the time allotted.***

## Judges

The judges are selected prior to the GMBC of Georgia Congress. Each judge receives the guidelines and the judges score sheet during the judges training sessions. Each judge is scheduled to attend a training teleconference prior to the congress session and will attend a final onsite review for participation and protocol. Each judge has vowed to provide a fair and impartial scoring of each contestant.

The judges will use the following criteria for each oration: composition, subject matter, content originality, delivery, vocal control, enunciation, pronunciation, presentation and mastery of material.

The judges will score each contestant an intangible score (is most commonly used to describe things that are recognized but not easily quantified) and in the event of a tie the contestant who has the highest intangible score will be the winning contestant.

**The judges' decision is final.**

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## ARTICLES OF FAITH

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### **V. Justification.**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

Places in the Bible where taught:

*Isaiah 53:11; Habakkuk 2:4; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 1:17, 4:1, 5:1-9, 8:1; Galatians 3:11; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 10:38*

### **VI. The Freeness of Salvation.**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own determined depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Places in the Bible where taught:

*Isaiah 55:1; Matthew 11:28; John 3:15-18, 36; 5:40; 6:37; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:29-30; 10:13; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:4-5; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 1 Timothy 1:15; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 22:17*

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