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February 22, 1972

SBC to Consider Restructure  
Of Three SBC Agencies' Work

NASHVILLE (BP)--Adopting the report of a committee to study restructure of the Southern Baptist Convention, the SBC Executive Committee voted here to recommend assigning the work of the SBC Stewardship Commission to the SBC Executive Committee, and proposed reorganization of the SBC Brotherhood Commission and Radio-Television Commission.

The recommendations will be submitted to the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets in Philadelphia, June 6-9. If approved, it would mean dissolving the Stewardship Commission as an agency of the SBC. The committee will recommend:

1. The programs of work now assigned to the SBC Stewardship Commission be transferred to the SBC Executive Committee, effective October, 1973;
2. The SBC Brotherhood Commission, composed of two-thirds laymen and one-third pastors, establish an advisory committee of state Brotherhood secretaries and representatives of SBC agencies; and that the work of the Brotherhood Commission be expanded to cover "the total mission scope of Southern Baptist Convention activities";
3. The SBC Radio and Television Commission be reorganized to include non-voting representatives from SBC agencies; and that the commission be responsible both for producing programs for the broadcasting industry and for providing "personnel, skills, equipment and technology for television and radio production and distribution to all organized entities of Southern Baptist life. . . ."

The proposals from the restructure committee concerning the Brotherhood and Radio-TV Commissions were adopted with no opposition. Only four dissenting votes were voiced on the Stewardship Commission proposal.

The chairman of the SBC Stewardship Commission, Rudolph Fagan of Bradenton, Fla., presented to the Executive Committee a counter proposal from the commission, calling for a joint committee of Executive Committee and Stewardship Commission members to recommend ways to correlate stewardship programs and work of the Executive Committee, and calling for the addition of representatives of SBC agencies as non-voting members of the commission.

Fagan argued that before 1960, the stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion programs had been assigned to the Executive Committee, and that it would not seem wise to revert "to a method already proved less desirable and lay aside one about which only praise has been given."

He cited the reasons given in 1959 for creating the Stewardship Commission as an agency of the convention to assume work then done by the Executive Committee, saying those reasons were still valid. He further argued that the proposal to move stewardship promotion to the Executive Committee would pose an "image problem" and would "encourage a growing feeling across our convention opposed to greater centralization."

James Monroe, pastor of First Baptist Church in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., opposed the substitute motion to adopt the Stewardship Commission proposal rather than the Committee of Fifteen recommendation, saying, "We are not choosing between something bad and something good, but between something good and something that might be more effective."

Monroe, former chairman of the Executive Committee, said he had seen both systems at work, and felt that the other agencies of the convention had come to view the Stewardship Commission as a competitive agency seeking funds for its programs, rather than an agency that is at

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the heart of all Baptist programs. "It seems that some feel stewardship and ~~Congregative~~ Program promotion is their responsibility, not our responsibility," he said.

Another Florida Executive Committee member, E. C. McDaniel, pastor of Main Street Baptist Church in Jacksonville, argued that to do away with the Stewardship Commission would be like the deacons of a local church voting to abolish the finance committee.

When the vote was taken, only two members of the committee favored the substitute proposed by the Stewardship Commission. Later, the Committee of Fifteen proposal concerning the commission passed with only four dissenting votes.

With almost no opposition, the proposal concerning the Radio-Television Commission had earlier been adopted. Discussion on the proposal lasted only about 10 minutes.

The committee's proposal regarding the Brotherhood Commission was adopted after amending the report to incorporate a request from the commission and the state Brotherhood secretaries.

The Committee of Fifteen had recommended that the commission be comprised of one-half laymen, one-fourth pastors and one-fourth state Brotherhood secretaries. The commission in January requested that state Brotherhood secretaries serve on the advisory committee proposed by the restructure committee, but not as voting members of the commission.

A motion to amend the committee proposal to provide that the commission be composed of two-thirds laymen and one-third pastors was approved by the Executive Committee by a vote of 29-15.

During the debate, Brotherhood Commission Executive Secretary Glendon McCullough said that many of the state Brotherhood secretaries felt it would be a violation of Baptist polity for staff members of one Baptist body (state conventions) to vote on a board of another Baptist body (SBC agency). "They said, 'We want a voice, not a vote,'" McCullough told the committee.

E. W. Price Jr., pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point, N.C., and chairman of the Committee of Fifteen, said he felt the proposal represented the best judgment of the committee, and that it followed the pattern used by the Woman's Missionary Union.

After the amendment was approved, the committee's proposal was adopted without opposition.

After Price presented the full report of the Committee of Fifteen calling for the restructure changes, Wallace Denton, professor at Purdue University in Lafayette, Ind., asked why the committee was recommending changes for only three agencies. Denton said he found difficulty in fitting together only three pieces of a puzzle without seeing the perspective of the whole mosaic.

Price, as chairman, said the committee would next study the six seminaries and SBC Foundation, and then the SBC Boards. Saying he felt the committee would complete its work in 1974, Price added that he was not sure the convention could digest one total presentation involving all 19 agencies of the denomination.

Richard Beale III, of Sparta, Va., also a member of the Committee of Fifteen, compared the report to a series of traffic lights on a long street. "We can see a long string of lights out ahead, but there are three immediate intersections we must cross first."

Noble Hurley of Dallas compared the partial report to eating an orange. "You can swallow an orange if you take it one piece at a time, but you can't swallow it whole."

In summary, here are the proposals for restructure the Executive Committee will submit for consideration at the convention in Philadelphia:

I. Brotherhood Commission: (1) that the commission be composed of one person from each state convention plus 10 local members, and composed of two-thirds laymen and one-third pastors; (2) that an advisory committee be established composed of each state Brotherhood director, a representative of the seminaries and state executive secretaries, and a staff member from the Sunday School Board, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, Christian Life Commission, Woman's Missionary Union and Stewardship Commission; (3) that the commission project programs involve men and boys in the total mission scope of SBC activities and that program

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statements be rewritten accordingly; and (4) that the programs be continually studied, analyzed, developed and implemented by the commission in cooperation with other SBC agencies.

II. Radio-TV Commission: (1) that the commission be composed of representatives from each state equally divided between ordained and lay persons; (2) that two non-voting staff members serve on the commission from the Foreign and Home Mission Boards, and Sunday School Board; (3) that one staff representative from the Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood Commission, and from the six seminaries serve on the commission; (4) that these persons have no voting privileges but shall act in an advisory capacity; and (5) that these agency representatives be subject to rotation standards set up by the SBC.

III. Stewardship Commission: (1) that the programs of the commission be assigned in entirety to the Executive Committee effective Oct. 1, 1973; (2) that the Executive Committee be reorganized to provide a representative base for personnel in this area; (3) that budget allocations to the Stewardship Commission be transferred to the Executive Committee along with assets of the commission; (4) that the current stewardship promotion and planning procedure be continued; (5) that utilization of state convention and SBC agency staff members in stewardship and Cooperative Program promotion be strengthened; and (6) that assurance be given the Stewardship Commission staff that every consideration be given to continued utilization of each in the transfer with as little change in relationships and benefits as possible.

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Southwestern Seminary Plans  
Doctor of Ministry Degree

2/22/72

FORT WORTH (BP)--Details of a plan to offer the doctor of ministry degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here next fall have been drafted for presentation to the seminary's trustees in March.

Plans to launch the new degree were outlined here by Seminary President Robert E. Naylor, and by Boyd Hunt, chairman of the seminary's professional studies committee.

"The new program provides additional advanced professional training for both the traditional and emerging ministries of the church," said Hunt. "The program reflects the widespread concern in theological education today to relate the classical theological disciplines more closely to the actual practice of ministry," Hunt noted.

Plans call for the degree to be a four-year study, with the first two years devoted to a 64-hour core curriculum. The final two years would include 48 hours of specialized studies, for an overall total of 112 hours.

Master of religious education degree students at Southwestern may pursue the doctor of ministry degree but must indicate their intention to do so at the conclusion of their first year of the master of religious education degree study.

After the successful completion of three years of study focusing on studies in basic ministry, the student may be admitted to doctor of ministry degree candidacy. He then chooses his functional major from one of five areas--church and proclamation, church and culture, church and ministry, church and mission, or church and education.

During the student's fourth year, the candidate will develop and carry out a professional project in creative ministry which requires a written report demonstrating a high level of professional competence, Hunt and Naylor said.

In addition to the classroom approach, the program will utilize such techniques as colloquia, seminars, directed reading, field education, supervised field work experience, clinical pastoral education, internship, and other forms of in-service training.

Doctor of ministry candidates will receive the master of divinity degree upon completion of the 88 hours required for that degree.

Persons who already have received an accredited bachelor of divinity, master of divinity, or master of religious education degree and who seek the doctor of ministry degree will be able to apply as much of their prior work as possible, up to 24 hours, of the third year of the doctor of

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ministry program, after evaluation by the seminary. All doctor of ministry degree candidates, however, must spend at least one year in full-time residence to meet the requirements of the degree.

Naylor said the new degree is structured to conform with guidelines established by the American Association of Theological Schools. Each of the six seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention are offering the same basic structure for the new degree, with some variations. The Southwestern program is the product of a two-year study.

Southwestern Seminary Preaching Professor Clyde Fant, who chaired the study committee originally designing the program, said he believed the flexibility of the program "will provide the opportunity to tailor each student's program to the needs of his (or her) particular form of ministry," whether it be the pastorate, student work, chaplaincy, counselor or missionary.

Applications for admission to the new degree program this fall must be submitted by May 1, 1972, according to Director of Admissions Felix Gresham.



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