



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Stanley Releases
Committee Report

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--The 1983 report of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards was released May 4 by Charles Stanley of Atlanta, committee chairman.

The report includes 224 nominations to the 20 SBC boards of trustees. Included are 116 renominations, 82 nominations of replacements for persons rotating off boards, three bumps--persons eligible for a second term who were not renominated--and replacements for 12 persons who moved, three who declined further service, two who resigned and two who died.

The release during the first week of May--five weeks in advance of the 1983 annual session of the SBC in Pittsburgh--follows through on a request made by SBC President James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, that the report be released far enough in advance for messengers to the annual meeting to be able to study the nominees.

All of the persons nominated must be voted on by messengers to the annual meeting.

In releasing the report, Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, asked that a three paragraph statement accompany it:

"We have chosen to release the committee's nominations on May 4, 1983, preceding the convening of the annual convention in Pittsburgh.

"This committee is pleased to submit these nominations after many hours of prayerful consideration. Rather than subject any nominee to personal embarrassment or public criticism the committee, desiring to be fair and preserve order within the convention meeting, requests any person desiring to challenge the committee's nomination submit a formal written challenge, complete with specific documentation regarding any person in question.

"Such challenges will be studied and reviewed by the committee in a called meeting, June 13, 1983. We recognize that the right to nominate from the floor of the convention is still in order. But in light of this advance notification, the committee would appreciate all challenges to take place before the committee in special session."

Stanley requested challenges be mailed to him at First Baptist Church, 754 Peachtree St., NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30308.

Of the report, Stanley said the committee has been "fair in nominating people who really, truly, represent the full spectrum of Southern Baptists. We've not undercut anybody, we've not tried to take a lot of people off, we have been, I think, considerate of people who have been there and serving...."

When asked if the report reflects moderate and conservative factions in the denomination, Stanley replied: "I think when people look at it they can make up their own minds. There are some people on there who, I'm sure, are moderate. I have no problem with that."

The committee on boards has been the focus of controversy in the SBC for several years, as one faction has publicly stated aims of controlling the appointive process, and thus turning the 13.9-million member SBC to a more fundamentalist theological stance.

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The early release of the report also has stirred controversy. In 1981, committee Chairman Daniel Vestal, pastor of First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas, declined to release the report, following the lead of then President Bailey E. Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., who refused to make public any of his appointments prior to the 1981 annual meeting in New Orleans.

After his election, Draper pledged early release of his committee appointments, as well as to urge Stanley--who was appointed by Smith--for early release.

In commenting on the report, Stanley said "a couple of people requested they not be nominated for a second term, and "several" were bumped. Actually, three requested they not be renominated, and three were not renominated even though they were eligible.

Those "bumped" are Julian Cave, pastor of St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., on the Christian Life Commission; James E. Zimmerman, a layman from Morningside Baptist Church in Spartanburg, S.C., on the SBC Annuity Board, and Richard A. Deaton, a layman from Southview Baptist Church in Lincoln, Neb., on the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary board.

Committee sources indicate Zimmerman and Deaton were not renominated because of inadequate attendance records, and Cave was not selected for a second term because of a controversial stand he took on a local option liquor election.

Nominated to take Cave's place is Coy C. Privette, a temperance organization spokesman from North Kannapolis Baptist Church, Kannapolis, N.C. Privette is a former president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and unsuccessful candidate for governor.

Nominated to replace Deaton is Randy Strassburg, a member of Immanuel Baptist Church of Topeka. Zimmerman's successor would be George H. Ballentine Jr., a member of Central Baptist Church of Greenville.

The report also includes four new positions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The KBC receives new seats on the Executive Committee, Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board. Since Kentucky went over the 750,000 member mark in the just completed church year, it was entitled to an additional member on each of the four boards.

Nominees (clergy or denominational related, unless specified) for the Executive Committee, Home and Foreign Mission Boards and Baptist Sunday School Board:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 18 persons were considered, including 11 eligible for renomination, one new member, five ineligible for renomination and one member who declined a second term.

New members include Alan E. Sears, a layman from Walnut Street church, Louisville, new Kentucky representative; Frank Lady, a layman from Central church, Jonesboro, replacing Rodney R. Landes, a layman from El Dorado, Ark.; James E. Jones, of Campbellsville (Ky.) church, replacing John T. Dunaway, of First church, Corbin; Mrs. C. Bullard Jones, a member of Parkview church, Baton Rouge, replacing Mrs. Claude Kirkpatrick, a member of First church, Baton Rouge; Robert J. Goode, of Florida Street church, Greensboro, N.C., replacing Gene L. Watterson, of First church, Shelby, and Jere Allan Wilson, of First church, Bartlesville, Okla., replacing Charles D. Graves, of Nichols Hills church, Oklahoma City.

Mrs. Virgil Landers, a member of First church, Okemah, declined a second term, and Sam W. Pace, an evangelist and member of First church, Lawton, was nominated as her replacement.

Nominated for second terms are Dotson M. Nelson Jr., Birmingham, Ala.; Gary F. Young, First Southern, Phoenix; David C. Maddox, Anaheim, Calif.; J. Leland Hall, Melbourne, Fla.; C. Michael Blizzard, Macon, Ga.; Gary C. Brown, a layman from Richland, Mo.; Francis L. Wilson of Alamogordo, N.M.; Carl E. Compton, Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Earl H. Wilson, Knoxville, Tenn; W. Dewey Presley, a layman from Dallas, and C. Welton Gaddy, Fort Worth, Texas.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD: 23 persons were considered, including 12 eligible for renomination, one new member, eight ineligible and two trustees who moved.

New members include Marion T. Duncan, Oakland Avenue church, Catlettsburg, Ky., new Kentucky member; Harry L. Hannah, Sunrise church, Puyallup, Wash., filling the term ending in 1985 of Roy P. Belcher, who moved from Kennewick; Rick A. Forrester, First church, Vernon, Tex., filling term ending in 1986 of Paul Burleson, who moved from Fort Worth;

Dick Thomassian, of Whitesburg church, Huntsville, replacing Charles T. Carter, Shades Mountain church, Birmingham; Paul R. Sanders, of Geyer Springs church in Little Rock, Ark., replacing James F. Sawyer, a layman from Highland Heights church, Benton, Ark.; Mrs. Jim L. Harvey, a layperson from Immanuel church, San Bernardino, replacing Cherry Y. K. Chang, a layperson from Mandarin church, Los Angeles; Hubert G. Keefer, Hillcrest Heights church, Hillcrest, Md., replacing Bayard Ross Morrison, First church, Wheaton, Md.; William M. Rowlett, a layman from First church, Hopkinsville, replacing Rollin S. Burhans, First church, Bowling Green; Claude Kirkpatrick, a layperson from First church, Baton Rouge, La., replacing Myra E. Gullledge, a layperson from First church, Nachitoches, and Edward D. Johnson, Sharpstown church, Houston, replacing Joe E. Trull, First church, El Paso.

Donald H. Bowen, Downtown church, Alexandria, Va., replaces V. Allen Gaines, Parkview church, Newport News, as a local member.

Nominated for second terms are Al Finch, Prattville, Ala.; James B. Henry, Orlando, Fla.; William Lee Clinton, Tucker, Ga.; Mary M. Strauss, Hagerstown, Md.; Gene Triggs, a layperson from Yazoo City, Miss.; Robert E. Lively, Columbia, Mo.; J. Albert Leath Jr., Charlotte, N.C.; Alastair C. Walker, Spartanburg, S.C.; R. Trevis Otey, Jackson, Tenn.; Sam S. Sorrell, a layman from Houston; Nathaniel W. Kellum, a layman from Salem, Va., and Wayne W. Poplin, local member from Suffolk, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD: 24 persons were considered, including 14 eligible for renomination, one new member, seven ineligible for renomination, one member who declined a second term and for one person who died.

New members include R.W. (Wayne) Hodge, a layman from First church, Princeton, Ky., as the new Kentucky member; Nelson Price, of Roswell Street Church, Marietta, Ga., replacing Mrs. James P. Wesberry of Atlanta, who died; Douglas M. Reddick, Northside church, Valdosta, replacing Milton C. Gardner Jr., First church, Thomasville; Austin B. Tucker, Shreve City church, Shreveport, La., replacing Clifton R. Tennison, First church, West Monroe;

Ronald Dale Gross, South Hill Church, Milford, Mich., replacing Raymond E. Babb, Merriman Road church, Garden City; Mrs. Richard E. Frazier, a layperson from Roanoke Rapids (N.C.) church, replacing J. Harold Craig, Temple Church, Durham; and Gaylon B. Wiley, First church, Angleton, replacing James Richard Maples, First church, Bryan. Robert H. Lacey, Northside, Hobbs, N.M., replaces R.Y. Bradford, First, Albuquerque, who declined to serve a second term.

New local members are Lawson Lee Schroeder, a layman from First church, Atlanta, replacing A. Brantley Harwell, First, Carrollton, and Barbara Fain, a layperson from Second-Ponce de Leon church, Atlanta, replacing Mrs. W.B. Blount, a layperson from First church, Winder.

Nominated for second terms are Marvin L. Prude, a layman from Birmingham, Ala.; Thomas J. Draper, Winter Park, Fla.; Robert Lee Latham, Indianapolis; John B. Cox, Papillon, Neb.; M.A. Winchester, a layman from Stearns, Ky.; Carl Savell, Jackson, Miss.; Thomas W. Sneed, Hannibal, Mo.; Mary Lee Gossett, a layperson from Norman, Okla.; H. Eugene Cotey, Murfreesboro, Tenn.; William G. Perdue, San Antonio; Norman P. Gillum, a layman from Crozet, Va.; Clark G. Hutchinson, Marietta, Ga. (local); Ronald J. Henning, Tifton, Ga. (local), and Charles Elder, Conyers, Ga. (local).

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD: 21 persons were considered, including 11 eligible for renomination, one new member, eight ineligible for renomination and one member who moved.

New members include a Kentucky representative to be named later; Wayne L. North, Emmanuel Church, Tucson, replacing Nathan H. Pillow, denominational worker in Phoenix; Donald M. Moore, First Southern, Evansville, Ind., replacing Mrs. Jesse Champion, a layperson from Evansville; Mahlon C. Morley, a layperson from First church, Belle Plaine, Kan., replacing Charles T. Bates Jr., a layperson from Manhattan, Kan.;

Don R. Mathis, Central church, Corbin, Ky., replacing Bill R. Tichenor, First church, Princeton; James L. Holly, a layperson from Northend church, Beaumont, Texas, replacing Katy Stokes, a layperson from Waco; Bill Tisdale, First church, Henderson, Texas, replacing Browning Ware, First church, Austin; Sam Moore, a layperson from First church, Mount Juliet, Tenn., replacing Henry E. Love, a retired church staffer from Memphis; J.B. Miller, First church, Joelton, Tenn., replacing Delbert S. Nowell, a layman from Crieveewood church, Nashville, and Ralph W. Stone, Two Rivers church, Nashville, replacing Ralph C. Harris, First church, Donelson, Tenn.

Nominated for second terms are Harper Shannon, Birmingham, Ala.; J. Franklin Helms, Greenbelt, Md.; Donald L. Folsom, Tucker, Ga.; Will D. Selman, a layman from Skokie, Ill.; Macon Oswalt, Hammond, La.; Crawford Williams, Shreveport, La.; Michael J. Clingenpeel, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Alton H. McEachern, Greensboro, N.C.; Ruth Ellis, a layperson from Okmulgee, Okla.; Roy Gilleland, Nashville, Tenn; John J. Bryan, a layman from Bluefield, W.Va.

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Freeze Proposal
Passes House

By Gerri Ratliff

Baptist Press
5/5/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--The House of Representatives has called for a mutual and verifiable freeze and reduction of nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Freeze opponents pushed through an amendment specifying nuclear weapons reductions should be achieved within a reasonable, specified period of time as determined by negotiation. Freeze proponents disagreed about the amendment's impact on the resolution.

The final vote, 278-149, followed more than 53 hours of deliberation on the measure over the last two months. The legislation, H.J. Res. 13, now goes to the Senate for consideration, where its chances of passage are uncertain.

Though the Southern Baptist Convention does not have an official position on the nuclear freeze, messengers to the 1982 convention passed a resolution supporting "a program of mutually verifiable disarmament, including nuclear disarmament." A similar resolution passed in 1981 affirmed "the pursuit of negotiations with other nations for the consideration of appropriate mutual agreements on arms control, while recognizing the necessity of defense preparedness that will serve as a deterrent to war."

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Washington SBC Site
Plans Are Postponed

Baptist Press
5/5/83

WASHINGTON (BP)--Plans to present the nation's capital as an alternate site for the 1989 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention apparently have been scrapped, after officials of the D.C. Convention Bureau filled the available dates with another convention.

Vernon Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Alexandria, Va., told Baptist Press he planned to present Washington as an alternate to Las Vegas, which will be proposed to messengers at the 1983 annual meeting by the SBC Executive Committee.

Both the general board of the Baptist General Association of Virginia (state convention) and the executive body of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention voted unanimously to extend the invitation.

While the move to present an alternate site has some denominational political overtones, Davis said it was being presented because some Southern Baptists--fundamentalists and moderates alike--do not wish to go to Las Vegas because of gambling and the city's image as vice ridden.

Davis said he had a verbal agreement with the D.C. Convention Bureau to hold the second week in June of 1989 for the SBC. However, the bureau made a commitment to allow another organization to have the 20,000 seat hall on those dates.

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"It would have been a wonderful year for Baptists to come to Washington," Davis said, noting 1989 is the bicentennial of the proposal of the Bill of Rights.

Davis said he also believes the move would have brought the convention back into the East, which is the area of the greatest Baptist strength. He said two-thirds of church members and 60 per cent of Cooperative Program giving come from east of the Mississippi, "yet we continue to go outside the heart of Southern Baptist territory" to hold the conventions.

"We will not make the invitation for 1989, now. It appears the idea died," he said, adding the proposal may be made for 1991, which also would be a good year, "since that was the year the Bill of Rights was ratified and added to the Constitution."

While the proposal to substitute Washington as the site has died, reports indicate Louisville, Ky., will be presented as a site for the 1989 convention. The city was proposed as a possible site to the February, 1983, meeting of the Executive Committee, but was turned down because it does not meet current guidelines for a convention city.

Current guidelines call for a hall capable of seating 16,000 persons, 50,000 square feet of exhibit space, and 6,000 hotel rooms within two miles of the meeting hall.

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**Southeastern Receives
Three Major Gifts**

Baptist Press
5/5/83

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., recently received three major gifts, according to President W. Randall Lolley.

A gift of \$100,000 will come to the seminary from the estate of N.H. Hopson of Fuquay-Varina, N.C., who died recently at age 91. The gift was included in the will of the Fuquay-Varina merchant and member of the Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church. It will be used to establish an endowment to aid students in the seminary's internship program.

Under terms of the will of the late Elizabeth W. Sigmon of Hickory, N.C., a gift of \$36,000 in cash and securities will be placed in the seminary's unrestricted endowment fund.

In a further development of an earlier announcement, \$197,000 has been placed in trust for the seminary from the estate of Josephine C. Newell of Greenville, S.C. This is in addition to \$300,000 deposited in the trust from Newell's estate in 1982, bringing the total to \$497,000. Earnings from the trust are for unrestricted use by the seminary.

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