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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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Committee On Boards
Report Released Early

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The 1985 report of the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committee was released April 16, ten days before the required release date.

The report, which must be released 45 days in advance of the annual meeting, was released early because of rumors and public statements concerning the contents of the report, according to Chairman Bob Eklund of Dallas.

Eklund, urban evangelism associate in the evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, said contents of the report were to be kept confidential until the scheduled release date—April 26—but the release was accelerated in order to provide more accurate information concerning controversial aspects of the report.

The 52-member Committee on Boards nominates persons to serve as trustees of the 20 national agencies of the 14.3-million member Southern Baptist Convention. The committee is composed of two persons—one a layperson and one in church or denominationally related work—from each of the 26 state conventions which have in excess of the 25,000 members necessary to qualify for representation.

The 1985 report includes 243 nominations, including 114 new trustees and 129 renominations. Currently, there are 950 persons holding trusteeships.

Messengers to the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC must adopt the report and elect the nominees to the various boards. In recent years, portions of the committee report have been challenged from the floor of the convention.

Eklund said the decision was made to release the report early because "we wanted Southern Baptists to have the information. "As chairman, I have been asked many questions. I have decided to make some statements in the hope it will settle some issues that people are discussing without knowing all the facts."

The Texan characterized the report as "very good" and added: "I feel we have a very strong core of people being nominated this year."

He said: "It is my prayer our work will contribute to a healing in our convention. We tried to rise above the problems and not become a part of the problem. The people on the report I know personally are Bible-believing, cooperating Southern Baptists with hearts for missions. From the reports I had on the people whom I do not know personally, they, too, are strong, cooperating Southern Baptists."

While saying he believes the majority of the report is good, Eklund said he is "well aware that we have one or two spots that likely will be challenged."

One challenge may come over Jerry Gilmore, a Dallas attorney, who was not renominated to the Home Mission Board, although, he was eligible for a second four-year term.

Gilmore, a member of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, "apparently has served well as a trustee," Eklund said. "According to Dr. William G. Tanner (president of the HMB) he has been an outstanding trustee and for the past two years a most effective chairman."

—more—

Eklund said the two Texas representatives recommended Gilmore for re-nomination, following a committee guideline which specifies a person eligible for a second term be renominated "unless good and sufficient reason is given...."

Questions arose, however, Eklund said, concerning Gilmore's wife, Martha, an ordained Methodist minister.

"I defended Mr. Gilmore's renomination on the basis he is an outstanding layman," Eklund said. "On the issue of women's ordination, I personally am not comfortable; however, this is a local church matter and since Mr. Gilmore is a member of a church that is comfortable with such and at the same time a strong cooperating Southern Baptist church, their members, in my opinion, should be eligible to serve on SBC boards."

Eklund said the committee voted 25 to 22 against renominating Gilmore.

"It is one of those situations where there will be criticism whatever we do," he said.

Gilmore was the only person eligible for renomination who desired renomination who was "bumped" from a trustee post. Four other persons were eligible, but declined renomination.

Eklund said the only other challenged nominee was William D. Delahoyde, assistant U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Raleigh, who was nominated as a trustee at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Eklund said it was pointed out if Delahoyde is elected, he would be the third person from the U.S. attorney's office in Raleigh to serve as a trustee of one of the SBC institutions.

Currently, the U.S. attorney, Samuel T. Currin, is on the SBC Public Affairs Committee, and is its chairman; another assistant, J.T. Knott III, is a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board. Currin was elected in 1983; Knott in 1984.

"There did not seem to be any theological question involved," Eklund said. "The primary question was whether three men out of the same office should have major responsibilities on Southern Baptist boards and agencies when North Carolina has so many qualified people who ought to serve."

He said Delahoyde was nominated on a 32-17 vote.

Another possible point of controversy concerns a person who was neither nominated nor recommended for nomination.

Eklund said he is asked "why J.T. Luther, an outstanding Southern Baptist layman, and long-time friend of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will not be a nominee for the opening from Texas on Southwestern's board."

The Luther matter has been an issue since one denominational leader claimed Luther was not nominated because "fundamentalists" unduly influenced the nomination process.

"That is not so," Eklund said. "This is an issue which never should have become an issue. It is not an instance of anybody trying to block anybody. It was simply that Bill (W.O.) Watts (the Texas lay representative) and I could not agree on a nominee."

Eklund said, "There were efforts to influence this position from the movers and shakers of all sides. It wasn't just one side, or even two; there were efforts from all sides."

He pointed out he and Watts, from Woodboro, agreed "harmoniously" on six of the seven persons they nominated. When they could not agree on the SWBTS nominee, they compromised and named Wayne Allen, a veteran Texas pastor.

Eklund told Baptist Press another potential controversy was eliminated when James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Euless, Texas, and immediate past president of the SBC, withdrew his nomination as SBC representative to the Baptist World Alliance.

In a letter to Eklund, Draper requested his name be withdrawn and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union-SBC, be substituted. Draper said he believes the executive of the WMU should serve the BWA "by virtue of her office."

Weatherford, who currently is an SBC representative to the BWA, was not renominated because of a change which names the current SBC president and the president of the Sunday School Board to the BWA by virtue of their offices, eliminating two at-large positions.

"I do not think Miss Weatherford was eliminated intentionally. I think it was just an oversight. I appreciate Jimmy (Draper) taking this action," Eklund said.

Executive Committee,
Boards Nominated

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NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)---Nominees for the Executive Committee and the four boards of the Southern Baptist Convention have been released by the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

Nominees are clergy or denominational related, unless specified.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (69 members): 17 nominations considered; five new members, 12 renominations.

New members replacing members ineligible for reappointment include Benny King, First Southern church, North Glenn, Colo., replacing Otis B. Testerman of Grand Junction; C. Ray Fuller, director of missions, Joliet, Ill., replacing Wendell Garrison of Fairview Heights; James Yates, First church, Yazoo City, Miss., replacing Clark W. McMurray, Pascagoula; Rich Lin r, First church, Hendersonville, N.C., replacing John M. Lewis of Raleigh.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1986 is James M. Morton Jr., of Trinity church, Livermore, Calif., replacing J. Thurmond George, of Gilroy, who moved.

Renominated to second terms are Jimmy E. Jackson of Huntsville, Ala.; Mrs. Lois H. Wenger, Orlando, Fla.; Harmon M. Born, Rex, Ga.; Donald I. Gent, Evansville, Ind.; Gordon D. Dorian, Wichita, Kan.; John R. Christian, Hopkinsville, Ky.;

G. Nelson Duke, Jefferson City, Mo.; Conrad Bost, Salisbury, N.C.; Frank C. Ingraham, Franklin, Tenn.; William F. Collins Jr., Memphis, Tenn.; W. LeRay Fowler, Houston, and George M. Kissinger, Newport News, Va.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (84 members): 22 nominations considered; nine new members, 13 renominations.

New members include Leo E. Eisert, a businessman and member of First church, Vandalia, Ill., replacing Mrs. William D. Richardson of Troy, Ill., who declined to serve.

New members replacing persons ineligible for reappointment include Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Swadley, housewife and member of South Haven church, Springfield, Mo., replacing Mrs. Carter Reed of St. Johns; Horace A. Hamm of Fuquay Varina church, Fuquay Varina, N.C., replacing W. Henry Crouch of Charlotte;

William H. Cook of First church, Bartlesville, replacing Jerry H. Fielder of Oklahoma City; Morris H. Mills, a semi-retired builder and developer and member of Bellevue church, Memphis, Tenn., replacing Wendell G. McClinton of Donelson, Tenn.;

Bonnie B. Westbrook Jr., a medical doctor and member of Calvary church, Beaumont, Texas, replacing Richard M. Cobb of Dallas, and John M. Simms, an attorney and member of First church, Roanoke, Va., r placing W. Curtis English of Altavista, Va.

Nominated for a four-year term as a local member is Charles H. Jones of Kempsvill church, Virginia Beach, Va., replacing B.R. Yarbrough of Manassas, who resigned.

Renominated for second terms are George Gaskins, Lakewood, Colo.; Lewis A. Miller, Tequesta, Fla.; Robert (Bob) Marsh, Atlanta; Harold E. (Eddy) Hallock, Lincoln, Neb.; Judith C. Fitch, Paducah, Ky.; Ron Herrod, Kenner, La.; Richard Sample, Flint, Mich.;

Henderson Belk, Charlotte, N.C.; Harry L. Hannah, Puyallup, Wash.; Lloyd G. Hansen, Memphis, Tenn.; R.C. (Bob) Callan, Amarillo, Texas; Howard A. Baldwin Jr., Richmond, Va. (local), and James Harwood Cochrane, Richmond, Va. (local).

HOME MISSION BOARD (84 members): 24 nominations considered; 11 new members, 13 persons renominated.

Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park church of Austin, Texas, was nominated, replacing Jerry C. Gilmore, an attorney and member of Cliff Temple church, Dallas, who was eligible for a second four-year term but was not renominated.

New members replacing members ineligible for renomination include William Tanner, a professor of geology and member of Fellowship church, Tallahassee, replacing Adon C. Taft of Coral Gables; Mrs. Alice Wahl Sanders, a housewife and member of First church, Bamberg, S.C., replacing Bobby L. Huguley of Columbia;

Ron Phillips of Central church, Hixson, Tenn., replacing Bill Sherman of Nashville; George Horton Harris of Castle Hills church, San Antonio, replacing Billy Weber of Dallas; Rudy Hernandez, an evangelist and member of Gethsemane church, Carrizo Springs, Texas, replacing Omar H. Pachecano of El Paso, and Frank Wells of Briarcliff church, Atlanta, replacing J. Emmett Henderson of Norcross.

Named to fill unexpired terms are Brad Allen of First church, Duncan, Okla., replacing C.B. Hogue of Tulsa, who moved (1986); Mrs. Joe L. Ingram, wife of the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and member of Nichols Hill church, Oklahoma City, replacing Mary Lee Gossett of Norman, who resigned (1987); Claude Hampleman of First church, Elkhville, Ill., replacing John Hessel of West Frankfort, who moved (1988), and Ronald B. Long of Glenwood Hills church, Lithonia, Ga., replacing James Charles Elder Sr., of Conyers, who resigned (local term to expire in 1987).

Renominated to second terms are James F. Walters of Clanton, Ala.; Tom D. Satterwhite of Fort Collins, Colo.; O.S. Hawkins of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Nelson L. Price of Marietta, Ga.; William J. Viehl Jr., of Essex, Md.; William W. Durr of Clinton, Miss.; Mrs. Paulina M. Brown of Shelbina, Mo.; M.O. Owens Jr., of Gastonia, N.C.; Billy Sellers of Matthews, N.C.;

Mrs. William D. Walker of Beaverton, Ore.; Travis E. Wiginton of Norman, Okla.; Hershel R. Chevallier of Knoxville, Tenn., and Mrs. Robert D. Landers of Jonesboro, Ga., (local member).

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (84 members): 23 nominations considered; 11 new members, 12 renominations.

New members replacing members ineligible for renomination include Richard E. Francis of First church, Trussville, Ala., replacing James A. Auchmuty Jr., of Birmingham; Jeff S. Sanders, an insurance executive and member of First Southern church, Canoga Park, Calif., replacing James C. Metcalf of Riverside;

Bill Anderson of Calvary church, Clearwater, Fla., replacing Robert M. McMillan of Tallahassee; S. Craig Tally of First church, Joplin, Mo., replacing Charles D. Butler of Jefferson City; Bruce C. Little, an insurance executive and member of Bethesda church, Durham, N.C., replacing T. Marshall Collins Jr., of High Point;

Floyd Williams, a businessman and member of Broadmoor church, Memphis, Tenn., replacing Robert A. Sanders of Knoxville, and William G. Wilson of Brentwood church, Brentwood, Tenn., replacing Albert Sidney Waits of Memphis (local member).

W. Gene Henderson of First church, Greenville, Miss., replaced William E. Hardy Jr., of Columbus, who became ineligible for a second term when he moved from the state.

Named to fill unexpired terms are Raymond Lawrence, president of Midcontinent Baptist College, Mayfield, Ky., replacing Gary Watkins of Florence, who moved (1986); Greg Baumann, a chemist who lives in Edwardsville, Ill., but is a member of Suburban church, Granite City, Ill., replacing Will D. Selman of Skokie, who resigned (1987), and Billie Friel of First church, Mount Juliet, Tenn., replacing Ralph Stone of Nashville, who moved (local term to expire in 1987).

Renominated to second terms are Ferrell D. Morgan, Fort Smith, Ark.; Jeff McBeth, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Robert W. Rowell, Merritt Island, Fla.; Tommy Jones, Macon, Ga.; B. Hugh Little Jr., of Marietta, Ga.; John C. Wilson of Paris, Ky.; Jerry S. Lee of Jackson, Miss.; Robert Tenery of Morganton, N.C.; Samuel George Lovell of Conway, S.C.; Bo Baker of Irving, Texas; Joseph B. Flowers of Hampton, Va.;

Local members renominated to second terms are John David Laida of Clarksville, Tenn.; William Lynn Moench of Nashville, Tenn.; Robert H. Bible of Morristown, Tenn., and Pat L. Landrum of Brighton, Tenn.

ANNUITY BOARD (54 members, being reduced to 48): 11 nominations considered; four new members, two renominations, five positions eliminated.

Nominated to replace members who are ineligible for reappointment are Jon M. Stubblefield of Central church, Magnolia, Ark., replacing Cline D. Ellis of Kingsland; Harold A. Stephens, a telephone company manager and member of First church, Fort Thomas, Ky., replacing David A. Nelson of Owensboro, and W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., a banker and member of First church, Richardson, Texas, replacing Everett G. Brown Jr., of Dallas.

Nominated to fill an unexpired term is Carl B. Allen, a retired denominational worker and member of Third church, Murfreesboro, Tenn., to replace Alden Wilson of Jackson, who moved (1988).

Renominated to second terms are Cleveland R. Horne Jr. of O'Fallon, Mo., and William C. Clark of Summerville, S.C.

Positions eliminated include those held by Luther N. Davis Jr. of Mobile, Ala.; Ray C. Melton of Jacksonville, Fla.; T.L. Cashwell Jr., of Raleigh, N.C.; B.J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, and H.E. Knox of New Braunfels, Texas.



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