



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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NATIONAL OFFICE

SBC Executive Committee
901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
(615) 244-2355
Wilmer C. Fields, Director
Dan Martin, News Editor
Craig Bird, Feature Editor

BUREAUS

ATLANTA Jim Newton, Chief, 1350 Spring St., N.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30367, Telephone (404) 873-4041
DALLAS Thomas J. Brannon, Chief, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) 741-1996
NASHVILLE (Baptist Sunday School Board) Lloyd T. Householder, Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, Telephone (615) 251-2300
RICHMOND (Foreign) Robert L. Stanley, Chief, 3806 Monument Ave., Richmond, Va. 23230, Telephone (804) 353-0151
WASHINGTON Stan L. Haste, Chief, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

April 26, 1985

85-53

Stanley Appoints
SBC Committees

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee for the 1985 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention have been announced by Charles F. Stanley, convention president.

The committees were announced April 26, in keeping with bylaw provisions of the SBC Constitution, which require the release of the two key committees 45 days in advance of the annual meeting, scheduled June 11-13 in the Dallas Convention Center.

The two committees are appointed by the convention president, and do not require ratification by messengers. Stanley also appoints the Credentials and Tellers Committees, which will be released later.

The key responsibility of the Committee on Committees is to nominate the Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Commissions, which, in turn, nominates trustees for the 20 national SBC agencies. The Committee on Committees also is charged with nominating "all special committees authorized during the session of the Convention not otherwise provided for."

The Resolutions Committee receives, processes and reports back to the convention any resolutions presented during the three-day convention session.

The Committee on Committees is made up of 52 persons, two from each state which qualifies for representation on SBC boards by having more than 25,000 members. The Resolutions Committee is made up of 10 persons, three of whom must be members of the SBC Executive Committee.

Stanley told Baptist Press he received more than 500 nominations for the 62 posts.

"The appointment procedure is an enormous task," he said. "There are so many wonderful people out there to serve, it is hard sometime to make a choice. Stanley added he "telephoned each of the people appointed personally to talk with them about their responsibilities."

He said in early Fall, 1984, he solicited names from state convention executive directors, presidents, as well as receiving nominations from individuals. The 500 names were put into a computer and the winnowing process started.

"We asked every state convention if there was any reason any person should not serve. Any person they mentioned, we did not appoint," Stanley said. "Any names submitted by persons viewed in their state as extreme, hostile or representative of a political coalition were not considered. We tried to choose people who could make a contribution, who did not have any axe to grind."

He said one potential nominee "said he did not think he ought to serve because of his personal feelings about the convention right now. He withdrew his nomination."

Stanley said: "In the case of the Texas appointments, where there is emotional involvement on both sides, the persons selected were recommended from out of state."

Stanley said each state convention office was called and asked about Cooperative Program contributions from the churches of which potential nominees were members. "With only two exceptions, the conventions provided the information we requested," he said.

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SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

"I sought to appoint people who are, in my opinion, loyal, cooperating, Bible-believing, evangelistic, mission minded servants of God. The churches they represent are from a wide spectrum in size, giving and involvement," he said.

Stanley said he provided the lists to vice-presidents Zig Ziglar of Dallas and Don Wideman of Kansas City, Mo., for suggestions and input. "We did not sit down and discuss the whole thing, but I told them to provide me with suggestions and I would consider them," he said.

He added that while he did receive suggestions, the final selections were his.

Stanley said he does not believe the Committee on Committees will have unusual responsibilities, such as nominating persons to serve on a "blue-ribbon" committee to study the crisis in the denomination. Rumors are circulating a motion will be introduced calling for the creation of a committee to study the situation and suggest means to resolve it.

"From what I have heard, any motion will include recommendations concerning the membership of such a committee," Stanley said.

He added the Resolutions Committee "will have to be very, very careful. I think we don't need to contribute any more confusion or volatile subjects than necessary."

He said, however, he believes the persons he has appointed "are very wise people. I think they will serve well and make wise decisions. I think they will consider resolutions in the context of the tension (currently in the convention.)"

Stanley named George Schroeder, a physician and a member of Little Rock (Ark.) First Baptist Church, chairman of the Committee on Committees.

Larry Lewis, president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo., was named chairman of the Resolutions Committee. Hannibal-LaGrange College is a four-year school affiliated with the Missouri Baptist Convention.

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Executive Committee members are: Gary Young, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Carolyn Miller, a housewife and member of First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., and Tommy Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, West Memphis, Ark.

Other members are:

Marv McGrew, a layman from Circle Drive church, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Billy Cline, pastor of Merrimon Avenue church, Asheville, N.C.; Cecil Sims, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore.; Alma Ruth Morgan, a church staff member from First church, Bartlesville, Okla.; Larry Holley, a physician and member of North End church, Beaumont, Texas; Bob Dugan, pastor of Columbia church, Falls Church, Va., and Lewis, chairman.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

ALABAMA: Al Jackson, pastor of Lakeview church, Auburn; Larry Sellers, member of Thomasville church, Thomasville.

ARKANSAS: James Bryant, pastor of Grand Avenue church, Fort Smith; Schroeder, chairman.

ARIZONA: Bill Stone, pastor of First church, Litchfield Park; R.G. Whitehead, director of associational missions, Estrella association, Phoenix.

CALIFORNIA: Jim Goodman, a chiropractor and member of First church, Thousand Oaks; Roger Spradlin, pastor of Oildale First Church, Bakersfield.

COLORADO: Art Graves, pastor of Bicentennial church, Fruita; Debi Grebenik, housewife and member of Black Forest First church, Colorado Springs.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Joe Edmonds, pastor of Friendly church, Friendly, Md.; Sam Hodges, a government employee and member of Hillcrest church, Washington.

FLORIDA: Susan Hawkins, housewife and member of First church, Fort Lauderdale; Homer Lindsay Jr., co-pastor of First church, Jacksonville.

GEORGIA: Andy Frahler, educator and member of First church, Atlanta; Ike Reighard, pastor of New Hope church, Fayetteville.

ILLINOIS: Mark Mize, layman and member of Gateway church, Millstadt; Danny O'Guin, pastor of Tabernacle church, Decatur.

INDIANA: H.S. (Hugh) Barger, layman and member of Calvary church, Evansville; David Simpson, editor of the Indiana Baptist, newsjournal of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA: Dean Denington, layman and member of First Southern Church, Topeka; Charles E. McDonald, pastor of First church, Belle Plaine, Kan.

KENTUCKY: Richard Dendler, pastor of Hall Street church, Owensboro; James E. Wheatley, layman and member of St. Matthews church, Louisville.

LOUISIANA: Mike Gilchrist, evangelist and member of Willow Point church, Shreveport; Carroll Karkalits, educator and member of Trinity church, Lake Charles.

MARYLAND-DELAWARE: Carmen Hartsfield, pastor of Landover church, Landover Hills; William Taaffe, journalist and member of Montrose church, Montrose.

MICHIGAN: Floyd Key, layman and member of Westside church in Flushing; George Seelow, pastor of Dix Avenue church, Lincoln Park.

MISSOURI: Rich Moore, attorney and member of First church, West Plains; John Gilbert, pastor of First church, Poplar Bluff and president of the Missouri Baptist Convention.

MISSISSIPPI: Doris Evans, housewife and member of Colonial Heights church, Jackson; William Green, pastor of Edwards church, Edwards.

NORTH CAROLINA: Horace Hall, pastor of Freedom church, Wilmington; Don Taylor, layman and member of Beverly Hills church, Asheville.

NEW MEXICO: Jim Prock, pastor of First church, Carlsbad; Lillian Green, housewife and member of First church, Jal.

NORTHWEST: Danny Dickson, pastor of East Side church, Springfield, Ore.; Richard Burson, layperson and member of Vine Street church, Roseburg, Ore.

OHIO: Bill Barner, director of missions, Greater Columbus association; Jerry Lankford, layman and member of Greater Columbus church, Columbus.

OKLAHOMA: Steve Boehning, pastor of Immanuel church, Shawnee; Tom Holland, layman and member of Highland Park church, Bartlesville.

SOUTH CAROLINA: James L. Oliver, pastor of Central church, Darlington; George Smith, layman and member of First church, Columbia.

TENNESSEE: Bob Burch, pastor of Calvary church, Knoxville; Joe Rowell, layman and member of Briarcrest church, Memphis.

TEXAS: Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest church, Houston; Mark Full r, layman and member of San Jacinto church, Amarillo.

VIRGINIA: Ann Davis, layperson and member of Bethel church, Yorktown; Bob Estes, pastor of Ocean View church, Virginia Beach.

Dilday, Reynolds Field
Questions About Convention

By Toby Druin

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP)—Southern Baptists will lose Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, within two years if the convention takeover attempt is not sidetracked, seminary President Russell H. Dilday Jr. charged last week.

Comparing his observation to that of Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks who a few days earlier said the takeover movement and charges made by its leaders threaten missions efforts, Dilday said he decided to "get off the fence" after the 1984 convention in Kansas City because he saw the future of the institution he heads was in jeopardy.

He had "weighed the statement very carefully," he said, and "in two years or less we will lose Southwestern seminary" if the convention continues along the path of trustee selection it has followed the last five years.

Dilday and Baylor University President Herbert H. Reynolds spoke at Trinity Baptist Church, San Antonio, to a crowd of more than 700 pastors, wives and laypersons, invited to the church by Pastor Buckner Fanning "to learn the truth" about the denominational controversy.

Fanning said he sent more than 750 invitations to persons from Austin to Brownville to have lunch at the church and then dialogue with Dilday and Reynolds, "whose institutions are providing leadership for Texas and Southern Baptists and who have been the 'lightning rods' of the discussion." The dialogue session lasted more than three hours.

Most of Dilday's remarks were repeats of recent statements he has made in similar gatherings. He said neutrality in the denominational controversy is no longer an option, that the "ship is on fire" and while the denomination has a greater calling to missions and evangelism it must stop and put out the fire.

Louis Moore, religion editor at the Houston Chronicle, noted Dilday had been criticized two years ago because he was not more involved in opposing the takeover attempt and asked why the seminary president had gotten "off the fence."

Dilday said after the Kansas City convention he could "no longer face my family or the students and faculty" without opposing what has been happening. He is committed to being president of the seminary, a job to which he feels God has called him, he said, but at the risk of his job he said he felt he must speak out.

The historic "free swing" of the denomination between different positions, he said, no longer operates, "but is being 'skewed' by manipulation" the life of which had not been seen in the denomination before 1979. A certain amount of politics always has occurred in the election of a president, he said, but nothing like the computerized, sophisticated system begun in Houston in 1979.

The takeover attempt begun that year and characterized by the "going for the jugular" goals of its leaders to control the nomination of trustees to SBC agencies, he said, is supported by leaders such as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, who he said would like to see Southern Baptists scuttle their cooperative method of support.

There may be "four, five or six" professors among the 400-500 in SBC seminaries whose beliefs may be outside the parameters of Southern Baptist life but that does not constitute "liberal drift," he said to one questioner and claimed there are no "classical liberals" among even those few.

"Our denomination, instead, is as conservative and biblically rooted as ever," Dilday said, "and our seminaries are stronger than ever."

He repeated, as in other meetings, that classical dispensationalism, not premillennialism, is in conflict with the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963. Various reports erroneously have said he referred to premillennialism as heresy. Dilday said his own view of Christ's return is premillennial, which he said is the view held by most of the Southwest professors.

Dilday said his reference to some in the takeover movement as having a "Falwellian, Moral Majority, societal approach" to the denomination and missions support was aimed at those who are more in sympathy with an Independent Baptist approach to missions who would support some causes and reject others.

"They are free to do what they want," he said, "but when they leave the cooperative way of doing missions, they cease being Southern Baptists."

H said he was in sympathy with some of the social goals expressed by leaders of the Moral Majority, but not their "civil religion" emphases or their societal, pick-and-choose method of missions support.

Albert Lock Jr., pastor of Trinity Baptist Church, Pleasanton, Texas, who questioned Dilday's Moral Majority statements, said he and others will remain committed to the Moral Majority concepts, "not because Jerry Falwell said it, but because we believe it is a biblical imperative."

Lock said many who hold those views have felt excluded from convention life in the past and feel fundamentalists have been excluded from various programs.

C.L. Culpepper, a member of Shearer Hills Baptist Church, San Antonio, and former longtime Southern Baptist missionary, questioned the use of the word "Fundamentalist" with a capital "F" usually associated with J. Frank Norris to describe persons who have supported the election of the last four SBC presidents.

Reynolds, to whom the question was directed, said he had not used the term but felt many who had supported the last four presidents had been swayed by rhetoric in keeping with the spirit of Fundamentalism.

John Baugh, a member of Second Baptist Church, Houston, also spoke at the meeting, announcing plans to publish a new periodical, The Baptist Laity Journal. He said he and Owen Cooper, former president of the SBC from Yazoo City, Miss., were directing publication of the journal, which would have an initial press run of 250,000 and will be designed "to inform Southern Baptist laity and to protect and preserve traditional Baptist doctrines."

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SBC 'Peace Initiative'
Fails; Said 'Too Late'

By Dan Martin

Baptist Press
4/26/85

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—A "peace initiative," designed to avoid a "wholesale bloodbath" at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas apparently has failed.

Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, and former second vice-president of the SBC, told Baptist Press he proposed a meeting of key leaders from various factions in the denomination in an effort to "keep this thing (the SBC) from coming apart."

Leaders of the right-wing or inerrancy faction, he said, turned down the plan. "They said it was too late...that the missiles are already in the air," Garrison said.

Garrison, seen as a "moderate", said the overture was made "entirely on my own and came about because I have really been troubled by what is happening. I have promised God and everybody that I am not going to be part of the slander and divisiveness that is going on but that I will try to do what I can to bring peace.

"I have been in at least three meetings where attempts were made to discuss our differences. I left each feeling more alienated. What I proposed was that we have a meeting where we would not talk about our differences but about ways to avoid division," Garrison said.

Garrison said he had "at least three long telephone conversations with Adrian Rogers," former president of the SBC and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn., about ways to bring about such a meeting and a detailed agenda for any such meeting.

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"We started out talking about binding arbitration," Garrison said. "But that idea was dropped because we knew there would be problems getting a panel acceptable to both sides. I suggested that we just have a meeting of the people who have been leaders on both sides to see if we could head off problems in Dallas."

Garrison said he suggested a four point agenda and Rogers suggested a fifth.

First—"We would urge that Charles Stanley (current SBC president) be unopposed. In exchange, he would commit himself to a process of nominations and appointments which would assure fairness on all sides."

Second—"All of those who are now involved in travelling across the convention and speaking in rallies would stop speaking, or, at least, turn their attention toward peace."

Third—"During the coming year, we would make some sort of arrangement whereby the news articles concerning the controversy could be screened by some process to have the emotional factors removed. In exchange, publications such as the Southern Baptist Advocate stop publishing entirely."

Fourth—"The Resolutions Committee (at the 1985 meeting) would either ignore or decline to handle divisive issues which have been spoken to during the last five or 10 years."

The fifth, which Garrison said Rogers proposed, would negotiate "negative designation" of Cooperative Program contributions, allowing churches to decline to support certain work such as the six seminaries, which they find objectionable.

Rogers was contacted by Baptist Press and confirmed Garrison's proposal.

"I really appreciated the effort Gene made," Rogers said. "I think his reasoning is probably sound. I don't think that what pretends for Dallas is good. I am grieved because I know the Father (God) is displeased when his children can't get along. I appreciated the effort Gene made; I appreciated him calling."

Rogers added he believes such a meeting is "still not an impossibility. It may still transpire, but the problem is that so many things have been set in motion that we don't know whether or not something like this can be done."

The Memphis pastor said he talked to Stanley about the proposal during a meeting. "Basically Charles (Stanley) felt he doesn't have anything to bargain with except good will. He said he has gone overboard to make the appointments good, solid Southern Baptists."

Although Rogers did not elaborate on the meeting in which the proposal was discussed, Baptist Press has learned Stanley and Rogers met in Dallas in the Amfac Hotel April 17. The meeting also included former SBC presidents Smith and Draper; Paul Pressler; Paige Patterson; Russ Il Kaemmerling, editor of the Southern Baptist Advocate, and Fred Powell, senior associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Rogers added the first four points "are ideas Gene (Garrison) had and I basically would agree with those. On the matter of negative designation, I want to be very careful. I think the best thing for us (the SBC) would be for us all to believe as much alike as we can. I am not for the demise of cooperative missions, I am for cooperative missions.

"The only reason negative designation is mentioned is to keep people from feeling they have to crucify their convictions to support all we are doing. This is a way of seeing how we can continue to cooperate," Rogers said.

He added he believes the SBC came into being to "do missions. Now, by and large, all we do is called missions. Therefore when we give to 'missions' we also give to the Historical Commission, the Christian Life Commission, theological education and all of that. Some of it is missions, some is quasi-missions and some is not missions at all."

Garrison said participants could include seminary presidents Roy Lee Honeycutt of Southern, Russell H. Dilday Jr. of Southwestern, and Randall Lolley of Southeastern, Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and Kenneth Chafin, professor at Southern seminary.

On the other side of the table, he said, representatives could be Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler, leaders of the inerrancy movement; Stanley and former SBC presidents Rogers, James T. Draper Jr. and Bailey E. Smith.

"If we could get a group like this together, those who are actually lead spokesmen for the two sides, and each side would make some concessions, I think we could head this thing off in Dallas. If things keep on like they are going, it doesn't make any difference whether Charles Stanley wins or loses the election; the real loser will be the Southern Baptist Convention."

Garrison said he asked Rogers to discuss the possibilities of such a meeting with Stanley. "He told me he would be meeting with Stanley to pray and encourage him, and that the proposal would be discussed. He (Rogers) told me there was hope—not big—but hope."

The Oklahoma City pastor said he called Rogers for an answer. "He told me he had met with Stanley and 'the brethren' and they felt they had nothing to negotiate with and that such an effort was 'too late.'"

Rogers said he is "in favor of anybody getting together before or after or anytime to talk and to pray and to be open and loving." However, he added: "I think the possibility of it (a meeting such as Garrison proposed) is a little remote.

"I think it is probably a little late for that. I am doing what I can to support the ministry and presidency of Charles Stanley, but at the same time I am trying to do what I can to be loving and positive in spirit toward those who may disagree."

He added he does not believe Stanley should come "hat in hand and say, 'Please don't oppose me.' I think the ball is in the court of those who will oppose Charles. Either they will or will not. That is almost a decision they have to make unilaterally," Rogers said.

Rogers added he "certainly expects Charles Stanley to be reelected. But in all honesty, I think brethren ought to negotiate whether they win or lose if there are points where they can negotiate. I don't think the 'conservatives' ought to fail to negotiate because they think they have a position of strength.

"The point is that I don't know that we have anything really to negotiate with other than matters of conscience. And that cannot be negotiated."

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SBC Vice-President
Objects To Omission

By Bob S. Terry

Baptist Press
4/26/85

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—SBC Vice-President Donald V. Wideman says he was "not given opportunity or asked to give input to the list of names from which President Charles Stanley made his appointments" to key committees for the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC.

Wideman's reaction came following a Thursday morning telephone call from Stanley in which the SBC president said the appointments had been released to Baptist Press Wednesday afternoon.

Wideman, pastor of First Baptist Church, North Kansas City, Mo., said his only input was to suggest a person to serve on the committee on resolutions from a list of individuals provided by Stanley's office.

"I asked him (Stanley) why he didn't include me and the reason he gave for omitting me was that he was so busy and that the appointments were such a tremendous job," Wideman recalled. "I find that incredible. He was too busy to consult me but I know for a fact that he did call and ask other people for suggestions. That has been announced in public meetings.

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"I consider what he has done to be not only a violation of the bylaws, but also a violation of Christian ethics and courtesy and the spirit and fairness and right," he said.

Bylaws of the SBC require the president appoint the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee "in consultation with" the vice-presidents.

Wideman said he believes he was "purposefully omitted" from the appointment process and called his omission, "a personal insult and an affront to the more than 7,000 Southern Baptists who elected me as vice-president assuming I would be included in the process."

He called Stanley's "independent, arbitrary style of leadership" a sharp contrast to that of James T. Draper Jr. when he was president (1982-83). Draper reportedly initiated and maintained communication with his vice-presidents. Several meetings between the SEC officers were reported and all appointments were made jointly.

Wideman said he has initiated every contact with Stanley since being elected in June. About three weeks ago, after receiving no responses, Wideman said he sent a personal letter off ring to meet anytime, anywhere, in light of the pressing time schedule.

The response was a telephone call from Fred Powell, a member of Stanley's staff, Wideman said, adding he remembered Powell as coordinator of the Patterson/Pressler communications network when Powell was a Missouri pastor. Wideman said he was told a list of names would be forwarded to him and he was to offer suggestions from that list. Also, an appointment was made for a phone conversation with Stanley.

When the two men did make telephone contact, Stanley did not have his list of names in front of him, Wideman said. "He asked me to make suggestions but all I was ever allowed to do was to react to names which Stanley's office provided. I was never able to initiate any suggestions," Wideman added.

"I find it certainly upesetting to realize that the first time I will know who Charles has appointed will be when I read it in Baptist Press," he said.

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(Terry is editor of Word and Way, newsjournal of the Missouri Baptist Convention.)

(BP)

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901 Commerce #750
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

LYNN MAY HO
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
901 COMMERCE
NASHVILLE, TN. 37203

NEWS SERVICE OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION