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Committee On Boards
 Nominations Released

By Dan Martin

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--"We have worked diligently to find the best people we could find," said Lee Roberts Sr. as he released the 1986 report of the Southern Baptist Convention Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

Roberts, an Atlanta mortgage banker, was chairman of the 54-member committee, charged with the responsibility of nominating trustees to serve on the 24 national entities of the 14.4-million-member denomination.

The 1986 committee acted on 244 positions, of which 112 are held by persons eligible for renomination, 118 require new nominees, three will not be replaced and 11 will be filled when the committee's subcommittee meets in Atlanta prior to the annual meeting.

Currently, 949 persons are on the boards of 24 SBC entities. Under the SBC system of rotating boards, about 25 percent of the positions become vacant each year, about half of which are eligible for a second term.

The 1986 report includes 13 nominees from West Virginia, which recently surpassed the 25,000 members required for representation on SBC boards and agencies. Before the West Virginia members can serve, however, messengers to the 1986 annual meeting must accept the recommendation of the SBC Executive Committee that they be seated.

Under recently-adopted revisions in the SBC bylaws, the report of the Committee on Boards must be released through the denomination's news service, Baptist Press, at least 45 days in advance of the annual meeting, scheduled June 10-12 in Atlanta.

Roberts, who said he became actively involved in SBC affairs about a year ago, was elected to chair the committee at the February meeting of the Executive Committee after Tom Elliff, who had been elected at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC, resigned from a Colorado pastorate to move to Oklahoma, thus becoming ineligible to serve.

Being a novice, he said, "was probably an advantage. I do not know the players on both sides (of the convention controversy) and the argument which has gone on. I admit I am naive and not knowing allowed me to sit there and be quiet and let the committee make its decisions."

Roberts said the committee, as its last order of business, adopted a statement intended to "express to the SBC at large that we were unified in our support of our nominees."

The statement, which included six points, was adopted with only one dissenting vote. "I think when you get 54 unrelated Southern Baptists together and have only one dissenting vote, that is tantamount to unanimity," Roberts said.

"I was in hopes we could say to the convention at large that 54 of us who had not known each other came together and that we came away unified. We did that for the most part. I would have wanted to see all of us together, but I think we did pretty well."

Roberts said the committee adopted guidelines under which the session Thursday, March 13, was "a work session only and that all suggested nominations...will not become final nominations until a resolution approved by the majority of the members on Friday, March 14."

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The chairman said the guidelines were presented because "I was afraid we would bog down and I wanted to keep on working Thursday night. That way, if we had balance problems or some states had questions about the nominees or wanted to challenge someone, we could take care of that Friday without getting bogged down and not finishing our work on time."

He said "about 98 percent of the work (making the nominations) was done on Thursday." He added there were some challenges to some of the proposed nominees on the following morning.

"There were a couple of people challenged who we understood were supporters of abortion, and there was discussion of inerrancy on another candidate. Another man was challenged because someone heard he kept a bottle of whiskey in his study, and there was some discussion on where someone stood on the ordination of women," Roberts said.

Roberts told Baptist Press "being an inerrantist was not a prerequisite for nomination. I believe several were nominated who are not inerrantists. The roll call did not deal with whether the nominees were inerrantists or pro-life; only with whether we were unified and unanimous.

The resolution says: "The members...do hereby agree, each and everyone of us, that: We have sought the direction of the Holy Spirit in all that we do...have pledged ourselves to be unified in all that we do...have pledged ourselves to work for harmony and unity in all that we do...."

It adds, "We have approved all of the actions of the committee and now unequivocally make final the nominations that have been approved by a majority of the members...."

It also says, "We have pledged ourselves, each and everyone of us, to mutually support one another in each and every one of our final nominations as approved by a majority of the committee...(and)...urge the messengers to the 1986 convention to harmoniously and in unity support each and every final nomination made by the committee and its subcommittee."

Another motion adopted by the committee concerned the Cooperative Program.

The motion stated: "We, the Committee on Boards, recognizing the diversity of our geographical backgrounds also recognize that churches in pioneer areas are a lot different in comparison to older established churches; further, we recognize that there is a difference between struggling inner city and transitional churches in areas where local missions work is important from suburban churches in dynamic growing areas; further, we recognize that our churches in low income areas cannot be compared with churches in affluent manufacturing and industrial areas.

"Therefore, we believe that the chief criteria for selecting nominees should not be the percentage of Cooperative Program giving by a nominee's church. We do, however, affirm that every church ought to support the Cooperative Program in a way commensurate with their ability."

Roberts said Cooperative Program giving "came up and we felt Cooperative Program giving should not be the basis for determining whether a nominee should serve. We did not want that to be a factor used to keep people from serving; we felt that was grossly unfair. In the motion we are trying to tell the messengers if they have a reason to challenge (a nominee) it should not be because of the CP giving of that person's church."

He noted there are churches in transitional areas or in places where the energy or farm crises prevent giving, and that he does not believe they should be prohibited from serving because "their percentage of giving is not as large as that of the megachurches."

In releasing the report, Roberts said he hopes the report will be "peaceful...and unchallenged (at the convention). If, however, this should not be the case and if challenges are to be made I sincerely request that as a courtesy to the SBC at large that any such challenges be presented to me in writing prior to the convention.

He added, "Should I not hear from anyone regarding this, I will only be able to assume that all of our nominees are acceptable and that none of them will have to endure needless challenges or embarrassment."

Executive Committee,
Boards Nominated

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Nominees for the Executive Committee and the four boards—Foreign Mission, Home Mission, Sunday School and Annuity—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 (70 members): 20 nominations considered; 10 new members, including a new representative from West Virginia, 10 renominations.

New member from West Virginia is Mrs. Jan Lyons, a housewife and member of Westmoreland church, Huntington. Her term will end in 1989.

New members replacing members ineligible for reappointment include William F. Harrell, pastor of Abilene church, Evans, Ga., replacing James P. Westberry of Atlanta; David E. Hankins, pastor of Trinity church, Lake Charles, La., replacing Ernest L. Walker of Lake Charles; Donald Glen Whitt, pastor of First church, Milan, Tenn., replacing Richard D. Patton of Portland; Gordon C. Graham, pastor of First church, New Braunfels, Texas, replacing Malcolm O. Bane Jr., of College Station, and Scott C. Humphrey, a real estate broker and member of First church, Alexandria, Va., replacing James E. Rayhorn Sr. of Richmond.

A nominee to replace Elvin Hall of Pinecastle, Fla., will be named by the Committee on Boards subcommittee when it meets in Atlanta prior to the annual meeting.

Nominated to terms to expire in 1988 are David T. Gray, an attorney and member of Stithton church, Radcliff, Ky., replacing John R. McCall of Louisville, who resigned; Terry L. Davis, pastor of Ocean City church, Ocean City, Md., replacing Malcolm A. Jones of Baltimore, who moved, and Julian Motley, pastor of Gorman church, Durham, N.C., replacing John T. Bunn of Sylva, who resigned.

Renominated to second four-year terms are Darrell W. Robinson of Mobile, Ala.; William D. Powell III, of Birmingham, Ala.; Thomas A. Hinson of West Memphis, Ark.; James M. Morton Jr., of Livermore, Calif.; Mrs. J. Robert Eubanks of Atlanta, Ga.;

Alan E. Sears of Louisville, Ky.; Ingram L. Foster Jr., of Prentiss, Miss.; Mrs. Sanford Smith of Greensboro, N.C.; Ira Q. Craft of Columbia, S.C., and Edward J. Drake of Dallas.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (85 members): 24 nominations considered; 9 new members, including a new representative from West Virginia, 15 renominations.

New member from West Virginia is Lester Leonard Hall, pastor of Memorial church, Beckley. His term will expire in 1988.

New members replacing persons ineligible for reappointment include Jack Bledsoe, pastor of First church, Des Arc, Ark., replacing Mrs. Jewell V. Moore Jr., of Hope; Ron E. Wilson, pastor of First church, Thousand Oakes, Calif., replacing Mrs. Wilma G. Eurich of San Diego; John P. Greene, owner of an office equipment company and member of First church, Lake Worth, Fla., replacing Mrs. James A. Ponder of Jacksonville;

A. Ben Hatfield, pastor of First church, Alpharetta, Ga., replacing J. Hoffman Harris of Tucker; Charles A. Fink, president of a petroleum marketing company and member of Emmanuel church, Farmington, N.M., replacing James A. McKinnon of Albuquerque, and David C. Walker, pastor of First church, San Antonio, Texas, replacing H.F. Scott of Lubbock.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1987 is John Jackson, pastor of Crescent Southern church of Anaheim, replacing Mrs. Jim L. Harven of San Bernadino, who moved.

Named to a term to expire in 1988 is Wendell Estep, pastor of Council Road church, Bethany, Okla., replacing Jerry Don Abernathy of Del City, who moved.

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Renominated to second terms are Hollis Rice of Florence, Ala.; Frank A. Norman Jr., of West Point, Ga.; Bill Hall of Danville, Ky.; Larry Wells Kennedy of Laurel, Miss.; C. Mark Cortis of Winston-Salem, N.C.;

Virgil D. Barnett of Parma, Ohio; Paul Box of Moore, Okla.; Mrs. Gilbert D. Waters of Camden, S.C.; Fred A. Steelman of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Hal Browning Boone of Friendswood, Texas; Kenny Lynn Lewis of Brownsville, Texas, and Mrs. Milton Cunningham of Houston, Texas.

Local members reappointed to second terms include Noralee M. Stephenson, Robert F. Cochran and Mrs. Lee Pickens Bryan, all of Richmond, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD (85 members): 24 nominations considered; 7 new members, including a new representative from West Virginia, 17 renominations.

New member from West Virginia is D. Wade Armstrong, pastor of First church, Ceredo. His term will expire in 1988.

New members replacing members ineligible for reappointment include Jack Norman Graham, pastor of First church, West Palm Beach, Fla., replacing Emit O. Ray of Miami; Ronald L. Burdon, pastor of First church, Jeffersonton, Ky., replacing T.L. McSwain of Louisville;

Jerry N. Barlow, pastor of First church, Franklinton, La., replacing Perry R. Sanders of Lafayette; Liston L. Morris, secretary-treasurer of a gasoline distribution firm and member of First church, Columbia, Miss., replacing Mrs. Kimble C. Sutherland of Jackson, and Mrs. Jerry (Elwyn) Walker, a homemaker and member of First church, Lubbock, Texas, replacing Marvin C. Griffin of Austin.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1987 is Louie W. Odom, a retired infantry officer and member of Crossgates church, Brandon, Miss., replacing Carl Savell of Jackson who resigned.

Renominated to second terms are Troy L. Morrison of Montgomery, Ala.; Mrs. Harold (Beth) McGhee of Tucson, Ariz.; Nick Garland of Hot Springs, Ark.; Mrs. T.L. Kilpatrick of Salinas, Calif.; Orris R. Bullock of Washington, Md. (D.C. Convention); Mrs. Valerie B. Albertson of Marietta, Ga.;

R.W. Hodge of Princeton, Ky.; Mrs. Henry C. Byrd of Matthews, N.C.; Arthur L. Patterson of Mason, Ohio; Brad Allen of Duncan, Okla.; John P. Faris of Laurens, S.C.; Jerry L. Glisson of Memphis, Tenn.; Clifford E. Hogue of Midland, Texas; Ronnie H. Yarber Sr., of Mesquite, Texas; and Hal Buckner Boone of Friendswood, Texas.

Local members reappointed include Mrs. Edwin Howard of Norcross, Ga., and Searcy S. Garrison of Atlanta.

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (85 members): 23 nominations considered; 10 new members, 13 renominated.

New member from West Virginia will be Mrs. Sherion Babb, a homemaker and member of Westmoreland church, Huntington. Her term will expire in 1987.

New members replacing persons ineligible for renomination include Cecil E. Weller, a retired Boy Scout official and member of Grand Avenue church, Fort Smith, Ark., replacing Don Fuller of Brinkley; Bobby H. Welch, pastor of First church, Daytona Beach, Fla., replacing James A. Fortinberry of Jacksonville; Rick A. Forrester, pastor of First church, Lilburn, Ga., replacing J. Parnick Jennings Sr. of Rome;

J. Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights church, Jackson, Miss., replacing Tom O. Winstead of Jackson; Glen Stern, pastor of Highland church of Grove City, Ohio, replacing J.J. Crumpler of Mt. Carmel, and Daniel A. Collins, an attorney and member of First church, Taylors, S.C., replacing Lewis Abbot of Lexington.

A nominee to replace T.D. Hall of Euless, Texas, will be named by the Committee on Boards subcommittee when it meets in Atlanta prior to the annual meeting. Also to be named in Atlanta will be a nominee to fill the unexpired term—to expire in 1988—of Samuel H. Letson Jr. of Norcross, Ga., who moved.

Nominated to a term to expire in 1989 is Jerry W. Brown, pastor of Vallecito church, Bayfield, Colo., replacing Jeff McBeth of Colorado Springs, who moved.

Renominated to second terms are Travis J. Tindal of Birmingham, Ala.; Nolan Kennedy of Seaside, Calif.; Raymond Eugene Lawrence of Mayfield, Ky.; Mrs. Adrian L. Decker of Zachary, La.; H. Dean Mathis of Hobbs, N.M.;

Ned L. Mathews of Gastonia, N.C.; Warren C. Hultgren of Tulsa, Okla.; Winford L. Hendrix of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Donald G. Dilday of Lufkin, Texas; Mrs. Morris H. (Jodi) Chapman of Wichita Falls, Texas, and J.C. Hatfield of Lubbock, Texas.

Local members reappointed to second terms include O. Eugene Mims of Cleveland, Tenn., and Raymond Langlois of Nashville, Tenn.

ANNUITY BOARD (53 members, being reduced to 48): 23 nominations considered; 17 new members, five renominations and one position not replaced.

New member from West Virginia is Alvie L. Edwards, pastor of First church, Fairlea. His term will expire in 1989.

New members with terms to expire in 1988 replacing persons ineligible for reappointment include Guy Williams, a banker and member of First church, New Orleans, replacing W.L. Albritton of Monroe; B.J. Martin, pastor of South Main church, Pasadena, Texas, replacing C.H. Hamilton Jr. of Harlingen, and Robert B. Bass, a general contractor and member of Bon Air church, Richmond, Va., replacing O.J. Campbell of Wytheville.

New members with terms to expire in 1989 replacing persons ineligible for reappointment include F. Ray Turner, pastor of First church, Garden City, Fla., replacing Charlie A. Webb of Live Oak; Thomas L. Martin, pastor of Fellowship church, Oxford, Miss., replacing Milton L. Wood of Jackson;

C. Neal Johnson, a banker and member of First church, Artesia, N.M., replacing Mrs. Carl R. (Willie Jo) Scott of Clovis; J.T. Knott Jr., a retired farmer and merchant and member of Knightdale church, Knightdale, N.C., replacing J.W. Shearin Jr. of Winston-Salem;

Others nominated for terms to expire in 1989 include Eric W. Daniels, partner in the Atlanta office of Christian Family Planning and member of Eastside church, Marietta, Ga., replacing William S. Baird of Marietta, who resigned; John E. Owen, pastor of First church, Cape Girardeau, Mo., replacing Cleveland R. Horne Jr. of O'Fallon, who moved, and James L. Bunch, pastor of First church, Newtown, Ohio, replacing Donald L. Webb of Wadsworth, who moved.

New members with terms to expire in 1990 replacing persons ineligible for reappointment include John A. Caddell, president of a commercial and industrial building firm and member of Taylor Road church, Montgomery, Ala., replacing J. Cecil Hamiter of Gadsden;

R.W. Turner, assistant to the pastor of Roswell Street church of Marietta, Ga., replacing M.H. Borland Jr. of Avondale Estates; Daniel R. Taylor, pastor of Shelborne church, Baltimore, Md., replacing Wesley M. Johnson of Dover, Del.

Others nominated for terms to expire in 1990 include William A. Willis, an insurance executive and member of Forest Highlands church, Little Rock, Ark., replacing Jon M. Stubblefield of Magnolia, who moved; James L. Sanderson, pastor of First church, Jenks, Okla., replacing Mrs. Irene Horne of Okmulgee, who died, and Patrick L. Baughman Sr., a salesman and member of First church, Hilton Head Island, S.C., replacing William C. Clark of Summerville, who resigned.

Renominated for terms to expire in 1990 are Joseph G. Davis of Westminster, Calif.; Bob R. Howard of Independence, Mo., and Ronald D. Earl of Chattanooga, Tenn.

The post currently held by James C. Cantrell of Dallas, will not be filled.

Local members renominated to new terms include Robert B. McBurney of Waco, Texas, and Ward Walker of Irving, Texas.



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