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April 7, 1989

89-54

N-CO

Budget virtually even
with last year's pace

NASHVILLE (BP)--Halfway through its fiscal year, the Southern Baptist Convention's combined ministry budget remains even with last year's pace.

The SBC Cooperative Program received \$68,067,886 through March, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee. That amount is 0.01 percent -- or \$4,982 -- more than receipts for the first six months of the 1987-88 fiscal year.

March receipts were \$9,397,031, a 16.1 percent drop from March 1988, Bennett said.

"I am deeply concerned about our giving to world missions through the Cooperative Program," he said. "This is Southern Baptists' main channel of support of our mission ministries. Cooperative Program support is crucial to advance, both at home and abroad."

The current overall Cooperative Program goal is \$145.6 million. The "basic operating budget" -- funds distributed to 18 convention organizations that conduct evangelistic, missionary, educational and church-starting ministries worldwide -- is \$137.61 million.

If the second half of the Cooperative Program budget year matches the first, receipts will fall almost \$9.5 million -- or 6.5 percent -- below the overall goal. Those same receipts would be almost \$1.5 million -- or 1.07 percent -- below the basic operating goal.

However, receipts for the second half of the fiscal year have been lower than first-half receipts for each of the past three years.

To reach the \$145.6 million overall goal, the Cooperative Program must average more than \$12.9 million in monthly receipts for the balance of the year. To reach its \$137.61 million basic goal, it must average almost \$11.5 million per month. Only three months have topped \$12.9 million in Cooperative Program history; only eight months have topped \$11.6 million.

"I am asking the churches and all of us to pray about this," Bennett said. "As always, the only course to follow is to pray and place our total trust in God."

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Golden Gate trustees
OK relocation study

By Herb Hollinger

N-CO
(Calif.)

Baptist Press
4/7/89

BREA, Calif. (BP)--Trustees of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary have voted to study the possibility of selling the Mill Valley, Calif., main campus and relocating the seminary.

Ironically, the regular April 3-5 session was held at the Southern California seminary campus in Brea, where trustees helped dedicate new facilities for one of two branch campuses. The other branch is located in Portland, Ore.

Trustees also voted a \$5.6 million budget for the 1989-90 year, a decrease of 2.7 percent -- or \$130,000 -- from the current budget.

The vote to explore the "options for the best use of the Mill Valley property" came without dissent by the trustees following a proposal made by the seminary's administration and discussed in executive session by the trustees.

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President William O. Crews Jr. and staff will work with representatives of the faculty, students, a long-range planning committee and the trustees for consideration and action.

Seminary officials gave no timetable for the study, but it presumably could take years, and if the seminary were to be relocated or a new campus built, it could be as long as a decade, they said.

The resolution specifically mentions that particular consideration should be given to the best use of land presently owned by the seminary in Mill Valley, based on a determination of programs that could best be conducted at that location.

"This action is not a decision to move or sell our property," Crews said. "However, it does allow for us to study all options, including possible relocation." Any actions also would be done in consultation with the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, according to the resolution.

The budget for the 1989-90 year, which starts Aug. 1, is less than the present budget primarily because anticipated receipts available to the seminary's operating budget from the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget will be less than this year, Crews told the trustees.

"Although we will receive the \$200,000 special allocation for housing endowment, our anticipated receipts will actually be less," Crews said. "Other income from fees and services will remain basically the same, while expenditures like employee insurance (up \$130,000) are escalating and beyond our control. During the 1978-83 period, Cooperative Program receipts grew 87 percent, while those receipts increased only 17 percent over the 1984-89 period."

The new budget includes no cost-of-living increases for faculty and staff, although some step increases were approved by the trustees. It includes "major" reductions in expenses for student apartments, the student center/cafeteria, equipment, development, supervised ministry, counseling center, spiritual formation and building/grounds. Some personnel cuts will be made, trustees were told, but no details were given.

However, matriculation fees will increase by \$25, to \$400, and seminary housing rental charges will increase by 5 percent.

The new budget also includes earnings of \$580,000 from the expected sale of 17 acres of seminary property for a condominium project. The funds received from the sale will be added to the seminary's endowment. However, Gordon Fercho, chairman of the trustee finance and properties committee, warned the trustees that if the condo property sale runs into snags and the funds are not available for the 1989-90 budget, "a new scenario would be required."

In other business, trustees elected Michael D. Thompson as dean of students and assistant professor of spiritual formation, effective Aug. 1. He currently is acting dean of students.

Also, the board approved step promotions for 10 faculty members; \$25,000 of designated road funds to repair a gas line under a road; a one-half year sabbatical for Stanley Nelson, professor of theology; and a new policy requiring students to submit annual statements from their local churches demonstrating their active roles in those churches.

Trustees elected Herman E. Wooten of Elk Grove, Calif., chairman; John R. (Dick) Lincoln of Columbia, S.C., vice chairman; and Stephen P. Davis of Russellville, Ark., secretary.

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Also contributing to this story was Eddy G. Oliver, Golden Gate Seminary communications director.

Southern trustees ok
2 dozen recommendations

By David R. Wilkinson

N-10
(SBTS)

Baptist Press
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LOUISIVILLE, Ky.(BP) -- Southern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees dispatched three days of business during their annual meeting on the Louisville, Ky., campus April 3-5, approving without dissent more than two dozen recommendations from the seminary's administration and trustee committees.

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Trustees adopted a \$14.9 million operating budget for 1989-90, a 1 percent increase over the 1988-89 budget; approved a series of personnel recommendations, including the addition of three faculty members; and negotiated an accelerated procedure for electing new trustees to the 63-member board.

The 1989-90 budget, described by Executive Vice President Donald B. Clapp as "the leanest budget in years," provides a 2 percent salary scale increase for all regular employees plus an additional one-step adjustment for full-time assistant and associate professors eligible for merit increases.

Funding the salary adjustment and a significant increase in fixed costs for employee insurance and retirement benefits required internal budget reallocations of more than \$368,000, including cuts in some programs and services, seminary officials said.

A salary increase had been identified as a top priority in developing the budget, since employees received no salary increases last year.

The 1989-90 budget anticipates a reduction of more than \$100,000 in allocations from the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget next year, based upon the national Cooperative Program budget to be recommended by the Southern Baptist Executive Committee to the convention in June. The Cooperative Program accounts for about 42 percent of Southern Seminary's operating budget.

The three new faculty members, all elected with tenure, are Charles B. Bugg, pastor of First Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., as the Carl E. Bates professor of Christian preaching; John P. Dever, professor of religion and sociology and assistant dean for academic records at Averett College in Danville, Va., as professor of church and community; and John W. Landon, professor of social work and associate dean of the College of Social Work at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, as professor of church social work.

In addition, the board granted tenure to David D'Amico, whose appointment as the Billy Graham professor of evangelism had been approved in February by the trustee executive committee.

The recommendation of tenure for D'Amico, who has been executive director of the Metropolitan New York Baptist Association since 1985, was the only personnel issue to prompt sustained discussion. After one board member expressed concern about D'Amico's commitment to "personal evangelism" and "one-on-one soul winning," several trustees voiced support for D'Amico.

Asked to respond, theology dean Larry McSwain said he was "surprised" by the trustee's reservations about D'Amico's commitment to personal evangelism. He praised D'Amico as a "personal soul winner" who "supports personal evangelism, but does not endorse one set method" of evangelism. In addition, he said, D'Amico's broad expertise in cross-cultural, ethnic and urban evangelism "will help put this seminary on the map" for teaching "effective methods of evangelism into the 21st century."

"We have no apologies to make to anybody in the Southern Baptist Convention for granting tenure to David D'Amico," he said.

Jerry Mahan, a member of the trustee committee that interviewed each candidate for tenure, also commended D'Amico's "commitment to reaching this world for Christ." Mahan, pastor of First Baptist Church in Cedartown, Ga., said he was convicted by D'Amico's "deep spirituality and obvious love for Jesus Christ," adding, "Personally, I don't see how we could find a better man anywhere." Following Mahan's comments, trustees voted without dissent but with eight abstentions to grant tenure to D'Amico.

In addressing the seminary's process for trustee election, the board wrestled with trying to find a way to accelerate the process without resorting to changes in the school's 130-year-old charter.

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Because of provisions in the charter, new trustees historically have been elected through a two-step process. After their election by the SBC in June, trustees are elected by the seminary board 10 months later during its annual meeting in April. In addition to delaying the work of new trustees during the interim, the process has prompted accusations in recent years that the seminary board might reject convention-elected trustees and even attempt to "pull out" of the convention.

The rumors have persisted despite assurances from Honeycutt that the convention's trustee elections are binding and that the school "has never had any intention of being anything other than a cooperative Southern Baptist Convention seminary."

Recent attempts to accelerate the election process, however, have bogged down in legal and procedural complexities. After debate in last year's meeting, trustees voted to hold an adjourned session of the board during the SBC annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, to promptly elect new trustees elected by the convention. The meeting, however, barely achieved a quorum, and some trustees later questioned the additional expense involved.

To cope with the immediate problem, trustees voted unanimously to accept those trustee nominations to be presented to the SBC annual meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., in June and to elect those trustees as members of the board. In an effort to achieve a long-term solution, trustees also asked Chairman Alton Butler of Florida to appoint a special committee to study the seminary charter for possible revision, in consultation with legal counsel. The committee was requested to make a progress report at the 1990 annual meeting, with a final report to be made in 1991.

In other actions, trustees:

-- Voted to present the seminary's highest award, the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award, to R. Keith Parks, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

-- Voted to establish the George W. Norton Distinguished Service Award and to present the first award to Alberta Ellen Wood Allen of Louisville "in recognition of her outstanding service and significant contributions to the seminary."

-- Instructed the trustee chairman to meet with the board chairpersons of the other five SBC seminaries to petition the SBC Executive Committee to increase the percentage of gifts that the seminaries receive from national Cooperative Program funds. The cumulative percentage is currently 20 percent.

-- Re-elected officers for 1989-90: Alton Butler, pastor of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., chairman; Sam McMahon, chairman of the board of Southeast Commercial Corp., Charlotte, N.C., first vice chairman and chairman of the executive committee; William Causey, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., second vice chairman; and Fred Pfannenschmidt, vice president of Coldwell Banker, Louisville, secretary.

-- Approved establishment of the J.M. Frost Sunday School Board chair of Christian education, with most of the funding to be provided by the SBC Sunday School Board, and the appointment of Associate Professor R. Michael Harton to that chair.

-- Granted tenure to five other members of the faculty and elected John J. Owens, a member of the faculty since 1942, as professor emeritus of Old Testament interpretation.

-- Approved a \$25 increase in the student matriculation fee, from \$400 in 1989-90 to \$425 in 1990-91.

-- Approved an updated construction plan for the \$14.6 million Campus Center Complex. Two of the three wings of the building now are under construction.

-- Voted to schedule a fall 1989 trustee retreat, subject to the availability of funds.

Honeycutt urges cooperation
amidst convention conflict

By David R. Wilkinson

N-CO
(SBTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--"The dream is still alive at Southern Seminary," Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt told the school's trustees calling on them to help guide the seminary through "unparalleled" denominational conflict.

In his president's report during the April 3-5 meeting of the board of trustees on the Louisville, Ky., campus, Honeycutt emphasized his commitment to leading the seminary "to live creatively with conflict."

"Cooperation in the midst of conflict is preferable to resolution through disintegration," he said. "It is our challenge to intensify our faithfulness in applying the gospel of Jesus Christ to conflict." The seminary community "is learning how to apply the gospel to our present circumstances," he added.

While acknowledging that every individual or group may not agree with the seminary's response to the lingering denominational controversy, Honeycutt said he remains "convinced that the prevailing mood is one of maturing relationships and growing support among all the seminary's constituencies."

Honeycutt, who has been president of the Southern Baptist Convention's oldest seminary since 1982, also noted that the board of trustees "is becoming a model for positive relationships predicated on the gospel rather than agreement on all issues which the seminary confronts." He credited the board's initiative in developing trustee retreats for building interpersonal relationships as a "crucial development" that has helped the seminary "to continue its positive ministry under adverse circumstances."

He challenged trustees to join faculty, staff, students and alumni in approaching the future with "imaginative hope."

"The nature of our circumstances calls each of us to demonstrate faithfully the breadth of our commitment and the depth of our devotion to the seminary," he said. "The time has come for heroic persons committed to the well-being of Southern Seminary to re-create the vision, rededicate themselves to the venture and recapture the victory of a seminary which continues to fulfill the ideals of its founders."

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Missionaries return
to work in Burundi

N-FMB

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4/7/89

BUJUMBURA, Burundi (BP)--Two missionary couples who had planned to work in Zaire are instead learning the Kirundi language and preparing to reopen Southern Baptist work in the east African nation of Burundi.

The newly arrived missionaries are Jeff and Mary Polglase and Dennis and Margaret McCall. The Polglases are from Tucson, Ariz., and Dallas, respectively. The McCalls are from Vicksburg, Miss., and Louisville, Ky.

The Polglases were living in Uvira, Zaire, when problems with their residence permits surfaced. They were reassigned to Burundi. The McCalls, who were studying language in France and bound for Zaire, instead transferred to join the Polglases in Bujumbura, Burundi's capital.

Southern Baptist missionaries left Burundi in 1986 because of government restrictions. Burundi Baptist leaders, however, continued to attend international workshops and conferences with other African Baptists and missionaries.

A change in government has allowed Southern Baptists to re-enter the country.

Burundi's majority Hutu and minority Tutsi peoples both speak Kirundi. Many Burundians also speak French. Last year underlying tension between the Tutsis and Hutus broke into open violence. Missionaries hope to work with both groups.

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As an agricultural evangelist, McCall plans to continue the work of Fred and Sami Sorrells in the Kirundo area. The Sorrellses, now assigned to Madagascar off the African coast, helped Baptists in eastern Burundi grow from three churches to about a dozen before they left three years ago, McCall said.

"When Fred moved over there, that was all new work," McCall said. "Things really seemed to be popping. They couldn't go to every place they were being requested to go to."

Most Baptist churches are located in the northern half of the country. Danish Baptists began the first permanent evangelical witness in Burundi in 1928 and have continued working there. The Union of Baptist Churches in Burundi now includes 17 churches, many of which support large mission congregations, McCall said.

One mission, with a membership of about 640 members, just constituted as a church, McCall added. Many others are just as large. Burundians call their mission churches "outschools."

Polglase, administrator for mission work in the country, will help develop churches in Bujumbura. He also will work alongside Danes and Burundians in the Baptist union's pastors' school in Mataba.