



-- BAPTIST PRESS
News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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November 5, 1990

90-151

NOTE: A copy of the complete statement adopted by the faculty has been mailed to state Baptist newspaper editors by Southern Seminary.

Southern faculty opposes
new employment guidelines

By Pat Cole & David Wilkinson

N-CO (SBCTS)

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's faculty voted unanimously Nov. 1 to ask the school's trustees to "rescind" their action establishing new employment guidelines for teachers.

The faculty action came in response to a trustee decision in September to add the 1987 Southern Baptist Peace Committee report as a guideline for hiring, promoting and granting tenure to faculty at the Louisville, Ky., seminary.

Earlier, national officers of the seminary's alumni association also urged trustees to rescind their action.

The faculty statement claims that decision creates "significant problems" in the faculty's relationship with the board of trustees, "misuses" the Peace Committee Report and "introduces ambiguity and confusion" into the seminary's instructional process.

In a separate action, faculty also requested an opportunity to discuss with trustees their concerns about the new employment guidelines. Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt was asked to communicate their request to the board and to appoint a faculty committee to meet with a representative group of trustees.

The Peace Committee Report, formulated in response to several years of theological and political turmoil in the Southern Baptist Convention, was approved by messengers to the 1987 SBC meeting in St. Louis. The report contained a section of "findings" from the committee's work and a series of recommendations for resolving the controversy.

Since the report's adoption, considerable debate has focused on four illustrations included in the "findings." In that section, the report declared that most Southern Baptists who believe the Bible is true believe that "Adam and Eve were real persons," "named authors did indeed write the biblical books attributed to them," miracles "did indeed occur as supernatural events in history" and "the historical narratives given by the biblical authors were indeed accurate and reliable."

At a called meeting Sept. 24, Southern's trustees voted "not to revisit" the 1986 trustee report to the Peace Committee. The report cleared several faculty members who had been accused of teaching outside accepted Baptist doctrine and the seminary's governing theological statement.

Trustees then voted 36 to 14 to add the Peace Committee Report -- "both findings and recommendations" -- as a guideline for hiring new faculty and for promoting or granting tenure to existing faculty.

The seminary had agreed in 1988 to implement Recommendation Five of the Peace Committee Report which asked trustees of the SBC's six seminaries to "determine the theological positions" of administrators and faculty in order to "renew" commitment to the Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1963 and the 1986 "Glorieta Statement" of the six seminary presidents.

Recommendation Five also declared: "The Bible is a book of redemption, not a book of science, psychology, sociology, or economics. But, where the Bible speaks, the Bible speaks truth in all realms of reality and to all fields of knowledge."

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While applauding the decision not to revisit the 1986 trustee action, the faculty response cited concerns about use of the Peace Committee Report as an additional employment guideline.

The response claims the trustees' action:

-- Has "serious implications" for the seminary's accreditation, "negatively impacts" recruitment of faculty and students and jeopardizes major seminary programs because of its "exclusionary impact" on employment of adjunct and contract professors and supervisors used extensively in several degree programs.

-- Conflicts with SBC bylaws by including the "Findings" section of the report. The faculty statement cited SBC Bylaw 33 which states that "adoption of recommendations contained in reports to the Convention shall not bind the Convention on any other matters in the body of the reports."

-- Violates the contracts of current tenured faculty members and the seminary's charter which specifies the Abstract of Principles as the confessional document governing every professor.

The response adds that adoption of the report without consultation with the faculty "overlooked the effect which such unilateral action would have on faculty morale and the sense of covenant shared by trustees and faculty in our mutual task of theological education."

Finally, the statement argues that use of the Peace Committee Report as a confessional guideline "further divides Southern Baptists," noting the report highlights differences among Southern Baptists and "acknowledges that not all Southern Baptists interpret the four scriptural examples in the same way."

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Cate resigns from GGBTS;
school's deficit cut

By Herb Hollinger

N-CO
(GGBTS)

Baptist Press
11/5/90

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--Robert L. Cate, dean of academic affairs at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary since 1984, has resigned to accept a position with Oklahoma State University.

Cate's resignation, effective Jan 31, 1991 was among a number of items considered by Golden Gate's trustees during their regular October meeting in Mill Valley, Calif.

Trustees also heard the seminary probably will end the 1989-90 fiscal year with a \$211,509 deficit, about one-half that projected earlier by officials. The actual audit is almost completed, said Gordon Fercho, vice president for business affairs, who gave the deficit projection. If his projection is correct, the seminary began 1990-91 fiscal year July 1 with slightly more than a \$500,000 deficit in its current fund.

The seminary's 1990-91 budget is \$4,869,697, down from the revised 1989-90 budget of \$4,978,908 and the 1988-89 budget of \$5,467,007. Severe cutbacks, including no salary increase for faculty and staff, were included in the budget, said Fercho.

Cate's resignation caught trustees by surprise, since his letter was submitted to seminary President William O. Crews Jr., three days before the trustees arrived on campus. Saying the resignation letter was "one of the most difficult ... I have ever written," Cate said he had been invited to fill the Phoebe Schertz Young Chair of Religion at Oklahoma State University.

Cate, 58, cited growing administrative demands and the wish to "fulfill my primary call of making the Bible live through my teaching and writing ministries.

"Further, to deny that the crisis within our denomination has played a part in my decision would be utterly false, but it has in no way been the major consideration."

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He joined the faculty in 1975 as associate professor of Old Testament, following a 10-year pastorate in Aiken, S.C. He has been a trustee of Furman University, Tift College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., as well as author of a number of books.

"The loss of Dr. Cate's wisdom, counsel and leadership will be missed by the entire seminary family," Crews said. "This is a great loss to the seminary and to me personally."

The seminary's 24 residential lots now under development have been purchased by Jack Rice of Roseville, Calif. Rice, a developer, is a Southern Baptist layman and volunteer worker in the state.

The agreement is for \$7 million net to the seminary and Rice has agreed to reimburse the seminary for all costs incurred in the development of the property and construction of the off-site traffic mitigation improvements imposed by the county. The agreement was contingent upon Rice's obtaining a construction loan. Charles Carter, retiring seminary executive vice president, said Rice had obtained the loan.

In other action, seminary trustees:

- Were told of the sale of the Marin Garden apartment complex. The sale netted the seminary \$2,675,000 in cash which paid off two loans and restored SBC capital monies designated for student housing.

- Approved redesignating capital funds to replace an underground distribution circuit for \$50,000.

- Approved a resolution of support for the SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

- Approved tenure for professor Dwight Honeycutt.

- Approved the library's archaeological collection to be named "The Marian Eakins Archaeological Collection" in honor of professor Kenneth Eakins' wife who died recently.

- Approved Mike Kuykendall as half-time assistant professor of biblical studies for the Northwest Center in Portland, Ore.

- Re-elected all officers. This includes Herman Wooten, retired California director of missions from Sacramento, as chairman.

- Passed a resolution to strengthen the seminary's commitment to "securing a broader representation of ethnics to participate in seminary life." Nearly 40 percent of the seminary's students are said to be ethnics.

- Voted to fund, by themselves, a one-time bonus for faculty and staff to be distributed in April 1991.

Associate academic dean D. Glenn Saul was criticized by several trustees for attending the meeting of SBC moderates in Atlanta who initiated the Baptist Cooperative Missions Program. Saul's trip was financed by faculty members and Saul said he attended as an "interested Southern Baptist."

Saul said he told the administration he was going, but did not ask permission. Trustees said Saul's presence at the meeting gave the improper impression of support for the moderate movement by the seminary faculty. Saul told the trustees he abstained from voting at the meeting and several times reminded groups that the seminary was very dependent upon the Cooperative Program for support.

In Crews' state of the seminary address, he noted the removal of the "notation we had carried for many years concerning the quality of work being done in our off-campus centers. Of equal importance was the fact that ATS (Association of Theological Schools) now accredits the degrees we offer at our Southern California campus as if it were a free-standing institution."

Faculty and staff sacrifice at the seminary was praised by Crews who said, "A recent study of ... reveals salaries, at best, have only kept even with the national level of inflation. This is in spite of the fact that most of our increases over the past ten years have been intended to be promotions. The study reveals these salaries are probably less than they were ten years ago."

Three faculty vacancies would not be filled, Crews said, due to budgetary problems. In addition to Cate's resignation, he noted the resignations of Carter; Ron Shepard as development officer; Don Sewell as Southern California development director; David Tate as admissions officer "have left us seriously understaffed.... "

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Baptists challenged to make
marketplace a mission field

By Sarah Zimmerman

F-DMB

Baptist Press
11/5/90

BOSTON (BP)--More than 700 participants in the first national marketplace evangelism conference were challenged to make the marketplace their mission field.

Participants in the Nov. 1-4 conference spread out one afternoon at Boston Common, the oldest public park in the country. As mimes and jugglers used creative arts to present an evangelistic message, volunteers conducted a spiritual survey. Initial tallies showed 79 surveys were taken and 14 professions of faith were reported.

One layman said he led three people to become Christians. "I believe that anybody could do it," he said after his experience.

An Alabama pastor said the conference made him realize that 90 percent of people who make public professions of faith at his church are people he leads to Christ. "That's going to change," he said as he committed himself to train his church members in evangelism.

Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, said commitment to evangelism by both clergy and laity is essential.

"We have the four spiritual laws, the Roman Road, WIN schools, Evangelism Explosion and Continuing Witness Training. Any one of those would have been enough to present the gospel to everyone in the United States," Gregory said. "It's not so much the strategy but your commitment to it."

Gregory also noted that Christians have become disengaged from society. With church gyms, he said Christians no longer rub shoulders with non-Christians at the YMCA. With church schools, Christian students and parents are no longer involved with non-Christians in the public school system. "We could arrange our lives from Sunday to Sunday to never come in contact with the lost world," he said.

Dan MacMillan, Boston newspaper publisher and civic leader, described the non-Christian world of Boston's elite. He was born, raised and continues to live in Beacon Hill, a neighborhood where houses cost at least \$2 million and less than one half of 1 percent of the residents attend church.

With all of the world's goods at his disposal, MacMillan said, "I didn't need God; I didn't need religion." He became a Christian three years ago when he met church planter David Draper, whom MacMillan described as having a "peace, a calmness and serenity I never had."

In northern cities, MacMillan said people act as if there is no God, there are no absolutes and that the Ten Commandments are only options.

"I'm utterly convinced they want to be Christians, but they don't know God. They don't know there's a Savior.

"I'm not telling you to break up your churches -- that's where you worship. I'm telling you to get out of them," he said.

MacMillan, who said he still struggles with living the daily Christian life, has begun a men's breakfast club to talk about problems and eventually share Christ with them.

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Jim Garlow, pastor of Metroplex Chapel in Dallas and leader of Lay Ministry Seminars, said language can effectively deactivate a church. He noted that people who are not paid church staff members refer to themselves as "just" laymen. He said Christians refer to clergy as "called" when in reality all Christians are called to service.

"We talk about how many our worship centers seat. We don't measure the army by how many can sit in the mess hall, but how many are trained and can be mobilized for battle," Garlow said. "The army gives purple hearts to people who risk their lives in battle. We give awards to people who show up at the mess hall from 11 to 12 on Sunday mornings. We reward passivity."

"Lay people need to be able to say 'yes' to ministries which use their strongest gifts and to say 'no' without condemnation to those duties which require gifts they do not have." Garlow said that is the key to retaining joy and delight in ministry.

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Model and pilot churches sought
for marketplace ministries

By Sarah Zimmerman

F-SSB

Baptist Press
11/5/90

BOSTON (BP)--Three hundred Southern Baptist churches are being sought to serve as pilot and model churches in marketplace ministries.

Churches will be asked to participate in a three-year project beginning June 30, 1991. They will serve as examples for other churches wanting to develop lay ministries that take the gospel into the marketplace.

Reid Hardin, director of the Home Mission Board's lay evangelism department, said the program will "affirm ministries already taking place and help other churches intentionally plan to help people minister."

Pilot churches will use the HMB's "Church Launch Guide" as a basis for lay-led marketplace ministries. Model churches will establish their own strategies for lay ministry.

The project was introduced during the national Laos in Marketplace Evangelism conference Nov. 1-4 in Boston.

James Appleby is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Renton, Wash., a model church in the Seattle area. He said the church emphasizes providing spiritual growth and relational support for members, then helping them minister in their marketplace according to their gifts.

As an example, Appleby told of a worker at a nearby Boeing plant who had a crisis with his 21-year-old son. The man, who had not been to church in more than 30 years, turned to one of his co-workers for help. The co-worker had shared his faith on the job, and he directed the man to church.

Single adults at Appleby's church embraced the man's son. A layman went to visit the family with the pastor, and the layman led the son and his parents to accept Christ. The layman later helped the parents lead their daughter to make a profession of faith.

Last year the son was killed in an automobile accident. "What if someone in the marketplace had not lived and shared his faith at work?" Appleby asked.

Appleby said the church's goal is to "turn our church from a meeting place to a mission base." The Washington church sponsors Korean, deaf and "seeker-oriented" congregations.

Information about being a pilot or model church or developing lay ministries is available from the HMB's lay evangelism department, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta GA 30367-5601.

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Colorado convention increases
Cooperative Program contributions

N-CO (Colorado)

DURANGO, Colo. (BP)--Messengers to the Colorado Baptist General Convention annual meeting voted to increase their Cooperative Program unified budget by one-half percent over last year's contributions of 28 percent.

The budget for the 1990-91 fiscal year is \$2,480,000.

Lewis Adkinson, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs was re-elected convention president.

A total of 290 messengers registered for this year's meeting, making it the largest meeting in the past five years.

A resolution opposing a gambling referendum on the Colorado ballot in six small mining towns was passed.

Next year's convention meeting will be Nov. 12-14 at College Heights Baptist Church in Alamosa.

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Moscow choir seeks
to build bridges

By Linda Lawson

F-55B

Baptist Press
11/5/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--Replacing "enemy images" with friendships between Christian brothers and sisters who happen to live in the United States and the Soviet Union -- that is the purpose of the 23-day U.S. tour of the Logos Choir of the Moscow Baptist Church.

Jointly sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and New Call to Peacemaking, the three-week tour includes stops in nine states and Washington. In Nashville, the 42-member choir and orchestra performed in Nov. 2 chapel services at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Convention building.

"We want to correct misconceptions, misunderstandings and mistrust between our countries," said Eugene Rouzski, associate director of the international department of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union.

"We came with love, to build bridges and destroy enemy images between us. This is our hope, that the Lord will give us mutual understanding," said Rouzski.

The Sunday School Board chapel service concluded with the choir and employees singing "Blessed Assurance" and "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" together in Russian and English.

Bill Anderson, editor of The Church Musician, gave a selection of music produced by the board to Evgeni Goncharenko, director of the choir and a composer/arranger.

"We hope our relationships will not stop with our concerts here," said Goncharenko. "We hope for future cooperation between our churches." He cited the possibility of regular exchanges of Christian music groups between Baptists of the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Established in 1986, the choir made its first appearance outside the Soviet Union that year at the International Conference of Itinerant Evangelists in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The choir sings in twice weekly services at the Moscow Baptist Church in addition to regular appearances at evangelistic crusades and in hospitals and prisons.

The repertoire of the choir includes classical church music, contemporary and traditional Russian hymns as well as western Protestant music and contemporary American gospel songs. The orchestra played "How Great Thou Art" to open the chapel service at the SBC Building.

"The Lord is doing something in our great country," said Rouzski. "You (Southern Baptists) have been praying for years for the liberty of all Christians to worship."

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Goncharenko said that while the choir and orchestra members are all volunteers, he hopes the time will come when finances will be sufficient to enable the choir to maintain a full-time schedule of concerts and evangelistic crusades.

"The aim of this choir is to evangelize people through music," said Rouzski.

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BP photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

Romanian Baptist churches
to begin orphanages

F- CO
(BWA)

Baptist Press
11/5/90

McLEAN, Va. (BP)--Two weeks after leaders of the Baptist World Alliance visited Romania and asked the government for permission to open orphanages there, approval has been granted.

Adrian Severin, deputy prime minister of Romania, said during a visit with BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz and Evangelical Alliance President Paul Negrut, there was no hindrance for Baptists and other Christians to open orphanages.

Severin also said work could be done in other social services, such as homes for the elderly.

"It was with great joy that we heard your kind explanation of what the Romanian government is doing and how you approve of the Baptists and other Christians opening up the orphanages," said Lotz in a letter to Severin. "Thank you very much for your encouragement in speaking of the new religious freedom in Romania. We were particularly pleased that you spoke of the social responsibility of the churches and the need to help not only the orphanages but also other social services such as old people's homes."

Lotz told Severin that people all around the world had great interest in the orphans of Romania and that "Baptists and other Christians are concerned about being socially involved in all countries of the world, including Romania."

Already, with the help of Swedish Christians, the First Baptist Church of Oradea has purchased property for the first orphanage.

Through Baptist World Aid, the relief arm of the BWA, a special fund has been set up to help Romanian orphanages, and there are doctors and nurses who are ready to assist.

"Romanian Baptists would be pleased to welcome volunteers with experience in caring for orphans to visit their churches and instruct their people," said Paul Montacute, director of Baptist World Aid.

In early October Lotz visited with Ion Aurel Stoica, an official in the Romanian government, and asked him to allow the Baptist churches in Romania to open orphanages for children who have been abandoned or who are in some way mentally or physically impaired.

During that visit, Stoica told Lotz that the Romanian government was concerned about its bad image in the United States.

Lotz responded in a letter that the bad image was in part due to "the terrible situation of the orphanages. If you truly want to have an image that reflects your new and strong commitment to democracy, then please allow our people to immediately work with orphans and to establish orphanages."

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