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Southeastern seminary trustees
hear reports, accrediting woes

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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Growing concerns from administrative officials were heard by trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary March 11-12, especially in matters of accreditation, enrollment, faculty, finances and institutional confidence.

President Lewis A. Drummond, in an opening report, asked trustees for a "new approach."

"What I ask of you is to realize that the approach of the past was right for its day. Our situation, however, has changed. We have made little progress on accreditation issues, we are still perceived with suspicion, and our funding base has clearly reached a serious point.

"Nothing is more important than our theological and financial integrity. These are my responsibilities as president and I intend to resolve these concerns," Drummond read from a prepared statement which he later distributed to the group.

Southeastern Seminary was accredited by Association of Theological Schools in 1958 and by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1978. However both agencies have made probing visits to the campus since the resignation of President W. Randall Lolley in 1987.

The seminary is currently on "warning" status. Trustees seemed to expect it will be put on probation or completely lose its accreditation in 1991.

Robert D. Crowley, Rockville, Md., pastor and chairman of the instruction committee, accused the faculty of blackmail, of being obstinate and of obfuscating the issue and blocking steps taken in trying to preserve the accreditation of the seminary.

"It finally occurred to me that we are going to be put on probation in May. That is not totally inevitable, but from all that I can hear and learn, that is probably going to happen. And if we really don't keep ... if the payments of blackmail don't really get much bigger, we might even go to the guillotine and get our heads cut off," said Crowley, past chairman of the full board.

The question of accreditation has been raised because of the procedure for acquiring faculty members. Some faculty claim they have been cut out of the process -- often called shared governance -- while the majority of the trustees claim they have been faithful to the requirements of the guiding documents of the seminary.

One motion, made by Kenneth L. Stevens, trustee from Michigan, called for legal counsel to ascertain the rights of the trustees. His motion failed by one vote. Earlier he had moved to seek legal action against ATS and/or SACS if they lifted accreditation.

Drummond and Academic Dean L. Russ Bush III advised against such action and the motion was modified to the extent that no legal action will be considered.

A special committee of Daniel E. Johnston, trustee from Virginia, William D. Delahoyde, from North Carolina, and Crowley will draft statements to ATS and SACS giving the trustees perspective.

Upon recommendation from the board's executive committee, the trustees authorized the chairman to appoint a committee to deal with the decline in enrollment and the financial crisis if accreditation is lost. Chairman Roger W. Ellsworth, Illinois trustee, will report to the SBC Executive Committee the consequences of the loss of accreditation or probation.

Texas trustee James R. Deloach, former chairman of the board, said he "wanted more than a report" to the SBC Executive Committee.

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"This thing is greater than Southeastern Seminary; it affects all Southern Baptists," Deloach said.

He offered a successful substitute motion which called for, if accreditation is lost:

-- Withdrawal of all financial support from ATS and SACS.

-- Request to all other SBC seminaries to withdraw support from ATS and SACS.

-- Request to the SBC Executive Committee to look into an accrediting agency for Southern Baptist institutions.

Delahoyde, an attorney from Raleigh, appealed to the trustees to "avoid taking the low road through withholding funds. We are in compliance (with the requirements of the accrediting agencies); let us not cloud the issue."

He said he agreed the faculty had held the trustees "hostage" but he did not accept Crowley's term "blackmail."

Paul Fletcher, vice president for internal affairs, reported the seminary "is facing financial exigency in the reasonable immediate future. ... We need to solve what I perceive as a reduction of financial resources -- beginning perhaps as early as this year. In my opinion, we are at a crossroads. We must develop a plan now or deal with a more formidable financial crisis later.

"Further, I believe that this plan will have to be significant enough to effect some restructuring of our financial resources which could involve both programs and personnel."

However, the seminary currently does have "a solid financial base" with "maximum allowable reserves," Fletcher said.

Fletcher outlined to the trustees the possible effects, financially, if there is a significant drop in enrollment.

SBC Cooperative Program unified budget funds are allocated on a three-year rolling FTE enrollment. FTE is full-time equivalent students who carry 12 credit hours. For example, two students carrying six hours each, constitutes only one FTE student, while two students carrying 18 hours each would equal three FTE students.

In 1986-88, the seminary's FTE students totaled 1,073. In 1989-91, the FTE students total 603. In 1992-93, the projection is for 667 students.

The seminary distribution formula for Cooperative Program funds was frozen for five years in 1988 but Fletcher said the loss in funds could be as much as \$559,019 in the 1992-93 fiscal year.

The SBC Executive Committee has a special committee studying the allocation of funds for the seminaries and he promised the trustees that "I intend to lobby for a system of funding that is not enrollment driven," Drummond said.

George Worrell, vice president for external affairs which involves endowment and recruitment of students, told trustees there are three hindrances to a greater enrollment of students:

-- Students passing the seminary by because of "the suspicion that we have not yet become as conservative as they would like for us to be."

-- The retention of students is difficult. About 61 students did not return in the fall semester and 95 did not return in the spring.

-- A great number of alumni and others have been detractors of admissions. "According to them, the seminary is not now what it was when they were attending. 'The Glory has departed.'"

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Worrell said applications were up about 50 percent from the fall of 1989. New student enrollment was up 28 percent over 1989. For the spring 1991, new student enrollment is up 10 percent from spring 1990. However, overall enrollment is down 2.5 percent, Worrell said.

"Our development picture is exciting," Worrell said. "We have moved steadily forward."

He cited figures for 1987-88 in which 829 gifts totaled \$274,181. In 1988-89, there were 299 gifts which totaled \$186,441. In 1989-90, the total was \$326,397 from 759 gifts. And in 1990-91, 800 gifts have totaled \$361,928.

"One vacuum is endowment and capital improvements," Worrell said. "For example, in the transition, SEBTS has lost favor with the Cannon and Broyhill foundations. The challenge for the future is to raise \$5 to \$6 million for endowing the Center For Great Commission Studies."

The Center for Great Commission Studies will be launched formally in April as part of a focus on church growth and church planting in the '90s. The inaugural conference will include Larry Lewis, president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, as speaker on April 16 and SBC Vice President and former foreign missionary Douglas Knapp, as speaker on April 17.

Drummond praised the center and said it would do on the East Coast what a similar center at Fuller Seminary in California does on the West Coast.

During the Tuesday morning session, motions were offered with specific references:

-- That no Jew, Muslim or non-Christian speakers be invited for sanctioned chapel programs. The motion was tabled.

-- That books in the library dealing with human sexuality and/or homosexuality be given a "brief, cursory overview" by someone named by Drummond and that a report be brought back to the trustees in March 1992 with a policy recommended for the ways books are placed in the library. The motion was approved.

Cecil Rhodes, trustee from Wilson, N.C., and chairman of the audit/investment committee, brought successful recommendations on policies for travel and entertainment expenses and a conflict of interest statement. He also reviewed expenses incurred at the president's residence and office in Staley Hall.

Rhodes said he personally had reviewed the expenditures and found them to be "satisfactory." He indicated Drummond had agreed to reimburse the seminary for some of the costs for furnishings and redecorations.

Rhodes' explanation did not satisfy Colorado trustee Walter Lonis who requested a detailed accounting of what has been spent on the house and in the president's office.

"This has nothing to do with theology," he told a reporter for the Biblical Recorder, newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. "It has everything to do with management and responsibility. I have asked for the report and it hasn't been given to me, a trustee."

The trustees also approved guidelines for evaluation of the functions of the president and all vice presidents.

An executive session was held to deal with three recommendations from Drummond and the executive committee to the trustees.

In faculty action: Ed Buchanan was elected to a full professorship in Christian education with tenure. He taught 18 years at Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He was dean at Lancaster Bible College for two years and spent five years at Grand Rapids Baptist College.

Maurice Robinson was elected associate professor of New Testament without tenure. He taught for two years at St. Petersburg Baptist College and six years at Luther Rice Seminary in Florida.

Stephen Andrews was given a two-year presidential appointment as a professor in Old Testament and Hebrew with the understanding he will be elected to the faculty when he has completed his Ph.D. degree. He could be presented to the board of trustees in March 1993 for election without going through the faculty selection process again.

Reportedly, Buchanan received "overwhelming" support from the Southeastern faculty; Robinson received "reasonable" support; Andrews received "overwhelming opposition" from the present faculty.

In his address to the trustees, Drummond said "It has been three years since I have taken the reins of the presidency at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"It has been an interesting time, as well as a time of change and ferment and all the dynamics that change involves. I thank God for the privilege of working in this setting and in this context.

"When I came to Southeastern as the fourth president, you, the trustees, outlined for me our plan of approach to the many currents that flowed across the campus. A three point program was presented.

"One, no faculty members were to be summarily terminated. New faculty would be acquired through attrition.

"Two, I was to do all within my power to effect reconciliation between the various constituencies of the seminary family and attempt to see peace and collegiality restored.

"Three, it was my responsibility to do all that is possible to maintain accreditation.

"After three years of attempting to fulfill this approach, and in the context thereof enduring many difficult times, it is now my deep-seated conviction that a fresh new course must now be taken. The plan we agreed upon resulted in a course of little more than crisis management."

Drummond pointed out the changes in faculty -- five new teachers employed, three recommended during the meeting and six vacancies declared.

"Moreover, the student body is so significantly different that it is hard to recognize the campus from the early days," Drummond said.

The former professor of evangelism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. told the trustees "there has been measure of reconciliation" and the "Center for Great Commission Studies is off the ground.

"We do have a better image in the Southern Baptist Convention. Our enrollment of new students is increasing semester by semester."

However, Drummond said the three-fold approach to the crisis "has in large measure failed." Drummond said the two issues of theological and financial integrity must be addressed.

"We must turn a corner and have a new day. As president it is my responsibility to see that happen."

Billy Cline, an Asheville, N.C. pastor, moved, as "my last act as a trustee," to affirm Drummond for his leadership. Cline said Lloyd Elder and Al Shackelford had been praised for their stands and he felt Drummond deserved recognition. Most of the trustees stood and applauded.

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(Contributing to this report were Baptist Press sources in Wake Forest and Raleigh, N.C., and Nashville.)

'15,000 Campaign'
launched by HMB

By Mark Wingfield

N-HMB

ATLANTA (BP)--A campaign to start 15,000 Southern Baptist congregations in the next 10 years was launched by trustees of the Home Mission Board during their spring meeting.

In other action, trustees approved a nationwide "Key Church" concept, voted to phase out the positions for local board members, allocated additional funds from last year's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, elected officers and approved minor restructuring for the Atlanta staff, including the addition of four new positions.

The "15,000 Campaign" was suggested by HMB President Larry Lewis and unanimously approved by trustees. It calls for a special emphasis on church starting, with a goal of starting 1,500 new congregations every year for 10 years.

If successful, the campaign would assure that Southern Baptists meet their Bold Mission Thrust goal of having 50,000 churches and missions by the year 2000. Currently there are 43,419 churches and missions affiliated with the convention.

Lewis said reaching this goal will require Southern Baptists to start an average of four congregations per day nationwide. The current average of SBC church starts is slightly more than three per day.

Lewis compared the 15,000 Campaign to the 30,000 Movement executed by Southern Baptists in the 1950s.

"The 30,000 Movement caught the imagination of Southern Baptists and challenged the whole denomination to respond to the need to establish new missions and churches," he said. "I believe the 15,000 Campaign could rally the same kind of excitement and enthusiasm among our people."

The Key Church concept is similar to a program developed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Details of implementing a nationwide key church emphasis were presented to state mission directors and state church extension directors during their annual meeting in February.

The strategy calls for enlisting key churches across America which will commit to start five new congregations per year. In many of these churches a staff person, sometimes to be called a minister of missions, would direct the project. Some of these staff positions would be funded jointly by the church, association, state convention and HMB.

"My goal is for every great metropolitan area in America to have at least one and maybe several key churches," Lewis told trustees. "I believe this may prove to be one of our most effective strategies in evangelizing and congregationalizing America."

Trustees also dealt with a request from the SBC Executive Committee for a decision on continuing or deleting the role of local trustees. Local trustees were placed on all SBC boards at a time when travel to meetings was less convenient.

The HMB has had 12 local members. Four of those members completed the second of two possible four-year terms on the board with this meeting.

The original recommendation from the board's administrative committee was to eliminate local member positions as the remaining local trustees complete their current four-year terms. Trustee Marvin Capehart of Albuquerque, N.M., amended the motion to allow current local trustees to serve the full eight-year terms they anticipated when elected.

The motion passed as amended, meaning the last of the HMB local trustees will complete their service in 1998 if renominated by the SBC Committee on Nominations. This change in the HMB's articles of incorporation must be approved by messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention in June.

Trustees also voted to increase the HMB's 1991 budget by \$1.7 million, bringing the total annual budget to \$80.6 million. Primary funding for this increase will come from an overage in 1990 Annie Armstrong gifts and from monies budgeted last year for projects that were delayed being implemented until this year.

New officers elected are Johnny Jackson, a vocational evangelist from Little Rock, Ark., chairman; Ron Phillips, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Hixson, Tenn., first vice chairman; Bob Curtis, pastor of Ballwin Baptist Church in St. Louis, second vice chairman; Alice Sanders, member of First Baptist Church in Bamberg, S.C., secretary; and Linda Principe, member of First Baptist Church in Brandenburg, Ky., assistant secretary.

In other action, trustees:

-- Elected James Smith to a new position as assistant to the president for partnership relations. Smith, who will retire this summer as president of the Brotherhood Commission, will be a Mission Service Corps volunteer but will receive a travel allowance from the HMB. His duties will include promoting partnership relations between associations, state conventions and churches.

-- Created a position of associate director of evangelism church growth to address the issue of plateaued and declining churches.

-- Authorized the HMB executive committee to create a position for a director of planned giving.

-- Created a new position for a director of editing services and elected Mary Branson, currently HMB materials editor, to that post.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Atlanta bureau of Baptist Press

Lewis recalls highlights
of home missions in 1990

By Mark Wingfield

NHMB

Baptist Press
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ATLANTA (BP)--A dramatic increase in baptisms nationwide tops the list of things Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis is thankful for, he said during his annual report to trustees.

Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman also addressed the trustees during their spring meeting in Atlanta. Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, told the group he is thankful for the leadership provided by Lewis.

"I want to thank Larry Lewis for the cooperation he has given to the office of convention president," Chapman said. "I believe we need to demonstrate that elected leadership and employed leadership are working together."

Chapman specifically cited Lewis' support for the emphasis on spiritual awakening planned for the convention's annual meeting in June, support for chaplains serving in the Persian Gulf, support for vocational evangelists and support for Crossover Atlanta, the evangelistic emphasis planned prior to this year's annual meeting.

In his annual report, Lewis cited numerous advances in home missions during the past year:

-- Baptisms. Last year Southern Baptists baptized 385,031 new christians, an increase of 9.7 percent over the previous year. This was the largest percentage increase in a decade and the third straight year for an increase after several years of decline.

-- Here's Hope revivals. Lewis called the nationwide, simultaneous revivals "perhaps the greatest single contributing factor to the increase in baptisms last year." An estimated 104,100 people made professions of faith during the revivals, and an estimated 77,700 of those were baptized during the six weeks of revivals.

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-- Missions personnel. At the end of last year, the HMB reported 4,573 personnel serving nationwide, most of them jointly funded through cooperative agreements with Baptist state conventions. This total includes 833 Mission Service Corps personnel which had not been included in the count in previous years.

-- Evangelism by missions personnel. Last year, home missionaries reported 40,741 professions of faith as a result of their ministries, an average of 11 professions of faith for every missionary.

-- Chaplains. By year's end, Southern Baptists had 2,271 active chaplains. As many as 195 military chaplains were in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Storm.

-- Evangelism by chaplains. Southern Baptist chaplains reported 24,615 professions of faith last year, for an average of 11 professions of faith per chaplain. In addition, chaplains in the Persian Gulf already have reported at least 1,200 professions of faith among the troops.

-- Volunteers. For the first time, the number of home missions short-term volunteers exceeded 60,000. A total of 62,809 volunteers served in short-term assignments nationwide. That is a 10.2 percent increase from the previous year. There was a 36 percent increase in adult volunteerism.

-- Evangelism by HMB staff. Last year, the HMB's 139 elected staff members reported 2,675 professions of faith, an increase of almost 1,000 from the previous year.

-- Increased financial support. In 1990, Southern Baptists gave a record \$35.68 million to the Annie Armstrong offering for home missions, an increase of 8.14 percent from the previous year. In addition, Southern Baptists gave \$27.46 million to home missions through the Cooperative Program.

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Evening of concert music
called 'foretaste of heaven'

By Linda Lawson

F-35B

Baptist Press
3/14/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--A medley of music including concert pianists, soloists and college and seminary choirs was dubbed a "foretaste of heaven" as evening PraiSing II concerts continued in Nashville.

Concert pianists, soloists at home with both opera and hymn tunes, a combined choir from three colleges and three seminaries, and two professors with a total of 84 years of teaching music were featured in an evening of concert music March 13 at PraiSing II at the Grand Ole Opry House.

Mini-concerts by pianists Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young, David Ford, bass, and Henrietta Davis, soprano, highlighted the evening, part of the four-day celebration introducing "The Baptist Hymnal" and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church music department.

Davis, daughter of a Baptist pastor, said she grew up singing in her home and at church. Her first solo at age eight was "Away in a Manger."

After graduating from San Francisco State University, Davis auditioned for the Houston Grand Opera, and "I've been on the road ever since," she said.

Davis sang one of her favorite songs, "Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It." Though her training is primarily in classical music, Davis said she enjoys a variety of musical styles, including jazz.

"But my first love is Christian music," said Davis, who has been a soloist at Church Music Leadership Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Center and the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., as well as singing numerous operatic roles.

"Music has been such a part of my life," said Davis. "The Lord has blessed and allowed me to do what I love to do."

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Nielson and Young, classically trained pianists who performed recently with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of London, played Christian favorites such as "How Great Thou Art."

"We like to show what two classical piano players do when they get hold of a hymn tune," quipped Young.

"This is a foretaste of heaven, isn't it?" asked Hugh McElrath as the congregation of 3,500 attending the first of two identical programs finished singing "Break Out, O Church of God" accompanied by the Praising II orchestra and choirs.

"We're going to be singing in heaven, so it's good to get some practice here below," said McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He was co-host for the program with James C. McKinney, dean of the school of church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. The two professors have been teaching music for a total of 84 years.

Also featured were the combined choirs from: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.; Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.; Belmont College of Nashville; Union University of Jackson, Tenn.; and Cumberland College of Williamsburg, Ky.

The choirs were directed by Hugh Sanders, professor of music at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by SSB bureau of Baptist Press

Knoxville minister selected
ISI student of the year

Baptist Press
3/14/91

F-90
(Sem. Ext.)

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Arden Taylor knows connections, and now he sees how several events connected to result in his being named student of the year by the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute.

Taylor was working as an electrician and part-time minister of youth four years ago when he felt called into full-time ministry. He knew he needed more education for his new role, but plans to attend seminary did not work out. Then another staff member at his church told him about the correspondence courses available from Seminary Extension. He began his first course in late 1986.

Four years and sixteen courses later he received the diploma in educational ministries. As a Southern Baptist engaged in an organized ministry, Taylor's diploma made him eligible for consideration as student of the year.

The staff of the Independent Study Institute selected Taylor from 18 finalists from 11 states. Jack Cunningham, Seminary Extension's director of undergraduate studies, presented the award at Chilhowee Hills Baptist Church in Knoxville where Taylor now is minister of education and administration.

Electrical connections are behind him now, but Arden Taylor still is plugged in to ministry and learning.

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