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**Home Mission Board trustees elect  
director of black church extension By Sarah Zimmerman**

ATLANTA (BP)--Willie T. McPherson of Atlanta was unanimously elected director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's black church extension division by the trustees' executive committee.

Executive committee members also unanimously elected five people to other posts during their December meeting.

McPherson, who has served as associate director of the division since 1989, will succeed Emmanuel McCall who left the Home Mission Board in July to become pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Atlanta.

McPherson began working for the Home Mission Board as a national consultant in 1984. The Mississippi native is a graduate of California Baptist College and Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served as a youth director, pastor and home missionary.

Elected director of counseling services was James Richard Houston. The Florida native succeeds Dick Reasoner who left the Home Mission Board to enter private practice.

Houston will leave a position as mental health counselor in Pensacola, Fla. He is a graduate of Pensacola Junior College, the University of West Florida and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has worked in the mental health field since 1984.

Other action taken by the executive committee elected four people to positions in the recently re-organized church loans division. They include Mike Arnott, director of financial services; John Adair, loan officer; Reba Driver, associate director of loan administration and Susan Jones, financial analyst.

Arnott, a Tennessee native, earned a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and a doctorate from the University of Georgia. He has worked for the church loans division since April, and he previously worked as an investments portfolio manager for Fulton Federal Savings in Atlanta.

Adair worked in real estate investments for Equitable Real Estate in Atlanta and Dallas for 20 years. The native of Cooper, Texas, is a graduate of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Driver has been commercial and construction loan servicing manager for Fulton Federal Savings Association in Atlanta since 1984. The Georgia native has worked for the savings association in various positions since 1961.

Jones, a former missionary journeyman in Korea, has worked as a credit analyst for the church loans division for a year. The daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries serving in Malang, Indonesia, Jones is a graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University.

**Joint agreement announced  
on family-related issues**

**By Linda Lawson & Louis Moore**

NASHVILLE (BP)--A joint working agreement calling for cooperative efforts on family-related issues has been announced by the top executives of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the SBC Christian Life Commission, James T. Draper Jr. and Richard D. Land.

The agreement was affirmed by the CLC special committee on program assignment meeting in Nashville Dec. 9.

In the area of family life, the SSB carries out the SBC assignment of family ministry in local churches. The CLC deals with the ethical implications of a wide range of issues including family life.

According to the agreement, its intent "is to provide specific channels for Christian Life Commission family-related concerns to flow to the church through the (SSB) family ministry program-related administrative structure, periodicals and other resources."

In addition, the agreement calls for consultation between the two agencies on product development, program and conference planning and identifying "Christian values that apply to family living."

Land and Draper emphasized the cooperative work between the agencies will center on areas of family life where program assignments are complementary. Each agency will continue to work independently on individual assignments.

For example, providing information and educational materials on public policy issues related to family life will be the sole purview of the CLC. Helping churches structure ministries to families, senior adults and single adults will continue to be the task exclusively of the SSB.

"What we sought to do was hammer out a working agreement on areas where our assignments complement one another," Land told the CLC commissioners.

The joint agreement specifies the family ministry program allows both the SSB's family ministry department and the CLC to have avenues "to the life of the local church through the single adult council, senior adult council and family enrichment committee for the purpose of providing information to help the church help people apply Christian values to daily living."

Draper said he hopes the agreement can be a model for similar kinds of cooperative efforts among other agencies. He affirmed the efforts of Lamar Cooper of the CLC staff and of Doug Anderson and Morlee Maynard of the board's family ministry department who drafted the document.

"We have the channels and resources to help the CLC in ways that don't cost us anything but save them a lot," said Draper. For example, the agreement states the board's annual "Family Idea Book" will include information on CLC events related to family issues and on obtaining CLC catalogs.

Draper told Baptist Press he reported to a special CLC task force Dec. 9 that in light of the SSB assignment of family ministry in churches, an assignment that does not include involvement in political issues, the SSB would not integrate the Atlanta-based Family Concerns Inc. into the board's program of family ministry.

Family Concerns, headed by CLC trustee Nancy Schaefer, organizes family advocacy groups in local churches and seeks to educate and mobilize church members on social and legislative issues affecting the traditional family.

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Schaefer, a CLC trustee, proposed a motion at the 1991 Southern Baptist Convention asking the CLC to create a family concerns division to recommend a family concerns ministry for local churches. The motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee which, in its September meeting, recommended no change in the SSB assignment for family ministry in local churches. The CLC assignment which presently precludes direct involvement with churches was not a matter of consideration by the Executive Committee.

Hal Lane, chairman of the CLC and pastor of West Side Baptist Church in Greenwood, S.C., said the joint agreement will enable the commission "to achieve 60-70 percent of what we want to accomplish. They (SSB) are willing to work with us in providing space in periodicals, saving us money and giving us entree into areas that agree with their program assignment. On moral, ethical and religious liberty issues, they would not help us."

Draper told the CLC program assignment committee: "No one relationship will solve all your interests, all the concerns you have. Don't disparage the first efforts at doing that. The things outside the purview of our ministry assignment we're not going to be able to deal with."

Draper said he favors a change in the CLC program assignment to allow the agency to relate directly with churches on moral, ethical and religious liberty issues. He asked that the agency avoid the terms "family" or "ministry" in proposing any kind of church committee in order to avoid conflict with the present church family enrichment committee.

Draper and Land, who recently were named by SBC President Morris Chapman to co-chair the Family Ministry Task Force he created earlier this year, said this responsibility will enable them to model the cooperation outlined in the joint agreement.

"This (task force) represents one way to dramatize family issues," said Land.

"We will through the task force work together to seek to magnify program assignments we have," said Draper.

They said plans have not yet been developed for convening the task force.

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CLC special committee drafts  
program assignment changes

By Louis Moore

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12/11/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--A special committee of Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission trustees has unanimously proposed a revision of the agency's program assignment on religious liberty, including a proposal to allow the CLC staff to work directly with local churches.

To become operative, the proposed revision must be approved by the SBC Executive Committee in February, the full CLC board in March and the Southern Baptist Convention in June in Indianapolis.

The program assignment is the Convention's set of rules which dictates boundaries within which different agencies must work.

The CLC's program assignment was revised in 1991 to give it the religious liberty assignment in addition to its previous assignment as the ethics and public policy agency of the Convention. The proposed revision this year will not radically alter the CLC's work and is considered more of a streamlining of what has already been approved.

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The current revision was first proposed by Harold Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, in a letter to Richard Land, executive director of the CLC, on June 25, 1990. Land told the special committee meeting in Nashville Dec. 9, the CLC's executive committee, declined to accept Bennett's suggestion at the time because "at that time the Public Affairs Committee was still in existence and we didn't want to be seen as trying to elbow them out of their assignment. But now that the Convention has merged PAC into the CLC, we felt comfortable responding positively to Dr. Bennett's suggestion."

Much of the new language in the proposed revision comes directly from the program assignment for the proposed Religious Liberty Commission, an idea which was tabled prior to the 1990 SBC in New Orleans in favor of working through rearranging assignment within existing entities of the Convention.

"In comparing our existing assignment with that of the proposed Religious Liberty Commission, we discovered there are two ways of relating to local churches, indirectly as in our current program assignment and directly as in their proposed assignment," said Land. "We felt our current assignment was an untenable situation, and it would be a far better and far more practical model to relate directly and that the CLC ought to have the ability to relate to its originating entity and the one to which it is ultimately responsible, the local church."

The agency's current program assignment includes a restriction on work with local churches. That section says, "It (the Commission) does not work directly with the churches except that its staff may, on invitation, conduct conferences on a demonstration or experimental basis in order to validate plans and techniques. Since some states do not have Christian life commissions, the Commission relates its emphasis on Christian social ethics and religious liberty to Baptist associations, churches and leaders through printed media."

The proposed revision, adopted by the committee in its meeting Dec. 9 in Nashville, says, "The Christian Life Commission works with and relates directly to churches and association of churches (a) in sharing study and research findings and providing counsel regarding appropriate responses to problems of churches and associations in the areas of religious liberty and moral and social concerns and public policy; (b) in providing literature for distribution and leadership for seminars, conferences and workshops."

The opening purpose-statement of the revised program statement is expanded to detail exactly how the CLC is to work in the arena of religious liberty. The proposed statement says, "The Commission will address religious liberty issues by:

- "a) Clarifying, communicating and defending the historic Baptist principle of religious liberty which encompasses separation of church and state and freedom from state interference as embodied in the Constitution of the United States;
- "b) Communicating and commending to the President, Congress, courts and departments of the federal or state governments such declarations as the Southern Baptist Convention adopts concerning religious liberty;
- "c) Working with government agencies in developing relationships essential to the effective promotion of religious liberty;
- "d) informing Southern Baptists of proposed, pending or enacted legislation or policy that may affect the preservation of religious liberty in America;
- "e) Communicating with representatives of governments the concerns of the Southern Baptist Convention for the application of the principles of religious liberty throughout the world."

**Speakers offer prescription  
for Southern Baptist growth**

By Sarah Zimmerman

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (BP)--Like doctors ordering medicine, speakers during a national conference for state evangelism leaders offered Southern Baptists a prescription for growth.

If Southern Baptists follow their advice, the denomination will be a multi-ethnic group characterized by ministry, discipleship, revival and prayer.

Eduardo Docampo, associate director of the Home Mission Board language church starting department, reminded the group that America's ethnic mosaic will continue to intensify.

The danger is Southern Baptists will adopt a set of cultural criteria for accepting ethnic groups, said Docampo. A person's language or style of church life should not exclude them from Southern Baptist life, Docampo said.

"Where did we as Southern Baptists ever get the idea that we could target Anglo, English-speaking people in the South for evangelism? We cannot do anything less than try to reach all people," Larry L. Lewis, HMB president, added.

In addition to ethnic groups, Southern Baptists are responsible for reaching people at all economic levels, said Lewis.

"We cannot practice selective evangelism," Lewis said. "Marketing the church to certain people groups flies in the face of evangelism because you almost always target the up and mobile, not the down and out."

"Discover the needs in your communities and design programs to meet their needs and share the gospel," Lewis said. "The church that is ministering to the needs in its community will never run out of prospects."

Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla., agreed Southern Baptists must adopt a servant role.

"The world is not impressed with our buildings and baptism rates. The world is turned off by our budgets. But being servants will turn their heads," said Roesel whose church has more than 60 ministries in its community.

"The world has yet to see what God can do through a denomination that is totally, unreservedly dedicated to him. By God's grace, I pray that we will become that people."

Roy T. Edgemon, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board discipleship training department, said his desire is for every member of Southern Baptist churches to be involved in some kind of discipleship. "Discipleship is not an option," Edgemon declared.

Herschel Hobbs, author and pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, said, "The greatest need right now in Southern Baptist life is revival among churches.

"Revival does not refer to the world, it refers to us," Hobbs said. "The world is dead in sin. We're the ones who have to get revived."

Adding to the advice, Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Southern Baptists need to "pray as we've never prayed before."

"How desperately we Southern Baptists need to get a hold of God," said Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

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Chapman has proposed a "Watchman National Prayer Alert" for 1992. The plan involves each church in the SBC agreeing to pray for one hour a week. The year-long continuous cycle of prayer will be coordinated by the Sunday School Board.

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Oklahoma, Indiana reach  
agreement of cooperation

By Glenn A. Brown

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--Southern Baptists in Oklahoma and Indiana have approved an "agreement of cooperation" that will informally link the two state conventions in missions and ministry activities.

The agreement was unanimously adopted by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma board of directors Dec. 10, following the unanimous adoption by the executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana Nov. 20.

While it does not involve financial resources, the agreement opens the door for sharing human resources and skills at both the associational and state convention levels. A second recommendation passed by the BGCO board will allow Indiana churches to attend one week of Falls Creek Baptist Assembly in Davis, Okla. Falls Creek is the largest Baptist youth encampment in the world.

William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the BGCO, hailed the agreement as "a wonderful opportunity for genuine mission exchange in both conventions." Already, several BGCO department leaders have participated in training, church growth, evangelism and church building projects with Baptists in Indiana.

Charles W. Sullivan, executive director of the SCBI and former pastor of First Baptist Church in Chickasha, Okla., characterized the agreement as one of the most important steps of cooperation the Indiana convention could take.

"Only the good Lord truly knows what a blessing this will be to Indiana," Sullivan said. Concerning the agreement on Falls Creek, he said it "will offer to our young people a great and wonderful privilege to be able to participate as a group in the Oklahoma Falls Creek camp."

Several Oklahoma associations are already linked up with Indiana associations for various projects, and Oklahoma Baptist University began offering Ministry Training Institutes in four Indiana cities in January 1991. The Indiana centers were approved by OBU's accrediting agency.

OBU President Bob R. Agee said he sees "a lot of additional opportunities for us as a university to be involved in Indiana, using our mission ministry teams, doing church planting and revival work."

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Series of world crises call  
society to examine its values

By Terri Lackey

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12/11/91

NASHVILLE (BP)--An uncertain economy, high crime rate, threat of AIDS, massive drug use and soaring costs of health care all translate into a national crisis that calls society to examine its values, a pastor said.

"I believe our culture is desperately searching for answers, and at the same time they are putting the family first," Bill Blackburn, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church of Kerrville, Texas, told state family ministry leaders attending annual meetings at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in December.

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State family ministry leaders heard a report of upcoming resources to be released for the family, discussed the 1991-92 "Families Touching Families" theme and explored the use of support groups as a tool for outreach evangelism and ministry during the Dec. 5-7 meeting.

Meanwhile, Blackburn said: "I believe our society is responding to the national crisis by asking questions the church can answer."

He said the baby boom generation is fascinated with life after death, and he maintained the church can answer their questions of 'What is the meaning of life?'; 'What is important?'; 'What happens after you die?'

"We are hearing people asking questions related to the Christian faith that we can answer," Blackburn said.

He said social interpreters are predicting a return to traditional values.

"They see the 90s being a time when people value their family more than money," he said. "In bad economic times, people really discover what is important."

"According to recent surveys," Blackburn added, "family values are growing stronger. Our culture is ripe for spiritual awakening."

He suggested family ministry leaders look for innovative ways to respond to the trend and minister to the family.

One innovative way to minister to families is through support groups, according to Doug Anderson, director of the SSB's family ministry department.

According to a recent news magazine survey, more than 15 million people participate in one of 500,000 support groups nationwide, Anderson said.

"The number of organizations providing such self-help groups has quadrupled in the past 10 years," he said. "Support groups provide a ready-made entry point for the board to impact our entire nation in the areas of healing ministries, evangelistic outreach and spiritual awakening."

The family ministry department will officially enter the arena of support group ministry with the October 1992 release of the LIFE course, "Making Peace with Your Past," a 12-week program that speaks to people who grew up in dysfunctional families, said Anderson.

National training for the Lay Institute for Equipping Course, which was field tested in late 1991, will be held during summer conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist Conference Centers.

Tim Sledge, author of the course and pastor of Kingsland Baptist Church of Katy, Texas, discovered the benefit of support groups when he was conducting research for a series of sermons on children of alcoholics. He said his father was an alcoholic.

Sledge, who had been experiencing panic attacks, was participating in a support group with children of alcoholics as a part of the research when he discovered "that people who come out of dysfunctional families where there is an addiction deal with the same type of emotional issues."

Through the support group, Sledge said he identified some emotions he had been suppressing and "turned my life over to God at a new level."

As a result of the sermon series three years ago, "hurting people starting telling me personal things," and the church started several support groups that dealt with issues of dysfunctional families, he said.

The sermon series and the support groups drew people from the community and from other denominations, and the church has grown steadily since, Sledge said.

Another support group resource, "Meeting Needs Through Support Groups," published through Woman's Missionary Union, will be released in the summer of 1992. According to Anderson, the family ministry department is promoting and supporting the book, written by Sarah Hines Martin. Martin has written two previous books, "Healing for Adult Children of Alcoholics" and "Shame on You!" both published by the board's Broadman Press.

"Meeting Needs Through Support Groups" deals with developing support groups in for people who are children of alcoholics, have AIDS, are family members of people with AIDS, incest survivors and parents of teen-agers, according to Cindy McClain, an editor for the WMU. "The book gives general guidelines in beginning and leading crisis oriented and enrichment support groups," she said.

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Baptist coach first female  
to lead national association

By Gary W. Griffith

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LECOMPTE, La. (BP)--Kathy Holloway's game plan never included being a basketball coach. But after 20 years of teaching girls to "shoot the hoop," her colleagues say she has scored big as the first woman president of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Holloway says she never planned to be a coach but completed a double major to earn a bachelor of science degree in math and physical education from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, La., in 1969. During the spring semester of 1970, she taught math at a central Louisiana junior high school.

"After that I learned there was an opening at Tioga High School (in the central Louisiana community of Tioga). The principal called and asked if I would teach physical education. I had never actually thought of teaching it, but I accepted," she recalls.

Since that time, Holloway has distinguished herself in high school coaching circles by directing two Tioga girls' basketball teams to second place finishes in state competition, leading Tioga teams to the state playoffs more than 10 times, coaching two high school All Americans and being elected the only woman president of the Louisiana High School Athletic Coaches Association.

Currently, she is serving as the only woman president in the national association's 25 year history, elected by the organization's executive board. She is on a one year sabbatical approved by the Rapides Parish School Board that enables her to expand the work accomplished by the association's past presidents, says Brett Trotter, interim executive director of the organization.

"Kathy has outstanding leadership qualities and has demonstrated her abilities leading to the presidency, so everyone knew they were getting an excellent president," Trotter says, noting more than a half dozen committees and posts she has served in the last 10 years.

Holloway's sabbatical has enabled her "to do a substantial amount of traveling and representing the national association that no other president has been in a position to do," Trotter says.

Since her presidential inauguration as president six months ago in Connecticut, she has crisscrossed the United States "to meet with various coaches' associations, some of our corporate sponsors and other sports related organizations," he says.

No matter how many exciting trips she makes out of state and interesting people she meets, Holloway says she always is anxious to return home to her husband, Charles, and 15 year old son, Stewart.

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They live a few miles south of Alexandria, La., just off Highway 71, near LSU at Alexandria. Charles Holloway is a retired director of business affairs and comptroller for the school. Stewart is a sophomore at Rapides High School in LeCompte.

The Holloways are active members of First Baptist Church of LeCompte.

"Charles is a deacon and was just selected to be Sunday School director for our association. Stewart is really active in the church choir and youth group. And I teach Sunday School for the college and career age, but I had been teaching youth for about 15 years. I've also been Vacation Bible School director for 18 years. You have to die to get out of that I think," she says with a laugh. Holloway says she has received much support and acceptance from First Baptist Church members.

"They even accept me in my warmups," she says.

"Sometimes it's tough to drag yourself to church on Wednesday night after a day of school, a hard basketball practice and a quick supper. It's tough, but I'm always glad I did," she notes.

In fact, Holloway says her church's support, Christian family and personal relationship with God are what keep her sane while dealing with the pressures of a job that can "drive you crazy.

"I couldn't deal with coaching or teaching if I weren't a Christian, because there are a lot of frustrations that go with losing ball games and the long hours it takes to coach and sponsor our (80 member) pep squad and the things you have to deal with that you see in kids' lives like child abuse, drugs, no place to live, the whole sex issue and pressures to be sexually active. I don't think I could do what I do if I didn't have a higher power to take things to, a Christian family that supports me and a church family that accepts me for what I am."

But the pressures and hard work of coaching are eased "when you see a student really improve as a person," Holloway says. "When you coach someone who makes a real success out of herself, then it is worthwhile.

"I've coached doctors and lawyers and great mothers. I'm even coaching the daughters of girls I taught when I first started. They make it rewarding," she continues.

"Success is not necessarily a winning season; it's whether you win by teaching the kids how to deal with life and use what they've learned from the basketball court or pep squad to be better leaders at home, at college or in life."

Holloway says her Christian faith and ideals also influence the way she coaches and deals with students.

"My Christian beliefs help me know not to give up and throw anybody away or give up on them. Sometimes that might be your natural response to some situations and people, but Christ wouldn't do that."

At times, students turn to Holloway for personal advice and counsel. She says occasionally she asks them if they are a Christian and how they handle the spiritual aspect of their life.

"There is a real fine line as a teacher as to when it is appropriate and inappropriate to share your faith. I think as a school teacher you witness by example through your lifestyle, but when a student comes to you privately for help then you can witness verbally and share the ultimate relationship in life that always makes you a winner."

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Gary W. Griffith is the Louisiana Baptist Message State News Editor.  
(BP) photo available from the Louisiana Baptist Message upon request.