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Faculty issues dominate discussion  
during Midwestern trustee meeting

Baptist Press  
4/21/93

By Brenda Sanders

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Issues related to faculty election and tenure prompted lengthy discussions during Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's trustee meeting, April 19-20. In addition, the board adopted a \$3.5 million budget for 1993-94, a 6.5 percent reduction from the current operating budget.

A planned recommendation to fill a faculty vacancy in New Testament studies was withdrawn by Midwestern President Milton Ferguson due to his conviction that nominee David M. May would not receive the necessary two-thirds majority vote for election to the position.

Trustee chairman Sid Peterson, a California pastor, later said he agreed with the president's assessment that May's election would not pass by the required majority.

May, who has served the seminary as visiting professor of New Testament since January 1991, was to be recommended to the faculty as assistant professor of New Testament. His contract as visiting professor terminates at the end of the 1993-94 academic year.

During the two-day meeting, the board's instruction committee met for more than four hours in executive session to discuss May's recommendation as well as other faculty-related matters.

When Ferguson withdrew May's nomination during a full board session, trustee James Dobbs, an Ohio attorney, asked, "Why?"

Ferguson said he concluded there would be insufficient support for a two-thirds vote in May's favor after consulting with the instruction committee and "other leadership within the board."

Peterson added it would be inappropriate to divulge "specific details" concerning the matter, because it involved matters discussed during an executive session of the instruction committee.

Vernon Davis, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty, said, "The withdrawal of the nomination of David May for election to the faculty became necessary because of inadequate support among the trustees. This development is one which I experience with deep personal regret and sadness."

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He noted May had "gone the second mile," meeting with instruction committee members on several occasions and providing for their study copies of materials he had authored. "He has been subjected to unusual scrutiny," Davis said.

Other issues on the instruction committee's agenda discussed in executive session included recommendations to grant tenure to Wilburn T. Stancil, associate professor of theology, and C. Randall Bradley, assistant professor of church music -- both members of the faculty since 1989.

When the instruction committee came before the full board to recommend granting tenure to Stancil, trustee Ronnie Rogers, an Arkansas pastor, objected. He read passages of an article written by Stancil on the methodology of structuralism, and said, "Structuralism is a theologically bankrupt and deceptive method of (biblical) interpretation.

"My conclusion ... is that while he (Stancil) does not embrace it totally, he does commend it and affirm it," Rogers continued. "It is spiritually irresponsible to write on structuralism and not apprise the readers of the lethal liabilities it poses to sound biblical interpretation. I believe if we grant Dr. Stancil tenure, we become accomplices to the perpetuation of this deception."

A lengthy discussion ensued following Rogers' comments and a written response from Stancil was passed out to trustees by instruction committee chairman James Jones, evangelism director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, and by academic dean Davis.

Concerning his stance on structuralism, Stancil noted: "Most decidedly I am not a structuralist. I do not teach structuralism in my class ... I believe the Bible is inspired by God, trustworthy and totally reliable in leading people to redemptive relationships through Christ and in teaching the redeemed how to live."

Committee chairman Jones responded to Rogers' selection of passages from Stancil's article, stating other passages clearly reject structuralism as an adequate method of biblical interpretation.

Further discussion included questions concerning Stancil's perspective on issues including abortion, homosexuality and the inerrancy of the Bible, with Jones responding that the instruction committee was satisfied that the professor's opinions on those matters were acceptable.

Trustee Tim Harvey, a Georgia pastor, said he had "a problem with the process" of granting tenure to a professor whom he had not personally questioned. Other trustees took issue with the fact that they had not previously received copies of Stancil's writings, giving them little time to form an opinion concerning his views.

Debate continued when it was pointed out by chairman Peterson that the seminary bylaws do not specify whether a simple majority or a two-thirds majority vote is required for the granting of tenure.

Peterson said he believed that since a two-thirds vote is required to elect or dismiss a faculty member, it was appropriate to require a two-thirds vote to grant tenure.

President Ferguson pointed out that, historically, the seminary has always granted tenure to faculty members by a majority vote of trustees. He said it was his understanding of Roberts Rules of Order that the historical precedent should prevail, since the seminary bylaws do not make specific stipulations concerning requirements for a tenure vote.

Trustee Dobbs challenged the chair's ruling, but board members went on to sustain the chair by a vote of 17 to 16, sustaining a ruling by chairman Peterson that the granting of tenure could only be approved by a two-thirds majority vote. The vote to grant Stancil tenure was then defeated when 16 trustees voted for and nine against the recommendation.

Before trustees went on to consider granting tenure to assistant professor Bradley, President Ferguson was allowed to address the board. He told the board they were debating "the most urgent and critical matter I've dealt with in 20 years."

"You're dealing with the heart of this institution," he said. "I implore you, if you are dissatisfied with the procedure ... I would be delighted to withdraw both recommendations for tenure, to set them on the agenda for October, to provide every article written by these men, to provide full opportunity for this whole board to talk with these people."

He warned, "If you deny tenure to Bill Stancil based on your inability to feel that you are comfortable with the information you have and the time you've had to consider it that would be a tragedy for you, for me and for this institution ... I believe we are walking into what could be the devastation of this institution if you allow yourselves to act because administratively we did not provide you the kind of opportunity you need."

Trustee Roger Oldham, a Tennessee pastor, then made a motion that the board allow Ferguson to withdraw both Stancil and Bradley's nominations for tenure until the board's October meeting so that trustees would have ample time to consider the writings of both professors before voting.

Trustees voted to approve the withdrawal of Bradley's nomination, then voted to reconsider their earlier denial of tenure to Stancil-- allowing Ferguson to withdraw Stancil's nomination as well.

When voting to adopt a budget for the upcoming academic year, trustees approved an operating fund reduced by approximately \$250,000 from the current year's budget. The proposal from the board's finance committee includes "reductions in some personnel areas, combined with programming cuts" and does not allow for any salary or compensation package increases for faculty and staff.

Sam Switzer, vice president for business affairs, reported to trustees that while seminary expenditures have increased by only 4.5 percent in the past two years, the institution's revenue situation has been decreasing since 1989-90. This situation places "a great amount of pressure on the operating budget," he said, and "short of somewhat radical changes in reorganization and staffing, it is difficult to make great strides in an operating budget of this type." In other business, trustees:

-- approved a recommendation of the instruction committee to name Don E. Hammer as the Leonard Sanderson Professor of Evangelism and Missions, effective August 1. Hammer has been a member of Midwestern's faculty since 1983 and currently serves as professor of ministry studies and director of doctor of ministry supervision.

-- voted to increase the student matriculation fee from \$500 to \$600 per semester. Switzer noted all other Southern Baptist seminaries now have matriculation fees of \$600 or more for comparable credit hours.

-- received a report on transitions in the seminary's off-campus centers in Little Rock, Ark., and Wichita, Kan. With the completion of the 1992-93 academic year, Midwestern will no longer be involved in sponsoring those programs. However, the seminary's doctor of ministry program conducted in Little Rock will continue.

-- elected trustee Jones as chairman of the board. In addition, Richard Proctor, an attorney and municipal court judge from Wynne, Ark., was elected by acclamation to a third term as first vice chairman; Lewis Adkison, pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church, Colorado Springs, Colo., was elected second vice chairman; and Lowell Socolofsky, a data processing instructor from Omaha, Neb., was elected by acclamation to a fifth term as secretary-treasurer.

-- affirmed a resolution expressing "earnest affirmation, deep appreciation and admiration" to President Ferguson and his wife, Bettie, for their 20 years of service to the seminary.

-- adopted a resolution deploring the distribution of slanderous, inflammatory printed materials which were received by several members of the board from an anonymous source, just prior to the annual meeting. The resolution stated that trustees found the material "offensive and unloving" and considered it to violate "the letter and spirit of the Scriptures."

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Broadman, Holman merger forms  
Broadman & Holman Publishers

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Broadman Press, Holman Bible Publishers and Broadman Supplies, long-time publishing imprints of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, have merged to form Broadman & Holman Publishers (B&H).

Charles A. Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets at the board, said B&H "intends to position itself as a viable, competitive publisher and supplier in the broad, Christian marketplace."

"In view of the BSSB's vision statement, reflective of the Great Commission, our affiliation with Southern Baptists is not a fence that limits our product development and marketing," Wilson continued. "It's a launching pad to reach the world and enhance the likelihood of our success."

As a part of the reorganization and restaffing of the trade publishing division, six new key management positions in B&H have been filled in recent months, Wilson said.

Glenn Bailey, most recently president and chief executive officer of Spring Arbor Distributors of Belleville, Mich., is management systems analyst for B&H. An MBA graduate of Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., he was senior vice president and chief financial officer for Word, Inc., in Waco, Texas, before assuming leadership of Spring Arbor.

Richard P. Rosenbaum Jr., formerly vice president for business and finance for the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, has become director of the trade operations department for B&H. Earlier, he was a buyer for Holman Bible Publishers and has earned the designation "Certified Purchasing Manager" from the National Association of Purchasing Management. He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.

Kirk Freeman, most recently manager of trade products for Word, Inc., is B&H director of marketing. A graduate of Baylor University in Waco, he was previously marketing manager for Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers.

Harold King, manager of text management and composition for the BSSB, has become director of trade supplies and media for B&H. A graduate of Wheaton (Ill.) College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, he previously was president of American Home Libraries of Brentwood, Tenn.

Greg Webster, an account supervisor with the Puckett Group, an advertising agency in Atlanta, has become B&H trade books marketing manager. He holds the master of theology degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif., and the master of business administration degree from the University of Georgia at Athens.

Wendell Overstreet, until recently marketing manager for the New King James Bible at Thomas Nelson Publishers of Nashville, is now Bible marketing manager for B&H. He is a graduate of Trevecca Nazarene College in Nashville.

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**Publisher's apology over Madonna  
book leads to SBC Annual contract**

By Herb Hollinger

NASHVILLE (BP)--Following negotiations and an apology from the publisher of Madonna's "Sex" book, the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee awarded the printing contract for the 1993 Convention Annual and Book of Reports to R.R. Donnelley and Sons Company.

According to the April 20 announcement by Ernest E. Mosley, executive vice president of the Executive Committee, officials of Donnelley, the world's largest printing company, and the SBC signed contracts following "consultation and negotiations."

The contract price was not announced but the Convention Annual is a large paperback of 40,000-plus copies and the Book of Reports, used primarily at the annual meetings, is 12,000-plus copies. Donnelley printed both for the first time in 1992.

The Executive Committee and Baptist Sunday School Board officials were angry when it was reported last October Donnelley, in a contract with Time Warner Company, had printed Madonna's controversial \$49.95 "Sex" coffee-table book.

A Donnelley Book Group vice president, Thomas A. Freking, sent Mosley a letter, dated April 14, following the contract negotiations which indicated the firm "certainly would have understood if you had concluded that you had no choice but to move the work.

"We understand that your awarding this work to us in no way lessens the outrage you expressed to us over the Madonna book," Freking said. "You may also be aware that Madonna's publishers know that we will not be involved in any soft cover edition this fall. They understand that we now know the content of the book and have always avoided such books. We are sorry for any embarrassment or inconvenience this incident has caused you."

The apology played an important part in the Executive Committee's decision to renew the contract with Donnelley.

"The spirit and content of Donnelley's response to our clearly stated objections was such that I felt we could contract for their printing and distribution services this year," Mosley told Baptist Press. The SBC Executive Committee contracts annually for the printing of the two books.

The Chicago-based Donnelley has 29,000 employees in 25 U.S. printing plants as well as an overseas operation.

Through a separate division, Donnelley prints Bibles, hymnals and other religious materials for the Sunday School Board and other national religious publishers.

James T. Draper Jr., the board's president, told Baptist Press Donnelley had apologized to him.

"If we are asked for forgiveness we should be ready to grant it," Draper said. He said Donnelley would be allowed to continue to bid on Sunday School Board projects.

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**Opponents of homosexual rights  
criticize White House meeting**

By Tom Strode

Baptist Press  
4/21/93

WASHINGTON (BP)--While homosexual leaders expressed elation after their recent, historic meeting in the Oval Office of the White House, opponents of homosexual rights described it as wrong morally and unwise politically.

In the first such meeting a president has had with homosexual leaders, President Bill Clinton reaffirmed his intention to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military and his support for homosexual rights legislation, participants said afterward, according to published reports.

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"This is a man who gets it. He gets our issues; he is in there with us," said Torie Osborn, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, according to The Washington Post.

(Baptist Press contacted NGLTF and the Human Rights Campaign Fund, two of the seven groups represented at the meeting, but neither organization was able to provide comment before the deadline.)

"This meeting symbolized the entry of lesbian and gay people into the mainstream of American life," said Tom Stoddard, executive director of the Campaign for Military Service, a group seeking to end the military ban, "and it is the president of the United States, who, through his moral leadership, permitted that to happen."

Others did not share his perspective.

"Clearly, 'moral leadership' is in the eye of the beholder," said Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission. "Most Southern Baptists would consider facilitating the entry of homosexuals into the mainstream as neither moral nor leadership."

"It's a serious miscalculation on (Clinton's) part," said Bob Knight, director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council, "because he seems to be willing to accommodate a tiny minority at the risk of offending the vast majority of people in this country who don't approve of homosexual behavior and see it as unnatural, immoral and dangerous. It remains a mystery why the president seems willing to break promises to virtually every other group except homosexual activists."

The symbolism also disturbed Land.

"I am distressed that the president of the United States would use the 'bully pulpit' of his presidential office to extend the kind of semi-official approbation to homosexuality and lesbianism that this meeting provides," he said.

While the Christian Life Commission and other organizations protested when homosexual activists were invited to bill-signing ceremonies with President Bush in 1990 and to a meeting with Bush's campaign chairman in 1992, Land said this meeting "is even worse, since the meeting took place in the Oval Office itself."

The Oval Office normally is reserved for such meetings as those with heads of state, rather than special interest groups, Land said.

Clinton confirmed he will be speaking out of town during the homosexual rights march on Washington April 25 but said he would like to send a message to marchers via video or telephone hookup, meeting participants told reporters afterward.

The April 16 meeting came only two days after a national study was released showing only 2.3 percent of American men surveyed said they have engaged in sex with another man, and only 1.1 percent considered themselves exclusively homosexual, according to published reports. The results of the survey, reportedly the most comprehensive on male sexual behavior in 45 years, were similar to other recent studies and contradicted the homosexual movement's long-espoused figure of 10 percent of the population being homosexual.

In addition to Stoddard and Osborn, other homosexual leaders attending were: Tim McFeeley, Human Rights Campaign Fund; William Waybourne, Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund; Billy Hileman and Nadine Smith, March on Washington Committee; Andrew Barrer, Coalition '93; and Phill Wilson, Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

Though the CLC's Land was distressed at the meeting, he said it was not unexpected of Clinton, a member of a Southern Baptist church.

"While we are appalled by the nature and location of this meeting," he said, "it shouldn't be surprising to those who heard presidential candidate Clinton tell homosexual activists, 'I have a vision, and you are part of it.'"

"The Christian Life Commission and most Southern Baptists have a very different vision for America."

Expert notes trends affecting  
youth ministry in the 1990s

By Chip Alford

NASHVILLE (BP)--Youth ministers in the 1990s face the task of helping Christian teen-agers learn to live and minister as a distinct subculture in today's society, a speaker at a national youth conference said.

"Christian teen-agers can no longer identify themselves with the dominant culture. As an increasingly distinct subculture, they must establish beliefs, values and lifestyles at odds with those around them," Richard Ross, youth ministry consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, said in an April 20 seminar on "Trends Affecting Youth Ministry" at the Youth Ministry National Conference 4 in Nashville.

Ross said ministers must guide youth to "take a stand for their faith with compassion," avoiding the two extremes of "monasticism" and "militancy."

"By monasticism, I mean they should avoid the mistake of isolating themselves, saying, 'Let's not be tainted by the bad world out there,'" Ross said.

"But they also need to avoid the other extreme -- militancy. We don't need to have a 'crusader mentality' where we try to take over the school. Christianity ought to be aggressively prophetic at times, but I think you can abuse (your witness) by being too aggressive."

A second trend affecting youth ministry in the 90s, Ross said, is escalating violence among young people.

Approximately 350,000 guns are carried into American schools each day, he said, adding some authorities now list gunfire as the second or third leading cause of death among 15- to 19-year olds.

"How does this affect how you do youth ministry?" Ross asked. "Well, when you have 350,000 guns in school, some of those are going to be in the purses or pockets of some of the youth attending your lock-ins, retreats or Bible studies."

Ross suggested youth ministers form a safety committee or task force composed of concerned parents, youth workers and any school teachers or law enforcement officers who may be members of their churches. The committee should take a look at some hard questions about safety such as:

-- What procedure will we use to respond to the presence of a gun at a church youth activity?

-- Are their times that we should have paid security personnel present at youth activities? (Ross noted law enforcement is becoming an increasingly familiar presence in the lives of today's young people, adding metal detectors and police officers are already commonplace at many schools.)

-- Are we reaching a point where we will have to be careful about blanket invitations to all community youth? Clarifying this question, Ross said: "Please don't hear me say you should not reach the youth in your community for Christ. I'm just saying you need to think through all the implications of what you do."

-- How do you handle the appearance of a gun in your youth group when your young people are out of town (e.g., on a mission trip, retreat)?

A third trend addressed by Ross is an increasing interest in the spiritual and supernatural spurred by "millennial fever" -- a preoccupation with the approach of the year 2000.

"Changes of centuries always have been accompanied by spiritual interest, the formation of new sects and the announcement of varied eschatological schemes. The end of a millennium should be even more dramatic. For the next seven years, rationalism will increasingly give way to supernaturalism," he said.

This trend offers both positive and negative possibilities for ministry, Ross explained.

"If people are more spiritually aware, that obviously is an open door for evangelism. We won't have to bootleg the gospel to teen-agers. They will already be interested in spiritual things.

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"The negative side is the darker side of the supernatural will also be getting more attention. All of the crazies will be coming out in the next seven years. It can really confuse our young people."

Ross encouraged youth ministers to emphasize doctrinal issues with youth. "There is a temptation to only deal with hot topics and not talk about what we believe and why. But that is so important. We need to redouble our efforts in this area."

Ross also told youth ministers they must prepare to meet the needs of high-risk babies (e.g., those born addicted to cocaine or alcohol) that are now beginning to reach adolescence.

"Many such youth will need closer and more direct supervision, since they fail to consider the consequences of behavior," he said, adding youth teachers also will have to adjust the learning environment for this group.

"Teaching must feature more concrete illustrations, include contemporary media, be skill-based, focused on short-term assignments and offered in the context of relationships with genuine, caring adults," he said.

Youth ministry in the next few years also will be affected by the number of youth being raised in dysfunctional families, Ross said.

"Teen-agers who have been reared in unhealthy families are more likely, but not bound, to replicate those patterns.

"I think it is time for the Southern Baptist Convention to move heavily into helping teen-agers prepare to be husbands and wives and parents, or healthy singles. We need time for them to think through, 'How am I going to be as a mate?' or 'How am I going to raise my kids?'"

This can be accomplished through educational experiences and offering opportunities for teen-agers to spend quality time with adults who model healthy family life, he said.

Youth Ministry National Conference 4 is sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board.

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BSSB workers help spur development  
of Russian Sunday school curriculum

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By Chip Alford

DOMODEDOVA, Russia (BP)--It's been less than three years since Ljudmila Genrich was dodging the KGB, trying to tell children in her native Siberia about the love of Jesus.

Unable to teach religion openly under communist rule, the Russian Baptist woman had to be both secretive and imaginative in sharing her faith. Her strategy? Plan birthday parties.

Whenever a local child had a birthday, she would throw a party in the child's home, invite children from the neighborhood and use the opportunity to talk about Jesus. Though the KGB soon caught on and continued to follow her, she was never arrested.

With the demise of communism and the collapse of the Soviet empire, Ljudmila is now free to share her faith and is even writing Sunday school lessons for children. Earlier this month, she attended the second in a series of Sunday school curriculum development workshops led by workers from the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The workshop, held March 29 to April 3 at the Elochki Retreat Center in Domodedova, Russia (near Moscow), drew more than a dozen Baptist church leaders from Russia, Ukraine and Latvia, all republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

"Our purpose was to help Baptists in the former Soviet republics develop Sunday school materials that will meet the needs of their churches," said Mavis Allen, senior program development coordinator for the BSSB's church growth-Sunday school division and one of the six workshop leaders.

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Other board employees making the trip were Mike Fink, adult curriculum manager; Judith Woolridge, senior youth curriculum design editor; Marilyn Redding, children's curriculum editor; David Nelms, preschool curriculum editor; and Forrest Moorehead, retired curriculum development coordinator.

The series of workshops are the brainchild of Sergei Sannikov, president of Odessa Baptist Seminary and Bible School in Ukraine. While the first meeting (held in November 1992 near Kiev, Ukraine) was financed by the BSSB, most of the expenses for the recent meeting were paid for with Foreign Mission Board funds set aside for initiatives in the region, Allen said, adding several FMB missionaries in Russia assisted with the project.

"Sergei's dream is to provide Sunday school literature for all Baptist churches in the former Soviet Union," Allen said. "He submitted to Dr. (Harry) Piland (director of the BSSB's church growth-Sunday school division) a proposal for a series of workshops on how to do Sunday school work and develop and write curriculum and then asked for our help."

Participants in the first workshop were given an assignment to write a unit of Sunday school lessons for a particular age group and bring it to the second meeting, Allen said.

"We set aside time to evaluate those lessons as a part of the workshop and all our team was impressed. The writers had done remarkable work," she said.

In addition to evaluating lessons, the BSSB workers led sessions on how to develop and write curriculum for different age groups and gave general lectures on teaching methodologies and the life of Christ.

Workshop leaders also had time to attend either worship services or Sunday school at Central Baptist Church in Moscow.

"The idea of an all age-group Sunday school is a new idea in Russia," Nelms said. Classes are offered for children and preschoolers on Sunday morning. Both youth and adults participate in the two-hour worship service, making it difficult to schedule Bible study on Sunday morning.

But according to Allen, some churches are recognizing the need for adult and youth study groups and are scheduling them during the week.

While the seminary in Odessa does publish basic lesson outlines which can be used by Sunday school teachers, there is no fully developed Sunday school curriculum, Allen said, adding Sannikov has requested the BSSB to provide leadership for two more curriculum development seminars in the next year. The request will be considered by Piland and Foreign Mission Board officials, she said.

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