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SBC Cooperative Program gifts
for October above last year

Baptist Press
11/8/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program gifts for October totaled \$11,704,398, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee. The total is nearly \$825,000 above October of last year, or a 7.58 percent increase.

For the first month of the SBC fiscal year, the \$11,704,398 is also 2.87 percent above the SBC Program Allocation Budget monthly requirement of \$11,378,310.

"The October gifts continue a pattern of increased missions giving by Southern Baptists," Chapman said. "The more Southern Baptists see the enormous challenge of reaching the world for Christ, the more they want to participate."

The October 1994 CP figure of \$11,704,398 compared to October 1993 of \$10,879,698, or an increase of \$824,699.

Designated gifts for the month also surpassed October of last year, \$1,966,220 compared to \$1,531,826, or a 28.36 percent increase.

The SBC Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 1994-95 SBC Program Allocation Budget as well as restricted funds received from state conventions which identify them as Cooperative Program.

The Cooperative Program Challenge Goal for the 150th anniversary (1995) of the Southern Baptist Convention is \$150 million which requires average monthly CP receipts of \$12.5 million.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a percentage of Cooperative Program contributions they receive from the churches to support work in their areas and send the remaining funds to the Executive Committee for national and international ministries. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

Supplies, volunteers take off
to begin Haiti relief effort

By Steve Barber & Tim Yarbrough

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--As the C-97 cargo plane loaded with more than 30,000 pounds of supplies took to the air for a humanitarian mission to Haiti, Brotherhood Commission staffers breathed a sigh of relief.

"Only the Lord could have worked all of this out," said James D. Williams, president of the agency, as he watched the plane gain altitude. "Now we must trust in him to speak to the people who can help respond to everything that is needed."

Williams and other members of the staff of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission spent several hours Nov. 8 at the Memphis International Airport loading the plane bound for the troubled Caribbean nation.

"The magnitude of pulling together the volunteers and the equipment necessary for the Haiti project is beyond anything we have attempted before," said Griffin. "But this is not missions as usual."

It took a heroic effort, but in 10 days all the supplies to do renovation work on the Baptist Convention of Haiti annex offices in Port-au-Prince were gathered and loaded onto the plane owned by Grace Air Medical Foundation of Texas. The aircraft arrived in Memphis from Fort Worth where it was loaded with additional supplies provided by Texas Baptists.

On Oct. 21, a team of Southern Baptists returned from a six-day assessment visit to Haiti. While there, the team met with missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge and with Haitian Baptists. The group formulated a plan to respond to the physical and spiritual needs of the Haitian people. The first phase of the effort will focus on food distribution through churches.

The frantic effort to gather supplies for the Haiti project is only half the story, according to Mickey Caison of the Brotherhood Commission. Caison, who is overseeing volunteer recruitment for the project, will lead the construction team that will renovate the Baptist facilities there. The crew of 11 construction volunteers was scheduled to arrive in Haiti Nov. 9 and begin work the next day.

"The Lord has provided us with a great construction team. He did a marvelous job of putting it together," said Caison.

Already, many of the teams needed to do food distribution have been enlisted or soon will be, he said.

The convention annex will be used as a staging area for volunteers and supplies in relief efforts to come, including food distribution, water well repair and medical teams. The renovation work is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 19, when the first 10-person food distribution team arrives in Haiti and serves for two weeks.

"Now we are asking for the prayers of Southern Baptists that God would provide health and safety for our team," Caison added. "It will be an awesome task to get the job done on time under the best of conditions. Pray, too, that he will strengthen us for the spiritual warfare we will face. Voodoo is very prevalent there."

During the food distribution effort, 17 teams of 10 people each will be needed.

In early 1995, volunteers with plumbing skills will be needed for repair and replacement of about 500 of the country's water wells. Plans also call for medical teams to work with Haitian churches and schools early next year. By the end of the project, more than 200 Southern Baptist volunteers will have served in Haiti.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and Brotherhood Commission are jointly sponsoring the work in Haiti in conjunction with the Baptist Convention of Haiti.

Prospective Southern Baptist volunteers may contact their state Brotherhood department, or call the Brotherhood Commission at 1-800-280-1891 or (901) 722-3787 for more information.

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Those who wish to make a contribution to the relief effort may send it to Southern Baptist World Relief at the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104 or the Foreign Mission Board, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767.

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(BP) photos mailed to state Baptist newspapers by the Brotherhood Commission. Also available on CompuServe and PressLink.

Missouri Baptists discuss
CP, inerrancy proposals

By Bob Terry & Tim Palmer

Baptist Press
11/8/94

ST. LOUIS (BP)--Cooperative Program concerns dominated the miscellaneous business discussion during the 1994 Missouri Baptist Convention annual meeting. Messengers defeated a motion that would have required people to be members of churches that support the Cooperative Program before they could be nominated for service to boards and commissions of Missouri Baptist institutions. Messengers passed a motion calling for a study on increasing the state convention's percentage of CP giving from now until the year 2000.

Action was delayed until the 1995 meeting on a motion to require people nominated for state convention service acknowledge inerrancy of the Bible.

Earl Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Louisiana, presented the motion requiring nominees' churches support the Cooperative Program. He had presented the same motion at the 1993 annual meeting. It had been referred to the committee on continuing review, which found it did not conflict with the constitution, bylaws or business and financial plan but made no recommendation on its merits.

"This motion does not exclude churches that want to give to the Missouri Baptist Convention through other avenues," Wood said. He contended it affirmed CP as the primary vehicle for giving.

Lee Beaver, a messenger from Edmundson Road Baptist Church, St. Louis, said some churches for years have sent money to the MBC with instructions that certain Baptist entities not receive any portion of it. Don Wideman, MBC executive director, confirmed all such gifts are termed "designated giving," not Cooperative Program.

Beaver pointed out Wood's motion would force the nominating committee to exclude members of churches that designated. He pointed out nominees are not asked whether their churches use Southern Baptist Convention literature or programs, and neither should they be asked whether their churches give to CP.

John Hughes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Independence, pointed out the Southern Baptist Convention had dealt with a similar issue in 1994 and had decided, "Don't do a litmus test of contributing through Cooperative Program or doing a percentage of Cooperative Program" as a prerequisite for denominational service.

"We don't need to go beyond our own constitution in making requirements to hold office," Hughes said. The constitution requires nominees be from churches "in sympathy with the objects of the convention and desiring to cooperate with the convention"

Rick Auxier, co-pastor of Canaan Baptist Church, St. Louis, said what the SBC did is not germane to the MBC. He noted a church could contribute as little as one undesignated dollar and meet the motion's requirement. "It's saying if we're going to be involved in something we ought to support it."

Bill Miller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Farmington, said he did not think churches needed more instruction about giving, although they might need better examples. The church where he is pastor gives 22 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program. Miller facetiously suggested a motion that all nominees must come from churches giving 22 percent.

Paul Callahan, pastor of First Baptist Church, Warrensburg, said the motion carried neither a dollar figure nor a percentage; it simply said those who serve should support in some fashion the Cooperative Program.

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The vote was taken by a show of ballots and tellers determined nays outnumbered yeas in all sectors of the auditorium.

Messengers later adopted a motion from Auxier to instruct the MBC executive board to do a study on the Cooperative Program "as to how the percentage given to the SBC be increased on a yearly basis to the year 2000." The study is to be reported on at next year's annual meeting. MBC President T.O. Spicer, director of missions for Spring River Baptist Association, clarified the motion was to study an increase in CP giving to the SBC and not to increase giving automatically.

Auxier first made the motion the previous day after messengers voted down an attempt to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts going to the SBC from 35.75 to 36 percent in the 1996-97 budgets. The vote was 585 to 368.

In the motion concerning inerrancy, Robert Garringer of First Baptist Church, Memphis, moved to amend the bylaws of the convention to require members of any MBC committee, agency governing board and commission "shall acknowledge and consistently demonstrate adherence to the principle of the full inspiration and inerrancy of every part and every statement of the Bible as it was originally written."

The motion was referred to the committee on continuing review. Spicer asked the committee to meet at the end of the Wednesday morning session and report back that afternoon. Only two of the committee's six members were available. Thus Spicer ruled the motion would be referred to the committee for a report at the 1995 annual meeting.

In other actions, the messengers approved a \$15.2 million budget for 1995. This will be the fifth consecutive year the budget goal has been \$15.2 million, a goal not yet achieved. SBC causes receive 35.75 percent, the same percentage as last year, with another 6 percent designated for joint SBC/MBC causes.

Elected president of the Missouri Baptist Convention was Paul Brooks, pastor of First Baptist Church, Raytown, who was unopposed for the office. Doyle Sager, pastor of First Baptist Church, Sedalia, was elected first vice president in a runoff after an initial ballot with three nominees, while Richard Adams, pastor of First Baptist Church, Festus/Crystal City, was elected second vice president in a runoff after an initial ballot with four nominees. Randy Fullerton, pastor of First Baptist Church, California, was elected recording secretary in a two-nominee ballot.

The next annual meeting is scheduled for Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 1995, in Kansas City.

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Oklahoma board recommends
continued 58-42 CP funding

By Dave Parker

Baptist Press
11/8/94

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--In a strong show of support for the Cooperative Program, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's board of directors has recommended the state's division of CP funds remain at 58 percent in-state, 42 percent for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Answering a mail-in ballot, directors overwhelmingly approved the recommendation of the board's budget subcommittee that the division remain the same for 1995.

At the July 12 meeting of the board, directors unanimously had approved changing the percentage to 60-40, citing rising expenses, a lean staff and a stagnant economy.

During the Sept. 13 meeting, however, William G. Tanner, BGCO executive director-treasurer, asked the board to further look at CP giving, due to the fact that at that time CP gifts were \$350,000 higher than in 1993. In addition, both the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board had projected shortfalls in their receipts for 1994-95.

Gifts were still \$188,000 under budget in July, but BGCO controller Marlin Hawkins projected the BGCO could exceed its budget by \$12,000.

Directors followed Tanner's recommendation and decided to further study giving before making a budget recommendation. They authorized the budget subcommittee to continue looking at CP gifts up until the convention, then decide between 60-40 and 58-42.

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Budget subcommittee chairman Wendell Lang, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pryor, and BGC0 second vice president, said the decision to stay with the 58-42 division showed the support Oklahoma Baptists have for the CP.

"The budget subcommittee has prayerfully sought God's mind concerning the Cooperative Program division," Lang said. "After much deliberation concerning the conviction of Dr. Tanner that we reassess the 60-40 split, our committee is prepared to recommend that we maintain the current 58-42 division."

A poll of board members showed overwhelming support of the 58-42 division, he said.

"The 58-42 division will allow us to sustain a strong ministry base in Oklahoma while maintaining the integrity of our contributions going outside the state," Lang said. "The recommendation our committee will make represents what we believe the rank and file of Oklahoma Baptists stand for.

"In a day when other state conventions are wrestling over their commitment to the Cooperative Program, I am glad to be in Oklahoma, a state that is firmly committed to global missions."

BGC0 President Keith Russell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Elk City, agreed.

"Oklahoma Baptists have a very strong commitment to missions," Russell said.

"We want to do all we can to take the gospel to the world. That commitment has been shown by an increase in Cooperative Program giving that will enable us to meet our basic needs in Oklahoma and continue our high level of commitment outside Oklahoma."

Tanner said he was pleased with the committee's decision.

"This was a decision made by studying the information that we had, by realizing that we had some additional funds that were coming to the convention in 1995 and by making a commitment to prioritize missions first," Tanner said. "In looking at our nation and our world, I felt if we were able to do this, that this is what we should do.

"I am very pleased that we can do this, and at the same time fund the additional commitments that we made both to our budget and to the budgets of our auxiliary corporations," Tanner said.

The budget will be voted on by messengers to the state convention on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 15.

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N.M. convention runs overtime
over '96 dates, resolutions

By John Loudat

Baptist Press
11/8/94

CLOVIS, N.M. (BP)--The 82nd annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico, held Nov. 1-3 at First Baptist Church, Clovis, ran an hour longer than originally scheduled, due to debate over changing the time of the annual convention and attempts to remove two of the seven resolutions proposed by the resolutions committee.

In other business, the 429 registered messengers approved a record budget, elected new officers, adopted new bylaws for the convention's only institution, the New Mexico Baptist Children's Home in Portales, and celebrated the home's 75th anniversary.

The proposed Cooperative Program budget of \$2,858,581 was approved. With the exception of \$66,000 in preferred items and exceptions applied before the Southern Baptist Convention CP percentage is figured, 30.5 percent of the budget receipts, or an anticipated \$871,867, will be forwarded for SBC national and international missions and ministry. No increase to the percentage was approved this year.

Tom Martin, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hobbs, was elected convention president over Joe Bunce, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bloomfield. Martin has been chairman of the state convention executive board the past two years.

Kirby Kennedy, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Prescott, was elected first vice president; Larry Byous, a layman from Sandia Baptist Church, Clovis, second vice president.

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The new bylaws for the New Mexico Baptist Children's Home returns the home to a board of directors distinct from the state executive board, the home's board in recent years.

On the second day of the meeting, nearly 700 messengers and guests made the 20-mile trip to children's home. The state's oldest child-care institution celebrated 75 years of ministry to hurting children, with a barbecue and open house. Administrator Jack Meeker reported during the first 75 years of the home, "1,407 children and youth have had small glimpses of hope across their lives."

A motion presented during the final session by the nominating committee concerning the time and place of the 1996 convention stirred debate among messengers over an effort to amend.

During the opening session, Leonard Foster, bivocational pastor of Happy Valley Baptist Church, Carlsbad, introduced a recommendation from the recent New Mexico Bivocational Pastors and Wives Conference that the date for the state convention be changed. He recommended the meeting begin on a Friday morning, ending the next day at noon, and that the convention be held in Albuquerque or Glorieta, a central location. The time and place, Foster said, would enable more working people and bivocational pastors to attend the annual event.

Foster's motion was not reflected in the nominating committee's recommendation. Dropping his demand for a central location, Foster moved the dates be changed from Nov. 12-14 to Nov. 13-14. A shorter convention, he reiterated, would make it more accessible.

Foster's amendment was clearly defeated and the nominating committee's recommendation passed.

Gary Wolfe from Carlsbad moved the new state convention president see to it Foster's concern is studied and report back to next year's annual meeting.

After it passed "overwhelmingly," Frank Zamora, convention president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Las Cruces, told messengers Foster's concern, brought to last year's annual meeting, had been studied during the past year. In a survey, half of the bivocationalists who responded indicated the days of the meeting were an issue, and half said they weren't. The problem was one of insufficient funds. Full-time pastors "overwhelmingly" responded by saying the days did not matter to them, as long as they weren't Friday and Saturday. They indicated they could not come on those days, but they were in favor of a shorter meeting.

Executive Director Claude Cone told messengers, "I want to assure New Mexico Baptists we want the dates (for the convention) when the most people can attend." Saying bivocationalists are a vital part of God's work in New Mexico, he promised that the state staff and officers will work to get the most people present.

Resolutions presented by resolutions committee member Dann Masters of Angel Fire generated a great deal of discussion.

No comments were made on five of the seven proposed resolutions: appreciation to the host church, commendation of convention staff and officers, the need for spiritual awakening, opposition to the gambling referendum, and appreciation for First Baptist Church, Texico, for canceling scheduled revival services and allowing English Bible teacher John Blanchard to bring the convention Bible studies.

Cordell Akin of Los Alamos moved to strike a resolution on soul competency, saying it implied convention personnel were trying to suppress information. He argued the convention should not consider such a resolution.

The committee's resolution read: "Whereas, we recognize that soul competency requires the freedom of the individual to access to all relevant information, be it resolved that this historic identifying characteristic of Baptists be reaffirmed and all communications through our state convention respect this principle."

During the convention's opening session, Carmen Conner, a retired pastor from Albuquerque, had introduced a resolution, based on the biblical doctrine of soul competency, "that the pages of the Baptist New Mexican be open to news from all cooperating churches and letters to the editor from members of cooperating churches provided that they are free from acrimony."

Gavin Vaughan from Artesia said state paper editors are under much pressure to put certain things in and leave certain things out of their publications. He expressed his feeling that readers of the New Mexico paper were getting a good picture of what is happening. He saw the resolution as affirming what convention staff members have been doing and encouraging them to continue.

Akin's amendment to remove the resolution was soundly defeated.

A resolution criticizing Foreign Mission Board policies of terminating medical insurance of missionaries terminated for medical reasons was successfully removed from the body of resolutions.

Former missionaries Ken Nicholson of Albuquerque and Garland Peek of Alamogordo argued from their personal observation and experience that medical benefits are not immediately terminated in such cases. Joe Riley of Albuquerque, who introduced the resolution to the committee, said he knew of two such cases where they had been.

A motion by Harry Boggs of Hagerman to table the resolution until a better explanation could be secured easily carried.

The 1995 annual meeting will be Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

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Baptist prof helping panel
explore 'just peacemaking'

By Pat Cole

Baptist Press
11/8/94

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--A Southern Baptist professor helped organize a panel of Christian ethicists and international relations experts who are attempting to build a basis for peacemaking in the post Cold War era.

"We want to see if we can agree on a new method of Christian ethics called 'just peacemaking,'" said Glen H. Stassen, professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. "For centuries, we've had just war theory and pacifism which argue whether it's all right to make war." He emphasized, however, neither of these theories address what steps to take to make peace.

The 20 scholars met Oct. 28-30 at the Abbey of Gethsemani near Bardstown, Ky. Another meeting will be held next summer or fall. In the meantime, several members of the committee will be refining a working document that listed eight principles of peacemaking. Some of those principles are:

- Act so as to spread democracy and human rights.
- Take initiatives to decrease an adversary's distrust and fear.
- Encourage international agreements, initiatives, networks and relationships that decrease anarchy in the world.
- Get those who have a stake in a conflict to talk "eyeball to eyeball."

The idea of a "just peacemaking theory" has been discussed for several years by ethicists, said Stassen, noting four major denominations issued statements in the 1980s calling for such a statement.

"We realize that we went through a 50-year period of the Cold War without any war between the major powers, and in fact it has been 100 years since there has been a war between democracies," said Stassen. "Furthermore, we've seen countries like Poland, East Germany, South Africa, the Philippines and even Iran have revolutions by non-violent methods. So we are wondering if some new peacemaking initiatives are spreading that are moving us away from war."

The gathering brought together some of the nation's foremost scholars in diplomacy and ethical decision-making and 20 invited observers. John Cartwright of Boston University; Duane Friesen of Bethel College in Kansas; Judy Gundry-Volf of Fuller Theological Seminary in California; Peter Paris of Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey; and Susan Thistlethwaite of Chicago Theological Seminary are among the ethicists/theologians on the panel. Some of the international relations experts are Bruce Russett of Yale University; Paul Schroeder of the University of Illinois; and Michael Smith of the University of Virginia.

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At least one Southern Baptist, James Ward, minister to adults at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, was invited to observe the group's proceedings. "The more I went through the weekend, I realized it would be useful for the church to speak to the government and at least lend the government some moral guidance," said Ward, who formerly practiced law in Idaho and California.

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Southern moves program
from Belmont University

By Lonnie Wilkey

Baptist Press
11/8/94

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--In an unexpected move, Belmont University officials have been notified the school will no longer house the extension studies program of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Effective with the 1995 spring semester, Southern's extension studies program will be located at the Baptist Sunday School Board and Two Rivers Baptist Church, Nashville, according to Robert D. Hughes, director of extension studies at the Louisville, Ky.,-based seminary.

Steven Simpler, dean of Belmont University's school of religion, said the letter he received dated Sept. 29 was "a surprise because I had no idea something like this was going to happen." Although the university has provided free facilities and staff support for the extension studies program since 1986, Belmont was not informed Southern was thinking about moving the program, Simpler said.

Simpler said students in the program often expressed satisfaction of being on a campus and having access to library and bookstore facilities. He said there normally are 20-30 students in the program which meets on Mondays at the campus. Although Belmont provided the space and staff support, Southern Seminary had complete control of the program as far as classes and professors were concerned, Simpler said.

The letter from Hughes thanked Simpler and his staff "for the excellent support Belmont has given to the extension studies program." While not giving a specific reason why the center was being moved, the letter hinted of denominational politics. The letter noted "this decision has nothing to do with the administration of the program that you have provided. It is rather an outgrowth of the changes that have taken place in our denomination in recent years."

When asked about that in a telephone interview, Hughes told the Baptist and Reflector, newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, "In the climate of the SBC there are shifting relationships as there always have been. Six or seven years ago we shifted to Belmont. We are now comfortable shifting back to the Sunday School Board," he said.

Hughes said the program was housed at the Baptist Sunday School Board before it was moved to Belmont in 1986 at Belmont's initiative. Two Rivers made a request to house the program at the same time the seminary was exploring ties with the Sunday School Board, Hughes said.

Hughes said the decision involved national denominational ties and changing technology of education. He said the seminary currently is exploring interactive video (teleconferencing) with the board and is currently working with officials there on a continuing education conference.

"We have strong ties with the Sunday School Board anyway. This is a practical, pragmatic move," he said, adding many BSSB employees take courses through the program.

Hughes said some courses also will be taught at Two Rivers in a local church environment. "Two Rivers will provide a lab setting for the type of education we're trying to provide," he said.

Simpler said Southern's decision to move the program "won't affect us or hurt the program and students."

The Belmont dean said the school is willing to help in the transition. "There is no rancor or pettiness on our part. Basically, it is their (Southern's) program and their decision to make."

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Simpler also noted he was sorry Belmont would no longer to be able to provide that particular service to Tennessee Baptists. "That's why we were willing to invest the money (to house the program)," he said.

Southern Seminary also has a extension studies program at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Hughes said there were no plans to move that program from Union.

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HMB staff urges profs
to train lay leaders

By Sarah Zimmerman

Baptist Press
11/8/94

ATLANTA (BP)--Encouraging and training lay leadership is a critical issue facing Southern Baptists, Home Mission Board leaders and seminary professors said during a Nov. 4-7 meeting.

Faced with increasing needs and flat or declining incomes, national agencies, state conventions and local associations are depending more heavily on volunteers, many of whom are lay people, noted HMB President Larry Lewis.

People without formal theological training currently serve in an array of ministries, such as chaplaincy, interfaith witness, church starting and ministry center operations.

"The kind of training we need for lay leaders is very simple training that will equip them," Charles Chaney, HMB vice president for church extension, told 20 professors from Southern Baptists' six seminaries attending the meeting. "Go back to the apprentice model where training is delivered on the field."

Professors should teach seminary students how to equip lay people for ministry, Chaney added.

Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, recommended lay leaders take advantage of one-week and summer courses offered through seminaries.

The meeting, held every other year, allows professors and HMB staff to exchange ideas and ways of sharing information. Other challenges expressed by Home Mission Board leaders included:

- Need for holistic ministry, which Larry Martin, HMB vice president for ministry, described as "reaching out in Jesus' name in every way." Martin said such ministry needs to be church-based, resulting in professions of faith and new churches.

- Flexible styles of worship. Chaney said Southern Baptists need to overcome their differences about contemporary and traditional services and return to a basic commitment to reach the unchurched.

- Reaching the "present-day population of biblical illiterates." Ken Carter, associate vice president for evangelism, said people today "do not understand the Bible or church, but they are spiritually inclined."

- Need for churches to support multiple congregations.

"If we're serious about reaching America and the cities and the ethnic groups, we have to start thousands of churches that may never have their own building or be constituted," Lewis said.

Chaney added, "The most hopeful sign I've seen in my six years here is seeing young people with a vision to start a church that reproduces itself to reach a city."

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