

Book of Reports of the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention

prepared for the

**One Hundred Sixtieth Session
One Hundred Seventy-Second Year**

meeting in

**Phoenix, Arizona
June 13–14, 2017**

FUTURE SBC ANNUAL MEETING SITES

Dallas, Texas – June 12–13, 2018
Birmingham, Alabama – June 11–12, 2019
Orlando, Florida – June 9–10, 2020
Nashville, Tennessee – June 15–16, 2021
Anaheim, California – June 14–15, 2022
Charlotte, North Carolina – June 13–14, 2023
Indianapolis, Indiana – June 11–12, 2024

*Prepared and distributed by
Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention
Frank S. Page, President and Chief Executive Officer
901 Commerce Street; Nashville, TN 37203*

*Reviewed by
John L. Yeats, Recording Secretary, Southern Baptist Convention
Assisted by Sharon Yeats*

*Compiled and formatted by
Allison Young, Publications Specialist, Executive Committee*

Copyright 2017 by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.
All rights reserved. The contents of this book may not be reproduced in any form
in whole or in part without the consent of the copyright holder
except for uses which are permitted under federal copyright law.

Foreword

Pray: For Such a Time As This must not be a mere slogan. Our convention theme must be engraved on the heart of every Southern Baptist messenger attending the Annual Meeting. Historically, the high points of the Southern Baptist Convention are those moments when His people find their knees in total abandonment to His ways. We've made the greatest impact on our culture when we looked beyond our methods to lay hold of the heart of God for lost people beginning with desperate prayer for their souls.

How quickly people can take a detour away from the cooperative vision of reaching lost people in this nation and the world by placing inordinate focus on the minutia of organizations. We are not called of God to be church bureaucrats tinkering with ecclesiastical machinery or parliamentary procedures. We are called to be gospel witnesses – plain and simple.

Imagine the impact of thousands of Southern Baptist witnesses descending on Phoenix with a focus on prayer. What happens when we pray with every vendor, every convention center employee, every hotel clerk, every restaurant waiter, and every person the Lord brings into our paths? The Lord will show up and demonstrate His glory among His people for such a time as this.

Your *Book of Reports* is your handy guide to the business of the convention. You can reference reports, governing documents, and study the recommendations from the SBC Executive Committee. The reports give a snapshot of our cooperative ministries. Every report has some information worthy of celebrating. Other portions of the reports may encourage us to examine our hearts. The Lord may call us to change our ways or our perspective because He desires to do something fresh, something that causes the world to marvel.

Organizations change when people do. We must call out to the Lord for such a time as this. Pray for the lost. Pray for laborers. Ask the Lord to make us His conduits of His resources so that the cooperative ministries transform lives and communities with the gospel in our respective states, this nation, and the world.

John L. Yeats
SBC Recording Secretary

Convention Officers Elected for this Session

President

Steve Gaines 2000 Appling Rd., Cordova, TN 38016

First Vice President

Doug Munton 1111 E. Hwy. 50, O'Fallon, IL 62225

Second Vice President

Malachi O'Brien 22500 E. 299th St., Harrisonville, MO 64701

Recording Secretary

John L. Yeats 400 East High St., Jefferson City, MO 65101

Registration Secretary

Jim Wells 3107 N. 30th St., Ozark, MO 65721

Treasurer

Frank S. Page 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203



**2017 Annual Meeting
of the
Southern Baptist
Convention**

Phoenix, Arizona
June 13–14, 2017

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	4
Southern Baptist Foundation.....	39
GENERAL BOARDS	
GuideStone Financial Resources	41
International Mission Board.....	45
LifeWay Christian Resources	50
North American Mission Board	71
SEMINARY COMPARATIVE DATA	82
INSTITUTIONS	
Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention.....	86
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	91
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.....	99
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary	106
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	110
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.....	117
Seminary Extension (supplement to report of seminaries)	121
Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives	122
COMMISSION	
The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission	125
AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION	
Woman’s Missionary Union.....	133
ADDENDA	
Charter.....	141
Constitution	141
Bylaws	145
Business and Financial Plan	158
Organization Manual	166
Legal Names and Current Addresses of Corporations Related to the SBC	177
<i>The Baptist Faith and Message</i>	178

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ninetieth Annual Report

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

901 Commerce Street, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

STEPHEN N. RUMMAGE, Chairman

FRANK S. PAGE, President and Chief Executive Officer

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention is pleased to present this ninetieth annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017.

There are 82 persons from 34 states and regions who are elected as members of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee met as follows during 2016-17:

September 19-20, 2016	Nashville, TN
February 20-21, 2017	Nashville, TN
June 12, 2017	Phoenix, AZ

1. Officers of the Executive Committee - The officers of the Executive Committee include its president, its chair, vice chair, and secretary, and the chairs of its three standing committees.

Frank S. Page serves as its president and the other officers, as well as its workgroup chairs, are named below:

Chair: Stephen N. Rummage, Florida

Vice Chair: Shane B. Hall, Oklahoma

Secretary: Rebecca S. (Becky) Illingworth, Texas

The following persons served as chair of the three standing committees and the eight workgroups:

Administrative Committee: M. Kent Choate, Oklahoma

Bylaws Workgroup: David E. Hamilton, Mississippi

Communications Workgroup: James W. (Jim) Gregory, Utah-Idaho

Personnel Workgroup: Franklin D. (Frank) Kovalesski, Indiana

Business and Finance Committee: Stephen K. Swofford, Texas

Audit Workgroup: Michael L. (Mike) Scifres, Oklahoma

Business and Financial Plan Workgroup: Timothy (Tim) Hight, Virginia

Convention Arrangements Workgroup: Robyn A. Hari, Tennessee

Cooperative Program Committee: Rolland E. Slade, California

Convention Ministries Workgroup: Phillip Herring, Virginia

Cooperative Program Development Workgroup: Mark H. Ballard, New England

2. ***Cooperative Program Giving** – The giving record of Southern Baptists during the fiscal year October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2015, is as follows

	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Total CP as a %			
of Undesignated Gifts ²	5.18%	5.47%	-0.29%
Total Receipts ¹	\$ 11,545,861,631	\$ 11,154,665,938	3.51%
Total Undesignated Gifts	\$ 9,154,427,472	\$ 8,748,114,744	4.64%
Total Cooperative Program ²	\$ 474,272,984	\$ 478,700,850	-0.92%
State Convention Share			
of Total CP ²	\$ 290,501,682	\$ 297,729,271	-2.43%
SBC Share of Total CP ²	\$ 183,771,302	\$ 180,971,579	1.55%

3. ***Trends in Giving** – The following five-year record of gifts to Southern Baptist churches and through the Cooperative Program is as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>Undesignated</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Receipts</u> ¹	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Gifts</u>	<u>% Change</u>	<u>Cooperative Program</u> ²	<u>% Change</u>
2010-11	\$ 11,805,057,705	0.72%	\$ 9,023,216,896	1.25%	\$ 487,884,065	-1.47%
2011-12	\$ 11,521,418,784	-2.40%	\$ 8,891,673,582	-1.46%	\$ 481,409,006	-1.33%
2012-13	\$ 11,209,655,950	-2.71%	\$ 8,769,026,657	-1.38%	\$ 482,279,059	0.18%
2013-14	\$ 11,154,665,938	-0.49%	\$ 8,748,114,744	-0.24%	\$ 478,700,850	-0.74%
2014-15	\$ 11,545,861,631	3.51%	\$ 9,154,427,472	4.64%	\$ 474,272,984	-0.92%
Average Change 1970s		9.94%		N/A		8.97%
Average Change 1980s		7.58%		5.10%		6.83%
Average Change 1990s		5.42%		4.91%		2.68%
Average Change 2000s		4.12%		4.82%		2.23%
Average Change Last Five Years		-0.27%		0.56%		-0.86%

<u>Year</u>	<u>SBC</u>		<u>SBC</u>		<u>Total CP² as a % of</u>	
	<u>\$ Share of Total CP</u> ²	<u>% Change</u>	<u>% Share of Total CP</u> ²	<u>Total Receipts</u> ¹	<u>Undesig. Gifts</u>	
2010-11	\$ 186,386,036	-0.07%	38.20%	4.13%	5.41%	
2011-12	\$ 186,640,481	0.14%	38.77%	4.18%	5.41%	
2012-13	\$ 183,419,803	-1.73%	38.03%	4.30%	5.50%	
2013-14	\$ 180,971,579	-1.33%	37.80%	4.29%	5.47%	
2014-15	\$ 183,771,302	1.55%	38.75%	4.11%	5.18%	
Average Change 1970s		8.92%	34.41%	8.94%	N/A	
Average Change 1980s		7.98%	37.47%	8.55%	10.50%	
Average Change 1990s		2.06%	37.04%	7.00%	8.73%	
Average Change 2000s		2.22%	37.16%	5.38%	6.80%	
Average Change Last Five Years		-0.29%	38.31%	4.20%	5.39%	

Notes:

1. Due to a change LifeWay made in the ACP information it requested for 2011, Total Gifts were not calculable. Therefore, Total Receipts are reported above for 2010-11 through 2014-15 for comparative purposes. Over the last 20 years Total Receipts averaged 7.25% more than Total Gifts.
2. For 2010-11 through 2014-15, in keeping with the Convention approved definition of The Cooperative Program, the Total Cooperative Program category does not include church contributions given directly to the national convention that are directed only to the national SBC CP Allocation budget.

* Sections 2 and 3 will be entirely replaced with 2016 figures when that data is received. At press time, the latest ACP figures were not available from LifeWay Christian Resources. That data will appear in the 2017 *SBC Annual*, and if available in time for the annual meeting, will also be printed in the 2017 *SBC Bulletin*.

4. Cooperative Program Distribution – Cooperative Program funds received by the Southern Baptist Convention were distributed in keeping with the action of the Southern Baptist Convention when the 2015-2016 Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget was approved. The 2015-2016 SBC Cooperative Program funds distributed include funds received from state conventions and identified by them as Cooperative Program Allocation Budget funds.

	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>
International Mission Board	\$ 98,722,209	\$ 95,362,518
North American Mission Board	44,606,983	43,109,617
Gateway (Golden Gate) Seminary	9,729,985	3,906,276
Midwestern Seminary	8,252,754	4,682,520
New Orleans Seminary	7,597,336	7,301,369
Southeastern Seminary	8,378,979	8,073,981
Southern Seminary	4,851,395	9,203,291
Southwestern Seminary	4,093,679	8,296,486
Historical Library and Archives	469,753	453,984
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	3,229,553	3,121,144
Executive Committee & SBC Operating	<u>5,797,882</u>	<u>5,649,045</u>
Grand Totals	<u>\$ 195,730,508</u>	<u>\$ 189,160,231</u>

5.*Southern Baptist Statistics – A summary of the statistical record for the Southern Baptist Convention for 2014–15 is as follows:

(See page 8 for chart of Southern Baptist Statistics by State Convention.)

Southern Baptist Convention Statistical Summary – 2015

Item/Statistic			2015–2014	2015–2014
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	Numeric Change	Percent Change
State Conventions	42	42	0	0.00%
Associations	1,139	1,157	-18	-1.56%
Churches	46,793	46,499	294	0.63%
Church-type Missions Operating ¹	4,648	4,595	53	1.15%
Total Members	15,294,764	15,499,173	-204,409	-1.32%
Total Baptisms	295,212	305,301	-10,089	-3.30%
Ratio of Baptisms : Total Members	1:52	1:51	–	–
Weekly Worship Avg. Attendance	5,577,088	5,674,469	-97,381	-1.72%
Sunday School/Bible Study/ Small Group Avg. Attendance	3,605,303	3,723,679	-118,376	-3.18%
Undesignated Receipts	\$9,154,427,472	\$8,748,114,744	\$406,312,728	4.64%
Cooperative Program ²	– www.sbc.net/cp/statistics.asp –		–	–

Note:

1. Some state conventions no longer use the designation of church-type mission to categorize congregations which are not self-determining, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This practice has impacted the number of churches and church-type missions.
2. Cooperative Program as reported on the Annual Church Profile is not included in this table. CP, based on the actual amount given through the state convention, is provided in the SBC Annual in the Executive Committee Annual Report.

***Other 2015 Items — Not Asked by All State Conventions ¹**

Item/Statistic	2015	2014
Other Additions ²	244,645	276,021
Total Receipts ³	\$ 11,545,861,631	\$ 11,154,665,938
Total Mission Expenditures ⁴	\$ 1,205,295,079	\$ 1,230,258,151
Great Commission Giving ⁵	\$ 613,201,805	\$ 637,498,179

Notes:

1. Totals for items in this table have incomplete data for 2015 due to the fact that not all state conventions asked the item or did so in a way not comparable with the standard definition. Similar actions occurred in 2014. Thus, comparisons between the two years may not be appropriate. See the Notes in the 2014 SBC Statistical Summary for specific details to determine if a comparison is desirable.
2. California Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
3. California Southern Baptist Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
4. Alabama State Board of Missions, California Southern Baptist Convention, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.
5. Alabama State Board of Missions, Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Missouri Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask this item or the information necessary to obtain the item.

Prepared by: LifeWay Insights, LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0127, June 3, 2016.

* The preceding items will be replaced with 2016 figures when that data is received. At press time, the latest ACP figures were not available from LifeWay Christian Resources. That data will appear in the 2017 SBC Annual, and if available in time for the annual meeting, will also be printed in the 2017 SBC Bulletin.

Church Plants Plus New Affiliates for 2016, SBC: 964**

Source: Reports from State Directors of Missions compiled by the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, GA

** Note: 2010 was the first year an SBC ID # was requested for each reported congregation. In 2016, partners reported 732 new church starts and 232 new affiliations.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
International Missionaries	3,596	3,971	(375)	(9.4)%
North American Missionaries	5,262 ⁽¹⁾	5,684 ⁽¹⁾	(422)	(7.4)%

⁽¹⁾ The missionary count for North American missionaries includes North American Mission Board full-time missionaries, church planters, church planting team members, and student missionaries.

6. Special Missions Offerings – Southern Baptists contributed a special missions offering total of \$195,419,945 through the SBC Executive Committee for North American and International Missions in 2015-2016. The record is as follows:

	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>Amount Change</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Lottie Moon				
Christmas Offering for				
International Missions	\$139,363,713	\$ 128,933,596	10,430,117	8.09%
Annie Armstrong				
Easter Offering for				
North American Missions	<u>56,056,232</u>	<u>55,610,226</u>	446,006	0.80%
Total	\$195,419,945	\$ 184,543,822		

7. Global Hunger Relief Funds – Southern Baptists contributed a total of \$3,274,822 for global hunger relief through the SBC Executive Committee in 2015-2016. The record is as follows:

	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
Received by Executive Committee	\$3,274,822	\$3,646,366	-10.19%
Forwarded to International Mission Board	\$2,561,685	\$2,837,949	-9.73%
Forwarded to North American Mission Board	\$ 713,137	\$ 808,417	-11.79%

*Southern Baptist Statistics by State Convention – 2015¹

SBC and State Conventions	Associations	Churches ²	Baptisms	Other Additions ³	Total Membership	Total Receipts ³	Total Mission Expenditures ³
Alabama ⁴	75	3,242	16,342	19,008	966,764	\$ 720,317,996	See Footnote 4
Alaska	4	83	523	477	12,896	\$ 13,822,848	\$ 1,885,906
Arizona	13	388	2,944	1,760	88,201	\$ 76,361,625	\$ 8,204,325
Arkansas	42	1,431	10,346	9,735	488,322	\$ 326,404,022	\$ 46,838,097
California ⁵	29	1,782	12,151	See Footnote 5	394,017	See Footnote 5	See Footnote 5
Colorado	11	283	1,193	1,343	34,499	\$ 43,224,901	\$ 5,322,092
Dakota	7	84	272	181	4,270	\$ 5,947,170	\$ 722,124
District of Columbia		142	305	193	9,358	\$ 8,168,841	\$ 686,630
Florida ⁶	49	2,540	25,250	19,850	847,082	\$ 712,561,179	\$ 33,125,026
Georgia ⁴	92	3,345	24,620	24,731	1,360,547	\$ 1,042,256,641	See Footnote 4
Hawaii-Pacific	6	117	634	948	16,250	\$ 18,897,013	\$ 2,448,276
Illinois	34	911	4,796	2,895	197,011	\$ 128,411,407	\$ 13,932,492
Indiana	14	394	2,133	2,157	85,093	\$ 60,857,363	\$ 6,032,581
Iowa	5	96	813	502	12,785	\$ 22,302,304	\$ 2,435,284
Kansas-Nebraska	13	315	2,698	1,740	89,230	\$ 91,596,454	\$ 9,648,994
Kentucky	70	2,385	13,645	10,500	711,897	\$ 382,810,807	\$ 51,070,898
Louisiana	39	1,423	11,067	8,699	518,418	\$ 385,606,070	\$ 43,263,339
Maryland-Delaware	11	584	1,378	1,522	97,232	\$ 91,223,488	\$ 10,670,902
Michigan	14	255	838	629	27,109	\$ 18,172,137	\$ 2,956,411
Minnesota-Wisconsin	8	129	172	225	14,777	\$ 13,297,389	\$ 1,618,111
Mississippi	65	2,093	10,872	12,985	624,393	\$ 505,613,230	\$ 72,204,637
Missouri	61	1,815	8,299	8,459	541,632	\$ 344,926,833	\$ 43,281,817
Montana	5	132	689	449	10,284	\$ 12,553,325	\$ 1,408,324
Nevada	4	168	1,184	1,268	29,375	\$ 33,006,018	\$ 2,876,143
New England	7	283	1,803	568	27,907	\$ 18,574,634	\$ 2,560,492
New Mexico	13	313	3,123	3,671	78,349	\$ 61,527,070	\$ 8,991,441
New York	10	420	2,571	526	39,641	\$ 15,907,756	\$ 2,274,428
North Carolina	78	4,110	19,870	16,059	1,179,241	\$ 906,208,054	\$ 107,345,049
Northwest	14	436	2,004	1,543	55,407	\$ 58,584,634	\$ 7,467,017
Ohio	15	652	4,082	2,698	115,886	\$ 86,690,139	\$ 10,911,634
Oklahoma ⁴	42	1,704	12,079	10,231	657,979	\$ 478,802,896	See Footnote 4
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	8	273	1,597	1,281	26,916	\$ 19,402,193	\$ 2,344,693
Puerto Rico-US Virgin Islands	4	50	143	41	3,465	\$ 1,447,042	\$ 190,936
South Carolina	42	2,101	17,742	13,837	605,119	\$ 511,541,033	\$ 64,135,170
Tennessee	67	3,051	22,495	18,661	1,072,638	\$ 787,357,053	\$ 99,021,506
Texas ^{7,8}	106	6,040	41,969	See Footnote 8	2,734,371	\$ 2,292,721,357	\$ 249,413,504
BGCT	98	4,181	31,300	31,829	2,096,009	\$ 1,738,818,520	\$ 191,613,210
SBTC ⁸	104	2,437	20,771	See Footnote 8	1,144,765	\$ 1,099,958,416	\$ 116,751,621
Utah-Idaho	11	136	400	396	15,446	\$ 14,557,297	\$ 2,052,803
Virginia ⁹	41	1,871	10,404	9,267	597,686	\$ 498,777,593	\$ 52,980,280
BGAV	41	1,286	4,433	4,894	402,410	\$ 309,497,034	\$ 31,587,362
SBCV		652	6,906	4,997	229,300	\$ 222,174,688	\$ 25,072,002
West Virginia	10	194	725	593	26,701	\$ 19,970,699	\$ 3,488,882
Wyoming		84	399	321	7,557	\$ 7,990,966	\$ 1,242,131
Subtotal	1,139	46,500	305,607	242,402	14,966,178	\$11,417,349,185	\$1,037,682,606
Adjustments ¹⁰		293	-10,395	2,243	328,586	\$ 128,512,446	\$ 167,612,473
Grand Total For SBC²	1,139	46,793	295,212	244,645	15,294,764	\$11,545,861,631	\$1,205,295,079

Notes:

- All information as of June 3, 2016.
- Some state conventions no longer use the designation of church-type mission to categorize congregations which are not self-determining, self-sustaining, and self-propagating. This practice has impacted the number of churches and church-type missions.
- Total impacted by incomplete data from some state conventions. See body of table and notes for details. Care should be exercised in comparing SBC totals to previous years.
- Alabama State Board of Missions, Georgia Baptist Mission Board, and the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma did not ask the following item or the information necessary to obtain the item: Total Mission Expenditures.
- California Southern Baptist Convention did not ask the following items or the information necessary to obtain the items: Other Additions, Total Receipts, and Total Mission Expenditures.
- Florida Baptist Convention (FBC) total baptisms and total members no longer include church-type missions located in Haiti. In 2014, the statistics for these missions were included in FBC's total baptisms and total members but not included in the reported SBC totals (Grand Total for SBC) as they are not considered a part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).
- Two conventions exist within the state of Texas. The Texas summary line does not show the arithmetic sum of the two state convention figures, because some congregations are affiliated with both state conventions, and their numbers are reflected in the totals for both state conventions.
- Southern Baptists of Texas Convention did not ask the following item or the information necessary to obtain the item: Other Additions.
- Two conventions exist within the state of Virginia. The Virginia summary line does not show the arithmetic sum of the two state convention figures, because some congregations are affiliated with both state conventions, and their numbers are reflected in the totals for both state conventions.
- This line includes four types of adjustments to the data:
 - The removal of duplicate data caused by 788 congregations that are affiliated with more than one state convention.
 - The removal of data from 77 congregations affiliated with a state convention but not affiliated with the SBC.
 - The addition of data from 1,532 congregations affiliated with the SBC but not affiliated with a state convention.
 - The addition of data "pulled forward" from previous ACP reporting cycles for 8,661 congregations that did not report in 2015.

Prepared by: LifeWay Insights, LifeWay Christian Resources, One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234-0127, June 3, 2016

* This entire table will be replaced with 2016 figures when that data is received. At press time, the latest ACP figures were not available from LifeWay Christian Resources. That data will appear in the 2017 SBC Annual, and if available in time for the annual meeting, will also be printed in the 2017 SBC Bulletin.

Significant Actions of the Executive Committee

The following actions of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention are reported to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, for information.

1. **2017-18 Proposed SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget** - (See **Recommendation 1**, page 30.) In February 2017, the Executive Committee adopted the 2017-18 Proposed Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget in the amount of \$192,000,000 and will recommend the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, for adoption.
2. **2017-18 Proposed Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget** - (See **Recommendation 2**, page 31.) In February 2017, the Executive Committee adopted the 2017-18 Proposed Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,450,000 and will recommend the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, for adoption.
3. **Amendment of SBC Bylaw 18. The Executive Committee, Section A, Expanding Representation** – (See **Recommendation 3**, page 32.) In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, take action to amend SBC Bylaw 18. The Executive Committee, Section A, to adjust its membership qualification parameters.
4. **Amendment of SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIX. Film, Publication, and Merchandising Policy** – (See **Recommendation 4**, page 34.) In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, take action to amend SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIX. Film, Publication, and Merchandising Policy.
5. **International Mission Board: Request to Change its Fiscal Year** – (See **Recommendation 5**, page 35.) In February 2017, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, approve the International Mission Board's request to amend its governing documents to adopt a fiscal year of October 1 through September 30 and that SBC Business and Financial Plan Article III. Convention Year, SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIII. Financial Report, and SBC Bylaw 28. Closing of Books be amended to reflect the change.
6. **SBC Annual Meeting: Future Convention Site, 2026** – (See **Recommendation 6**, page 37.) In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, select Orlando, Florida, as the site for the 2026 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention contingent upon satisfactory contract negotiations with the convention center and area hotels. The convention dates would be June 9-10, 2026.
7. **SBC Annual Meeting: Future Convention Site, 2028** – (See **Recommendation 7**, page 37.) In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a recommendation to recommend the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, select Indianapolis, Indiana, as the site for the 2028 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention contingent upon satisfactory contract negotiations with the convention center and area hotels. The convention dates would be June 13-14, 2028.

8. **SBC Calendar of Activities and Amendments** - (See **Recommendation 8**, page 37.) In February 2017, the Executive Committee approved recommendations for the 2021-22 *SBC Calendar of Activities* and amendments to the 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 calendars and will recommend the calendar and amendments to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, for adoption.
9. **2017-18 Southern Baptist Convention Comprehensive Budget** - On June 12, 2017, prior to presenting the budget to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, the Executive Committee will review the 2017-18 SBC Comprehensive Budget and a summary recap of entity operating budget totals as printed in the 2017 *SBC Book of Reports*, page 15.
10. **Election of Southern Baptist Foundation Trustees** - In February 2017, the Executive Committee directed its president, as the agent designated to represent it as the Member of the Southern Baptist Foundation, to elect Key Holleman, Tennessee, and Randy Pittman, Tennessee, as directors of the Southern Baptist Foundation, for terms of office expiring 2020 and until their successors are elected, the terms to begin immediately upon their election during the Southern Baptist Foundation's annual members' meeting to be held in June 2017.
11. **SBC Parliamentarian: Contract with C. Barry McCarty** - In February 2017, the Executive Committee received as information the fact that Frank S. Page, president and chief executive officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, would secure the full execution of a contract with C. Barry McCarty to serve as the chief parliamentarian during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017.
12. **Meeting Hall Expenses of the SBC Pastors' Conference** - In February 2017, the Executive Committee requested the SBC Pastors' Conference to reimburse the Executive Committee \$100,000 for the year 2017 for its use of the meeting hall and facilities at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. The Executive Committee requested the staff to continue documenting the variable cost attributed to the SBC Pastors' Conference and requested a written financial report be provided by the SBC Pastors' Conference leadership by October 30, 2017, to the Executive Committee for review during its February 2018 meeting.
13. **SBC Building Sale Feasibility Study** – In light of interests being expressed in developing the area of Nashville, Tennessee, which includes the SBC Building, in February 2017, the Executive Committee authorized the officers of the Executive Committee, acting in their capacity as a standing committee of the board under Article VI of the Executive Committee's bylaws, to study the advisability and feasibility of entering into an agreement to sell the SBC Building property at 901 Commerce Street, as purchase inquiries are made, with such assistance from staff, other SBC Building occupants, consultants, and other resources as the committee deems appropriate. The Executive Committee directed the committee to regularly report its progress and any significant developments to the Executive Committee and directed the committee to condition any sale upon the prior approval of both the Executive Committee and the Convention.
14. **Amendment of Executive Committee Media Policy to Clarify Photographic Imagery and the Relationship Between Background Rules and Social Media** – In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted an amended Media Relations Policy for the Meetings of the SBC Executive Committee replacing the Media Relations Policy adopted in 2013.

15. **Report of Audits of SBC Entities** – In September 2016 and February 2017, the Executive Committee received as information the fact that the Audit Workgroup of the Business and Finance Committee received and reviewed the 2015-16 required communications submitted to the Executive Committee as outlined by Article XIII of the SBC Business and Financial Plan as well as the 2015-16 audited financial statements of the Executive Committee as prepared by the firm of CapinCrouse, LLP, and acknowledged that these audited financial statements were made a part of the official records of the Executive Committee; and the Executive Committee received as information the fact that the Audit Workgroup and the Business and Finance Committee received and approved the management letter from CapinCrouse, LLP.
16. **Loan Status Reports** – In February 2017, the Executive Committee received as information loan status reports from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary regarding the Legacy Conference Center (formerly Rice/Judson Project)/Grinstead South and Phase I of the Master Plan, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary detailing previously approved indebtedness to tax-exempt bonds, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary regarding the design and construction of 252 new student housing units in the Student Village. The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will report their loan status to the Executive Committee during its February 2018 meeting.
17. **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary: Request for Fund Raising Activity for *Advance the Mission*** - In September 2016, the Executive Committee approved the fund raising activity request from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for *Advance the Mission*, to be started in the fall of 2016 and completed in 2020, contingent upon the approval of the trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during their October 17-18, 2016, meeting. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is to report the fund raising status to the Executive Committee by August 7, 2017, for consideration by the Business and Finance Committee and the Executive Committee during its September 2017 meeting.
18. **Review of SBC Entity Fund Raising Reports** - In September 2016, in accordance with SBC Business and Financial Plan Article VI, Fund Raising Activities, the Executive Committee received as information the fund raising reports of the entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.
19. **Resolutions of Appreciation**
 - (1) **Fermin A. Whittaker** – In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation for Fermin A. Whittaker on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of the California Southern Baptist Convention effective February 2017.
 - (2) **Fred L. Hewett** – In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation for Fred L. Hewett on the occasion of his retirement as executive director/treasurer of the Montana Southern Baptist Convention effective October 2016.
 - (3) **Cecil W. Seagle** – In September 2016, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation for Cecil W. Seagle on the occasion of his retirement as executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana effective December 2016.
 - (4) **Mark H. Edlund** – In February 2017, the Executive Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation for Mark H. Edlund on the occasion of his retirement as executive director/treasurer of the Colorado Baptist General Convention effective July 2017.

Matters Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14-15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motions to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for consideration, action, and report. The disposition of each referral is noted following its description in adherence to SBC Bylaw 26B which states, in part, as follows:

“On all matters referred by the Convention, entities shall respond in writing at the close of their report in the *Book of Reports* and *Annual*, giving specific information on:

- (1) how the matter referred was considered;
- (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and
- (3) any actions on the matter taken by the entity or action proposed to the Convention.”

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it regularly reviews its media policy and is satisfied it has clearly defined guidelines with respect to open meetings, background rules, and executive sessions.

2. SBC Referral: Amending the SBC Constitution to Make Racial Discrimination Evidence that a Church is Not in Cooperation with the Convention (Items 34 and 106, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, pp. 60, 91)

Motion: Richard Spring, California

“That the Southern Baptist Convention amend Article III, Section 1, Subsection 1 to read as follows: (1) Has a faith and practice which identifies with the Convention’s adopted statement of faith, (by way of example, churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior or racial discrimination would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the Convention).”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it declines to recommend amending the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention, believing the Convention’s previous resolutions and its adopted statement of faith, *The Baptist Faith and Message*, speak clearly and adequately to the issue addressed by the suggested amendment, and it is already possible to challenge the friendly cooperation of any church on any grounds via the motion process.

3. SBC Referral: Amending the SBC Constitution to Require Cooperating Churches to Relate to a State Convention and Association (Items 35 and 106, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 60, 91)

Motion: Andy Perryman, Georgia

“That Article III, 1(2) of the SBC Constitution be amended as follows: that the words ‘a state convention and a local association’ be inserted after the words Southern Baptist Convention.”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it declines to recommend amending Article III. Composition of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention, as it would be contradictory to Article III, Article IV, and the Preamble of the Constitution regarding autonomy of the Southern Baptist Convention and its cooperating bodies.

4. SBC Referral: Requesting a Bylaw Change Requiring Nomination Speeches to Include Information on Cooperative Program Giving (Items 39, 92, and 108, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 61, 90, and 91)

Motion: Steve Bailey, Arkansas

“That Bylaw 10.C be amended so as to require all nomination speeches for officers of the Southern Baptist Convention include the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts given by each nominees’ church.”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that, believing the various elements of church activity such as number of baptisms and Cooperative Program giving by the churches of announced candidates will continue to be provided prior to each annual meeting through Baptist Press, and also via article compilations in the annual meeting mobile app, it declines to recommend amending SBC Bylaw 10C or to recommend the requirement of any particular nominating speech content because the messengers are fully capable of using all publicly available information about any nominee to determine whether the content of any nominating speech is accurate, sufficient, and persuasive.

5. SBC Referral: Requesting Study of *The Baptist Faith and Message* (Items 40 and 106, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 61, 91)

Motion: Steve Taylor, Indiana

“That the Executive Committee review the *Baptist Faith & Message 2000* – specifically Section IV, Letter A, the second paragraph concerning the definition of faith – for a possible recommended revision at the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention, as the definition of faith given is lacking the idea of belief, but describes faith as ‘a personal commitment of the entire personality.’”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it declines to recommend amending selective portions of *The Baptist Faith and Message* apart from a Convention-authorized comprehensive review of the Convention’s confession of faith.

6. SBC Referral: Requesting a Study on Affiliating with the National Association of Evangelicals (Items 67 and 106, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 81, 91)

Motion: Ed Stetzer, Tennessee

“That the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention study the possibility of the SBC affiliating with the National Association of Evangelicals, considering all the ramifications and opportunities, and report their findings and recommendation back to this body in 2017.”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it considered the ramifications and opportunities of the possibility of the Convention affiliating with the National Association of Evangelicals and, while affirming the value of local churches and individuals cooperating with other Gospel-focused groups in a variety of worthy endeavors in accordance with Article XIV of *The Baptist Faith and Message*, the Executive Committee declines to recommend that the SBC affiliate with a non-Southern Baptist organization, believing decisions to enter such relationships rightly belong to those churches so inclined.

7. SBC Referral: Requesting a Bylaw Amendment on the Announcement of Nominees by the Committee on Nominations (Items 68 and 106, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 81, 91)

Motion: Doug Hubbard, Arkansas

“That the Executive Committee consider amending Bylaw 15J to require all amendments to the report of the Committee on Nominations within 45 days of the annual meeting be published no later than 7 days before the annual meeting.”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it declines to recommend amending SBC Bylaw 15J, believing current processes of the Committee on Nominations to be both efficient and sufficient to provide messengers with information regarding nominees, noting that messengers may make inquiries during the Committee on Nominations report as well as make a motion to amend the report as indicated in SBC Bylaw 15K.

8. SBC Referral: Requesting Registration Materials and Badges Identify Veterans and Active Duty Personnel (Items 71 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 81, 91)

Motion: Victoria Gurgone, North Carolina

“That the Executive Committee consider adding a ‘veteran’ and/or ‘active duty’ option on the online registration as well as adding veteran and/or active duty to the name badge.”

Executive Committee Action: The Executive Committee reports to the Southern Baptist Convention that it will provide easily identifiable ribbons for messengers who are Veterans/Active Duty Military that can be added to individual messenger name tags.

COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGETS

	<u>2017-2018***</u>	<u>2016-2017*</u>	<u>2015-2016*</u>
Convention Operating Budget	\$ 7,450,000	\$ 7,326,000	\$ 7,715,828
International Mission Board	275,400,000	270,000,000	278,755,000
North American Mission Board	125,410,000	123,800,000	129,147,425
LifeWay Christian Resources	506,380,000	501,369,000	502,985,000
GuideStone Financial Resources	91,310,000	92,860,000	96,150,000
Gateway Seminary	12,007,000	12,800,000	14,979,000
Midwestern Seminary	14,599,342	13,257,836	11,602,401
New Orleans Seminary	24,676,865	24,365,176	25,741,895
Southeastern Seminary	27,330,936	26,495,904	25,924,908
Southern Seminary	51,680,071	48,043,186	43,663,236
Southwestern Seminary	41,296,500	40,544,587	39,944,587
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	4,098,948	4,098,948	3,705,582
Historical Library and Archives	508,000	507,520	516,200
TOTAL OF ALL BUDGETS	\$ 1,182,147,662	\$ 1,165,468,157	\$ 1,180,831,062

*Actual budget years will vary within each convention year

CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017-2018***</u>	<u>2016-2017**</u>	<u>2015-2016**</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,740,800	\$ 5,651,100	\$ 5,797,882
Designations	275,000	350,000	279,838
LifeWay Christian Resources	250,000	250,000	250,000
Interest/Dividends	400,000	372,000	991,222
Cost Recovery Inc. (Annual Mtg., SBC LIFE, etc.)	709,200	628,000	771,235
Other Income	75,000	75,000	713,705
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 7,450,000	\$ 7,326,100	\$ 8,803,882

CP as Percent of Total Income	77%	77%	66%
-------------------------------	-----	-----	-----

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018***</u>	<u>2016-2017**</u>	<u>2015-2016**</u>
Convention Administrative Expenses			
SBC General Operations		\$ 418,000	\$ 362,575
– Global Evangelical Relations			113,410
SBC Committees		110,000	97,341
Annual Meeting		843,000	943,364
SBC Building Management		488,889	473,375
SUBTOTAL	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,859,889	\$ 1,990,065
Executive Committee Operations Expenses			
Administration		\$ 1,769,403	\$ 1,756,935
Executive Committee Meetings		230,000	203,272
Convention Policy		801,863	729,350
Convention Relations		811,757	749,597
Convention News		682,995	644,440
Convention Advancement		456,954	457,138
Cooperative Program/Stewardship		711,762	523,398
Other Designated Expenditures		0	28
SUBTOTAL	\$ 5,450,000	\$ 5,464,734	\$ 5,064,158
Non Cash Year End Adjustments			\$ 661,602
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 7,450,000	\$ 7,326,100	\$ 7,715,825

* Numbers are taken from the 2015-2016 Year End Financial Statements

** Numbers are taken from the SB Operating Budget – approved September 2016

*** Numbers are estimates for the year requested based on anticipated income

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2018**</u>	<u>2017**</u>	<u>2016*</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 99,500,000	\$ 97,500,000	\$ 98,700,000
Field Generated Funds			
Hunger and Relief			
Investment Income	5,400,000	5,300,000	5,200,000
Lottie Moon	166,300,000	163,100,000	168,000,000
Other Income	<u>4,200,000</u>	<u>4,100,000</u>	<u>10,800,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$275,400,000</u>	<u>\$270,000,000</u>	<u>\$282,700,000</u>
CP as Percent of total income	36.1%	36.1%	34.9%

* Amounts based upon projection of actual. These projections were made in December 2016.

** Amounts projected - based on budgets.

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mobilization	\$ 4,200,000	\$ 4,137,000	\$ 5,370,000
Training	1,700,000	1,685,200	2,105,000
Global Engagement	21,500,000	20,990,540	18,675,000
Support Services	11,400,000	11,199,036	21,090,000
Personnel Expenses	219,000,000	211,721,552	223,915,000
Leadership	9,100,000	8,902,235	7,600,000
Technology Solutions	7,100,000	7,020,000	
Pathways Initiatives	<u>1,400,000</u>	<u>4,344,437</u>	-
TOTAL	<u>\$275,400,000</u>	<u>\$270,000,000</u>	<u>\$278,755,000</u>

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2018*</u>	<u>2017*</u>	<u>2016</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 43,900,000	\$ 43,900,000	\$ 44,606,983
Annie Armstrong	60,750,000	60,000,000	58,860,553
Unrestricted Gifts	7,000,000	5,000,000	4,340,421
Investment & Interest	12,400,000	13,300,000	18,549,350
Other	<u>1,360,000</u>	<u>1,600,000</u>	<u>2,143,338</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$125,410,000</u>	<u>\$123,800,000</u>	<u>\$128,500,645</u>
CP as Percent of Total Income	35.01%	35.46%	34.71%

* Estimates for the years requested.

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2018*</u>	<u>2017*</u>	<u>2016</u>
Church Planting	\$ 77,117,000	\$ 76,128,000	\$ 66,859,248
Evangelization	6,447,000	6,364,000	12,137,859
Sending Missionaries	7,583,000	7,486,000	13,512,384
Missions Education and Missions Opportunities	9,747,000	9,622,000	8,431,696
Leadership Development	1,887,000	1,862,000	1,843,702
Relief Ministries	4,094,000	4,041,000	4,989,464
Administration	16,257,000	16,048,000	19,972,703
Missions Advancement	<u>2,278,000</u>	<u>2,249,000</u>	<u>1,400,369</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$125,410,000</u>	<u>\$123,800,000</u>	<u>\$129,147,425</u>

* Estimates for the years requested.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>2015-2016⁽²⁾</u>
Revenue			
Product Sales	446,294,000	441,876,000	447,423,000
Conference Center Revenue	15,630,000	15,476,000	14,627,000
Events & Services Sales	35,901,000	35,546,000	32,963,000
Other Operating Revenue	<u>8,555,000</u>	<u>8,471,000</u>	<u>7,972,000</u>
Total Revenue From Operations	<u>\$506,380,000</u>	<u>\$ 501,369,000</u>	<u>\$502,985,000</u>
Costs and Expenses			
Product Costs/Operating Expenses	496,972,000	491,953,000	488,508,000
Cooperative Work With State Conventions	2,800,000	2,802,000	2,529,000
Southern Baptist Convention Support	<u>220,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>
Total Costs and Expenses	<u>499,992,000</u>	<u>495,005,000</u>	<u>491,287,000</u>
Funds Provided From Operations	6,388,000	6,364,000	11,698,000
	1.3%	1.3%	2.3%
Net Realized/Unrealized Reserve Fund Income	4,000,000	3,847,000	4,295,000
Pension/Postretirement Credit/Other	(5,000,000)	(12,700,000)	(67,944,000)
Other Adjustments	0	(9,709,000)	60,161,000
Donated Activity	<u>0</u>	<u>(94,000)</u>	<u>24,000</u>
Inc (Dec) in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 5,388,000	\$ (12,292,000)	\$ (8,234,000)
Inc (Dec) in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Inc (Dec) in Net Assets	<u>\$ 5,388,000</u>	<u>\$ (12,292,000)</u>	<u>\$ 8,234,000</u>

⁽¹⁾ Information is based on 2017 budget which was approved by trustees August 30, 2016.

⁽²⁾ Information is based on year-end audited financial statements.

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017*</u>	<u>2016**</u>	<u>2015</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 91,520,000	\$ 88,000,000	\$ 113,000,000
Net Investment Income			
Retirement Servicing	-	-	(330,000)
Insurance	3,530,000	3,390,000	(930,000)
Mission:Dignity	2,290,000	2,200,000	(720,000)
Other Reserves	<u>9,110,000</u>	<u>8,760,000</u>	<u>(12,600,000)</u>
Total Income	<u>\$106,450,000</u>	<u>\$ 102,350,000</u>	<u>\$ 98,420,000</u>
Entity Summary Operating Budget			
Retirement Servicing	\$ 57,940,000	\$ 63,460,000	\$ 63,380,000
Insurance	30,040,000	27,560,000	31,140,000
Mission:Dignity	<u>3,330,000</u>	<u>1,840,000</u>	<u>1,630,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 91,310,000</u>	<u>\$ 92,860,000</u>	<u>\$ 96,150,000</u>

* projected

** unaudited

GATEWAY SEMINARY

*Proposed**

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Educational and General:			
Student Tuition	3,896,943	4,212,868	3,602,000
Endowment and Investment	2,457,915	2,594,021	3,447,000
Cooperative Program	4,053,403	4,067,604	3,901,000
Other Gifts	1,049,000	1,179,000	1,454,000
Other Income	<u>157,321</u>	<u>115,507</u>	<u>(31,000)</u>
Total educational & general	11,614,582	12,169,000	12,373,000
Auxiliary enterprises	<u>392,418</u>	<u>631,000</u>	<u>1,647,000</u>
Total current & auxiliary revenue	12,007,000	12,800,000	14,020,000
Faculty & staff housing grant	-	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	<u>12,007,000</u>	<u>12,800,000</u>	<u>14,020,000</u>
CP as Percent of Total Income	34%	32%	28%
ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Instruction	5,572,581	6,061,795	5,070,000
Academic Support	366,284	349,992	433,000
Student Services	1,019,685	1,001,249	767,000
Institutional Support	3,130,854	3,360,379	2,542,000
Libraries	920,413	1,013,452	944,000
Plant Operations & Maintenance	<u>724,194</u>	<u>788,133</u>	<u>953,000</u>
SUBTOTAL	11,734,011	12,575,000	10,709,000
Auxiliary Enterprises	272,989	225,000	961,000
Relocation Expenses	0	0	3,309,000
SUBTOTAL	<u>272,989</u>	<u>225,000</u>	<u>4,270,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET	<u>12,007,000</u>	<u>12,800,000</u>	<u>14,979,000</u>

*Budget Pending Approval of Board of Trustees

MIDWESTERN SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,525,680	\$ 4,947,743	\$ 4,627,709
Student Fees	10,605,731	7,789,169	5,893,341
Other Gifts	600,000	600,000	600,000
Auxiliary Enterprises	1,665,431	1,443,424	1,003,731
Other Income	<u>77,500</u>	<u>77,500</u>	<u>119,500</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 18,474,342	\$ 14,857,836	\$ 12,244,281
CP as Percent of Total Income	30%	33%	38%
ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Instruction	5,230,086	5,266,103	5,167,912
Administrative and General	4,603,760	3,716,546	3,185,675
Student Services	1,311,735	1,417,065	1,336,563
Operations and Maintenance	1,350,606	1,357,116	1,325,218
Auxiliary Enterprises	771,655	796,878	446,777
Capital Expenses	720,000	392,628	72,000
Debt Retirement	<u>611,500</u>	<u>311,500</u>	<u>68,256</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 14,599,342	\$ 13,257,836	\$ 11,602,401

NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017-2018*</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Student Fees	\$ 8,900,000	\$ 8,900,000	\$ 8,377,168
Cooperative Program	7,148,265	7,221,576	7,633,199
Other Gifts	3,650,000	3,150,000	5,669,798
Endowment Income	975,000	975,000	1,594,677
Other Income	1,950,000	2,100,000	2,099,952
Auxiliary Income	<u>2,053,600</u>	<u>2,018,600</u>	<u>2,122,288</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 24,676,865</u>	<u>\$ 24,365,176</u>	<u>\$ 27,497,082</u>

CP as a Percent of Total Income 29% 30% 28%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018*</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Academic	11,369,847	11,227,836	10,901,743
Administrative and General	3,824,376	3,731,323	3,441,101
Maintenance	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,150,000
SUBTOTAL EDUCATION AND GENERAL	17,394,223	17,159,159	16,492,844
Auxiliary Expenses	6,182,642	6,106,017	6,024,694
Student Aid	<u>1,100,000</u>	<u>1,100,000</u>	<u>3,224,357</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ 24,676,865</u>	<u>\$ 24,365,176</u>	<u>\$ 25,741,895</u>

* Projected

SOUTHEASTERN SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017-2018*</u>	<u>2016-2017**</u>	<u>2015-2016**</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 7,861,020	\$ 7,903,020	\$ 7,990,668
Student Fees	11,741,544	11,961,300	11,558,148
Auxiliary Enterprises	4,499,232	4,365,756	4,195,356
Other Gifts	1,390,008	1,157,268	1,030,008
Investment Income	1,641,336	847,872	863,676
Miscellaneous	<u>197,796</u>	<u>260,688</u>	<u>287,052</u>
INCOME TOTALS	<u>\$ 27,330,936</u>	<u>\$ 26,495,904</u>	<u>\$ 25,924,908</u>

CP as Percent of Total Income 29% 30% 31%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018*</u>	<u>2016-2017**</u>	<u>2015-2016**</u>
Administrative & General	\$ 4,350,276	\$ 4,172,880	\$ 4,003,368
Auxiliary Expenses	4,089,480	4,169,556	4,060,548
Capital Expenditures	928,356	900,000	900,000
Instruction	11,083,872	10,799,412	10,806,288
Institutional Advancement	2,688,492	2,407,332	2,253,768
Plant Operation	2,897,592	2,741,328	2,705,040
Student Services	<u>1,292,868</u>	<u>1,305,396</u>	<u>1,195,896</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>\$ 27,330,936</u>	<u>\$ 26,495,904</u>	<u>\$ 25,924,908</u>

* Projected Budget

** Approved Budget

SOUTHERN SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME*	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Educational and General:			
Tuition and Fees	\$ 26,746,493	\$ 23,957,266	\$ 21,047,119
Cooperative Program	9,500,000	9,200,000	9,071,000
Other Gifts	2,669,000	2,420,000	2,190,004
Endowment and Other Investment Income	4,023,255	3,763,916	3,919,968
Other Income	<u>1,083,360</u>	<u>1,033,767</u>	<u>998,322</u>
Total Educational and General	44,022,108	40,374,949	37,226,413
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>7,657,963</u>	<u>7,668,237</u>	<u>6,436,823</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 51,680,071	\$ 48,043,186	\$ 43,663,236
CP as Percent of Total Income	18.4%	19.1%	20.8%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET*	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Educational and General:			
Administrative and General	\$ 13,700,605	\$ 13,607,927	\$ 12,653,407
Instruction	12,783,983	12,582,033	11,788,341
Library	1,464,910	1,478,561	1,445,078
Student Financial Aid	1,256,709	1,146,339	1,259,631
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant	<u>5,009,239</u>	<u>4,827,980</u>	<u>4,553,069</u>
Total Educational and General	34,215,446	33,642,840	31,699,526
Auxiliary Enterprises	6,909,768	6,933,581	6,122,726
Debt Service and Capital Appropriations	<u>10,554,857</u>	<u>7,466,765</u>	<u>5,840,984</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 51,680,071	\$ 48,043,186	\$ 43,663,236

* The amounts shown for 2017-2018 are estimates since the budget, at the time this report was prepared, had not been finalized or approved by the Southern Seminary Board of Trustees.

SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY

STATEMENT OF INCOME	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Education and General			
Cooperative Program	\$ 7,627,122	\$ 7,456,675	\$ 7,706,371
Tuition and Fees	14,020,356	13,507,022	14,233,354
Income from Investment Funds	3,628,619	4,403,248	3,920,210
Gifts and Grants	3,525,957	1,600,000	2,021,765
Other Operating Income	1,044,981	630,000	628,000
Student Aid	<u>4,462,537</u>	<u>4,525,877</u>	<u>3,995,000</u>
Total Educational & General	34,309,572	32,122,822	32,504,700
Auxiliary Enterprises	6,986,928	7,400,000	7,439,887
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 41,296,500	\$ 39,522,822	\$ 39,944,587
CP as a Percent of Total Income	18.5%	18.40%	19.30%

ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Academic-Instruction and Support	\$ 15,887,121	\$ 15,978,710	\$ 15,947,933
Student Services and Communications	2,741,026	2,640,000	2,637,366
Student Aid	4,462,537	4,525,877	3,995,000
General Administration	7,438,852	6,700,000	6,720,801
Institutional Advancement	1,300,000	1,500,000	1,496,017
Operation and Maintenance of Physical Plant	<u>3,251,543</u>	<u>3,200,000</u>	<u>3,179,338</u>
Total Educational and General	35,081,079	34,544,587	33,976,455
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>6,215,421</u>	<u>6,000,000</u>	<u>5,968,132</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$ 41,296,500	\$ 40,544,587	\$ 39,944,587

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF INCOME	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016
	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 3,168,000	\$ 3,118,500	\$ 3,229,556
Other Support	\$ 238,423	\$ 287,923	\$ 60,243
Event Related Income	\$ 544,575	\$ 544,575	\$ 356,304
Project & Other Related Revenue	\$ 147,950	\$ 147,950	\$ 71,909
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4,098,948	\$ 4,098,948	\$ 3,718,012
CP as Percent of Total Income	77.29%	76.08%	86.86%
SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET	2017/2018	2016/2017	2015/2016
	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,566,506	\$ 2,566,506	\$ 2,484,365
Travel	\$ 280,860	\$ 280,860	\$ 252,524
Executive Office	\$ 273,550	\$ 273,550	\$ 175,433
Events & Strategic Initiatives	\$ 621,929	\$ 621,929	\$ 500,277
Business & Finance	\$ 165,726	\$ 165,726	\$ 124,704
Communications	\$ 136,102	\$ 136,102	\$ 144,275
Public Policy & Research	\$ 54,275	\$ 54,275	\$ 24,004
TOTAL	\$ 4,098,948	\$ 4,098,948	\$ 3,705,582

HISTORICAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATEMENT OF INCOME	Proposed	Budgeted	Actual
	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 465,500	\$ 462,000	\$ 470,000
Interest	20,000	20,000	21,000
Microfilm	13,000	15,000	15,000
Designated & Miscellaneous	9,500	10,200	10,200
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 508,000	\$ 507,200	\$ 516,200
CP as Percent of Total Income	92%	91%	91%
SUMMARY OF OPERATING BUDGET	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2016-2017</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>
Personnel	\$ 331,500	\$ 344,500	\$ 368,300
Office Expenses/Equipment	71,800	70,300	62,000
Outreach/Promotion	6,000	6,500	6,500
Acquisitions	20,000	16,000	13,500
Preservation/Microfilm	16,000	15,000	13,000
Travel/Employee Development	12,700	12,500	6,500
Information Services	42,000	36,000	42,000
Contingency/Miscellaneous	4,000	4,000	2,000
Advisory Board	4,000	2,400	2,400
TOTAL BUDGET/EXPENSES	\$ 508,000	\$ 507,200	\$ 516,200

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE ENTITIES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
AND THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET**

(Total Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets for 2015-2016)

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION,
as of December 31, 2016 (unaudited)

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 23,000,000
Investment in Funds	12,396,000,000
Notes Receivable from Participants	133,000,000
Other Assets	<u>50,000,000</u>
Total Assets	\$ 12,602,000,000
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Restricted Insurance Reserves	\$ 70,000,000
Other Liabilities	54,000,000
Participant Accumulations & Fund Balances	<u>12,478,000,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 12,602,000,000

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to GuideStone Financial Resources for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of GuideStone Financial Resources’ board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board’s officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD, as of December 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 7,357,000
Lottie Moon Receivable	114,000,000
Investments	238,853,000
Investments – Restricted	162,077,000
Property and Equipment	917,000
Other Assets	<u>22,878,000</u>
Total Assets	\$ 546,082,000
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 74,192,000
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	147,350,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	162,463,000
Restricted Net Assets	<u>162,077,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 546,082,000

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the International Mission Board for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the International Mission Board’s board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board’s officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES, as of September 30, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 239,219,000
Reserve Funds	60,595,000
Property and Equipment	119,746,000
Other Noncurrent Assets	<u>17,106,000</u>
Total Assets	\$ 436,666,000
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 55,504,000
Long-term Liabilities	4,231,000
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	288,793,000
Unrestricted Net Assets	87,767,000
Restricted Net Assets	<u>371,000</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 436,666,000

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to LifeWay Christian Resources for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of LifeWay Christian Resource's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD, as of September 30, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 1,384,681
Investments	188,686,554
Investments – Restricted	49,432,688
Church Loans, net	102,220,114
Property and Equipment	41,864,679
Other Assets	<u>4,742,149</u>
Total Assets	\$ 388,330,865
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 5,965,442
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	61,691,890
Unrestricted Net Assets	265,541,727
Restricted Net Asset	<u>55,131,806</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 388,330,865

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the North American Mission Board for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the North American Mission Board's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

GATEWAY SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 7,329,251
Investments	50,670,546
Investments - Restricted	5,738,765
Property and Equipment	<u>59,121,280</u>
Total Assets	\$ 122,859,842
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,557,949
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	6,012,971
Unrestricted Net Assets	88,108,018
Restricted Net Assets	<u>25,180,904</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 122,859,842

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Gateway Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Gateway Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, INC., as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 7,357,055
Investments	5,432,964
Property and Equipment	21,761,833
Other Assets	<u>357,500</u>
Total Assets	\$ 34,909,352
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 3,426,706
Unrestricted Net Assets	21,675,638
Restricted Net Assets	<u>9,807,008</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 34,909,352

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 5,462,126
Investments	84,320,372
Property and Equipment	17,556,774
Other Assets	<u>2,473,188</u>
Total Assets	\$ 109,812,460
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 4,806,993
Unrestricted Net Assets	42,070,018
Restricted Net Assets	<u>62,935,449</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 109,812,460

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 14,057,943
Investments	25,397,619
Investments – Restricted	6,038,970
Property and Equipment	38,234,113
Other Assets	<u>566,274</u>
Total Assets	\$ 84,294,919
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 2,735,135
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	12,010,247
Long-term Debt	5,724,332
Unrestricted Net Assets	29,243,294
Restricted Net Assets	<u>34,581,911</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 84,294,919

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets – Unrestricted	\$ 14,063,854
Current Assets – Restricted	16,811,885
Property and Equipment	72,921,142
Investments	76,807,763
Other assets	<u>553,937</u>
Total Assets	\$ 181,158,581
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 8,516,581
Notes Payable	25,190,390
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	3,777,261
Unrestricted Net Assets	55,306,959
Restricted Net Assets	<u>88,367,390</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 181,158,581

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 4,424,533
Investments	147,293,436
Property and Equipment	116,745,297
Other Assets	<u>8,024,023</u>
Total Assets	\$ 276,487,289
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 13,659,054
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	1,279,232
Long-term Debt	21,722,272
Unrestricted Net Assets	93,249,336
Restricted Net Assets	<u>146,577,395</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Asset	\$ 276,487,289

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary’s board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board’s officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES, as of July 31, 2016

Assets	
Current/Other Assets	\$ 150,225
Investments	712,329
Property and Equipment	<u>843,343</u>
Total Assets	\$ 1,705,897
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 32,395
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	554,241
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,067,845
Restricted Net Assets	<u>51,416</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,705,897

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archive’s board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board’s officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION, as of September 30, 2016

Assets	
Current/Other Assets	\$ 394,085
Investments	1,079,453
Property and Equipment	<u>803,580</u>
Total Assets	\$ 2,277,118
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 174,715
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	492,269
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,499,711
Restricted Net Assets	<u>110,423</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 2,277,118

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION OPERATING BUDGET, as of September 30, 2016

Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 5,104,921
Investments	12,855,425
Property and Equipment	<u>2,713,270</u>
Total Assets	\$ 20,673,616
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Current Liabilities	\$ 4,276,089
Post-retirement Benefit Liability	4,157,108
Unrestricted Net Assets	10,002,145
Restricted Net Assets	<u>2,238,274</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 20,673,616

In compliance with Article XIII B of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan, along with the other financial data pertaining to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for the most recent fiscal year, the chair of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention's board submitted a signed statement attesting that the board's officers confirm the existence of the conditions itemized in subparts 6a through 6c of that article (See page 162-163).

**Summary of Compliance of Section XIII B6
of the Southern Baptist Convention's Business and Financial Plan**

The statements of the chairs of each entity's board confirming that the officers of their board can attest to the matters prescribed by Section XIII B6 of the Business and Financial Plan have been received by the Executive Committee. (Editor's note: See the provisions of the pertinent section at page 162-163.)

Contributions by State

Cooperative Program Allocation Budget Receipts
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
October 1, 2015 - September 30, 2016

Contribution Sources	2015-2016	2014-2015	% Change
Alabama	17,623,899.73	17,375,698.15	1.43
Alaska	254,962.63	224,325.70	13.66
Arizona	877,453.14	870,624.35	0.78
Arkansas	8,843,314.65	8,873,159.70	(0.34)
California	2,257,707.50	2,215,931.59	1.89
Colorado	579,263.72	506,472.75	14.37
Dakota	81,316.30	67,519.44	20.43
D.C.	20,152.97	11,859.75	69.93
Florida	14,898,184.50	11,896,310.08	25.23
Georgia	17,261,133.15	16,521,648.57	4.48
Hawaii Pacific	247,218.67	302,655.86	(18.32)
Illinois	2,394,244.07	2,383,027.10	0.47
Indiana	887,840.04	909,887.56	(2.42)
Iowa	289,909.71	213,113.61	36.04
Kansas-Nebraska	642,391.30	627,561.33	2.36
Kentucky	10,376,428.15	10,154,627.04	2.18
Louisiana	7,566,459.97	7,666,945.10	(1.31)
Maryland-Delaware	1,549,112.96	1,681,777.30	(7.89)
Michigan	309,072.08	343,222.31	(9.95)
Minnesota-Wisconsin	94,107.98	72,150.35	30.43
Mississippi	11,898,165.83	11,722,527.33	1.50
Missouri	6,083,560.79	5,845,986.83	4.06
Montana	148,087.87	139,614.12	6.07
Nevada	527,011.71	445,586.99	18.27
New England	139,226.10	112,317.00	23.96
New Mexico	893,679.10	807,315.90	10.70
New York	195,465.49	200,139.08	(2.34)
North Carolina	11,417,637.04	10,704,608.03	6.66
Northwest	765,086.13	732,777.58	4.41
Ohio	1,718,456.91	1,479,418.76	16.16
Oklahoma	10,198,960.35	10,153,405.88	0.45
Pennsylvania-South Jersey	213,465.81	209,141.23	2.07
Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands	4,803.96	6,340.43	(24.23)
South Carolina	11,571,772.58	11,433,564.09	1.21
Tennessee	15,264,644.02	14,319,579.09	6.60
Texas - BGCT	10,516,259.19	10,843,450.54	(3.02)
Texas - SBTC	15,892,069.97	15,663,615.26	1.46
Utah - Idaho	166,853.77	156,544.44	6.59
Virginia - BGAV	875,800.16	1,219,598.37	(28.19)
Virginia - SBCV	4,336,542.13	4,067,710.65	6.61
West Virginia	465,317.95	452,111.76	2.92
Wyoming	121,740.53	137,430.61	(11.42)
Subtotal	190,468,780.61	183,771,301.61	3.64
Churches & Individuals	5,261,727.43	5,388,929.80	(2.36)
Grand Total:	<u>\$195,730,508.04</u>	<u>\$189,160,231.41</u>	<u>3.47</u>

2015–2016 Disbursements Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

Cooperative Program	Allocation Budget	% of CP	Designated	% of Designated	Total Gifts	% of Total
International Mission Board	\$ 98,722,209	50.44%	\$145,704,496	71.18%	\$244,426,705	61.05%
North American Mission Board	44,606,983	22.79%	58,430,871	28.55%	103,037,854	25.72%
Gateway (Golden Gate) Seminary	9,729,985	4.97%	45,206	0.02%	9,775,191	2.44%
Midwestern Seminary	8,252,754	4.22%	31,734	0.02%	8,284,488	2.07%
New Orleans Seminary	7,597,336	3.88%	21,936	0.01%	7,619,272	1.90%
Southeastern Seminary	8,378,979	4.28%	43,840	0.02%	8,422,819	2.10%
Southern Seminary	4,851,395	2.48%	15,683	0.01%	4,867,078	1.22%
Southwestern Seminary	4,093,679	2.09%	16,985	0.01%	4,110,664	1.03%
Historical Library and Archives	469,753	0.24%	585	0.00%	470,338	0.12%
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	3,229,553	1.65%	11,717	0.01%	3,241,270	0.81%
GuideStone Financial Resources	-	0.00%	26,400	0.01%	26,400	0.01%
Executive Committee & SBC Operating	\$ 5,797,882	2.96%	322,273	0.16%	6,120,155	1.53%
Grand Totals	<u>\$195,730,508</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$204,671,726</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$400,402,234</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

Recommendations to the Southern Baptist Convention

Recommendation 1: 2017-18 Proposed SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention adopt the 2017-18 Proposed Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program Allocation Budget in the amount of \$192,000,000 as follows:

**2017-18 SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ALLOCATION BUDGET PROPOSAL**

	Proposed 2017-18 Budget <u>Allocation</u>	Proposed* 2017-18 % of Total <u>Allocation</u>
World Mission Ministries		
International Mission Board	\$ 96,787,200	50.41%
North American Mission Board	<u>43,756,800</u>	<u>22.79%</u>
Total World Mission Ministries	<u>\$ 140,544,000</u>	<u>73.20%</u>
Theological Education Ministries		
Seminaries:		
Gateway Seminary	4,053,403	2.11%
Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	5,628,466	2.93%
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary	7,134,308	3.72%
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary	7,731,878	4.03%
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary	9,935,150	5.17%
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary	<u>7,603,195</u>	<u>3.96%</u>
Total Seminaries	\$ 42,086,400	21.92%
Historical Library and Archives	<u>460,800</u>	<u>0.24%</u>
Total Theological Education Ministries	<u>\$ 42,547,200</u>	<u>22.16%</u>
Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries		
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	\$ 3,168,000	1.65%
Total Christian Ethics & Religious Liberty Ministries	<u>3,168,000</u>	<u>1.65%</u>
Facilitating Ministries		
SBC Operating	\$ 5,740,800	2.99%
Total Facilitating Ministries	<u>\$ 5,740,800</u>	<u>2.99%</u>
Total Budget Allocation	<u>\$ 192,000,000</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

*Any overage of gifts received above the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget will be distributed as follows: 53.4% to IMB, 0% to the Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget, and the balance of the overage to the other distributees in accord with the percentages approved for them in the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, and that such a distribution of overage continue until duly amended.

Recommendation 2: 2017-18 Proposed Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention adopt the 2017-18 Proposed Executive Committee and SBC Operating Budget in the amount of \$7,450,000, as follows:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND SBC OPERATING BUDGET**I. STATEMENT OF INCOME**

	<u>2017-18**</u>	<u>2016-17*</u>
Cooperative Program	\$ 5,740,800	\$ 5,651,100
Designations	275,000	350,000
LifeWay Christian Resources	250,000	250,000
Interest/Dividends	400,000	372,000
Cost Recovery Inc. (Annual Mtg, <i>SBC Life</i> , etc.)	709,200	628,000
Other Income	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 7,450,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,326,100</u>

II. ENTITY SUMMARY OPERATING BUDGET

	<u>2017-18**</u>	<u>2016-17*</u>
Convention Administration Expenses		
SBC General Operations		\$ 418,000
SBC Committees		105,000
Annual Meeting		843,000
SBC Building Management		<u>490,339</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$ 2,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,914,803</u>
Executive Committee Operations Expenses		
Administration		1,769,430
Executive Committee Meetings		230,000
Convention Policy		801,863
Convention Relations		811,757
Convention News		682,995
Convention Advancement		456,954
Cooperative Program/Stewardship		711,762
Other Designated Expenditures		<u>0</u>
Subtotal	<u>\$ 5,450,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,464,761</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 7,450,000</u>	<u>\$ 7,326,100</u>

* Numbers are taken from the SBC Operating Budget – approved September 2016.

** Numbers are estimates for the year requested based on anticipated income.

Recommendation 3: Amendment of SBC Bylaw 18. The Executive Committee, Section A, Expanding Representation

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention amend Section A of SBC Bylaw 18. The Executive Committee, to adjust its membership qualification parameters, as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

18. The Executive Committee:

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the president and the recording secretary of the Convention, the president of the Woman's Missionary Union, and one (1) or more members from each qualified and cooperating state or defined territory of the Convention subject to the provisions of Section 30 of the Bylaws. ~~When the membership of cooperating Baptist churches in a given state shall have reached two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000), there shall be elected an additional member of the Executive Committee, one (1) of whom shall be a person not employed full time by a church or denominational entity; and, further, there shall be an additional member for each two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members providing that the number of members from each cooperating state shall be limited to five (5); and, further, that not more than two-thirds shall be drawn from either persons employed full time by a church or denominational entity or persons not employed full time by a church or denominational entity. No salaried official of the convention or of any of its entities or any member of any board or board of trustees or commission of the Convention or any salaried official of any state convention or of any entity of a state convention may be a member of the Executive Committee, but these restrictions shall not apply in case of the president, the president of Woman's Missionary Union, and the recording secretary of the Convention.~~

- (1) Once the number of members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches in such an area reaches the levels shown in the following table, the number of Executive Committee members from that area shall thereafter be as indicated:

Any such qualified area: One (1) Executive Committee member
250,000 church members: Two (2) Executive Committee members
500,000 church members: Three (3) Executive Committee members
750,000 church members: Four (4) Executive Committee members
1,000,000 or more church members: Five (5) Executive Committee members.

- (2) In addition, and solely for the purpose of providing representation on the Convention's fiduciary for cooperating areas which are not yet qualified as provided above, there shall be one Executive Committee member from each of the four following geographical areas: the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, and Montana.
- (3) Except for areas represented by only one member, at least one-third of the members from any area shall be persons employed by a church or denominational entity, and at least one-third of the members from that area shall be persons not employed by a church or denominational entity.
- (4) At least one-third of the entire membership of the Executive Committee shall be persons employed by a church or denominational entity, and at least one-third of its members shall be persons not employed by a church or denominational entity.

(5) Except for the president and the recording secretary of the Convention and the president of Woman's Missionary Union, the following persons are disqualified from serving as members of the Executive Committee:

- a. Employees of the Convention or its Executive Committee
- b. Trustees, directors, or employees of a Convention entity or its auxiliary
- c. Employees of a convention for a state or defined territory, or of an entity or body that is empowered to act on behalf of such a convention
- d. Employees of an entity of a convention for a state or defined territory

Upon approval of this recommendation, SBC Bylaw 18. The Executive Committee, Section A, would read as follows:

18. The Executive Committee:

A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the president and the recording secretary of the Convention, the president of the Woman's Missionary Union, and one (1) or more members from each qualified and cooperating state or defined territory of the Convention, subject to the provisions of Section 30 of the Bylaws.

(1) Once the number of members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches in such an area reaches the levels shown in the following table, the number of Executive Committee members from that area shall thereafter be as indicated:

Any such qualified area: One (1) Executive Committee member
 250,000 church members: Two (2) Executive Committee members
 500,000 church members: Three (3) Executive Committee members
 750,000 church members: Four (4) Executive Committee members
 1,000,000 or more church members: Five (5) Executive Committee members.

(2) In addition, and solely for the purpose of providing representation on the Convention's fiduciary for cooperating areas which are not yet qualified as provided above, there shall be one Executive Committee member from each of the four following geographical areas: the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, and Montana.

(3) Except for areas represented by only one member, at least one-third of the members from any area shall be persons employed by a church or denominational entity, and at least one-third of the members from that area shall be persons not employed by a church or denominational entity.

(4) At least one-third of the entire membership of the Executive Committee shall be persons employed by a church or denominational entity, and at least one-third of its members shall be persons not employed by a church or denominational entity.

(5) Except for the president and the recording secretary of the Convention and the president of Woman's Missionary Union, the following persons are disqualified from serving as members of the Executive Committee:

- a. Employees of the Convention or its Executive Committee
- b. Trustees, directors, or employees of a Convention entity or its auxiliary
- c. Employees of a convention for a state or defined territory, or of an entity or body that is empowered to act on behalf of such a convention
- d. Employees of an entity of a convention for a state or defined territory

Recommendation 4: Amendment of SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIX. Film, Publication, and Merchandising Policy

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention amend SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIX. Film, Publication, and Merchandising Policy as follows:

(Addition of text is indicated by underline and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

XIX. ~~Film, Publication, and Merchandising Policy~~: All entities of the Convention should give priority to using ~~utilize~~ the services of LifeWay Christian Resources ~~to the maximum feasible extent~~ for editing, publishing, and distributing printed published materials, films, filmstrips, recordings, ~~and other materials~~ that are to be sold.

~~LifeWay Christian Resources should continue to pay royalties to entities that originate materials, as to other publishers. Entities that originate materials should have the option of having them published by LifeWay Christian Resources or by other publishers. Entities may should be authorized to publish in their own materials in print or digital form names periodicals that promote promoting their assigned ministries own work, books, and manuals dealing with principles and methods of programs for which they are responsible, materials subject to early obsolescence, and other materials for free distribution. Entities other than LifeWay Christian Resources that find it necessary to establish editing services and to contract for printing services should do so only to meet their own requirements unless specifically authorized by the Convention to provide such services to other entities.~~

A. ~~All entities should distribute through the book stores of LifeWay Christian Resources the materials that are to be sold with the exception that periodicals and other materials subject to early and/or frequent obsolescence may be distributed from their own principal offices. No entity other than LifeWay Christian Resources should be authorized to operate physical book stores, or other retail or wholesale outlets at any location other than its principal office.~~

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention ~~should~~ may review ~~periodically~~ the financial agreements entered into by LifeWay Christian Resources and other Convention entities and should, whenever appropriate, recommend changes in Convention policies and revisions of existing policies related to such agreements. At the request of any Convention entity, this committee should also suggest to LifeWay Christian Resources and other Convention entities steps ~~that~~ they should take to resolve any disagreements that arise concerning financial agreements.

B. ~~The North American Mission Board should be designated and recognized as the sole producer and distributor of films for television consistent with its statement of Ministry Relationships. It is understood that the North American Mission Board may use for television other films, at its own discretion, produced by other entities.~~

C. ~~LifeWay Christian Resources should make available any films which it produces for use by the churches to the North American Mission Board for use in television without charge, except print cost, and the North American Mission Board should provide for distribution by LifeWay Christian Resources to the churches any films which it produces for radio and television without charge, except print cost. The North American Mission Board may also use film produced by other entities of the Convention for distribution to the churches without charge, except print cost, if such film is to be used in television.~~

- D. Any entity producing films of any type should notify other entities regularly producing films of the content and purpose of the film while in the planning stages in order that duplication may be avoided:
- E. No entity shall ~~launch~~ publish a new printed or digital format periodical for general distribution to the churches or to members of the churches, ~~without first outlining the purpose of the periodical and obtaining the approval of~~ if the Convention or its Executive Committee votes to request the periodical not be published. ~~This shall not apply to curriculum materials published for use by church program organizations:~~
- F. ~~The North American Mission Board shall offer records or tapes it has produced for radio and television use to LifeWay Christian Resources on consignment, or some other basis mutually agreeable to both parties, for sale in the book stores or through record clubs. The North American Mission Board shall be authorized to offer to listeners recordings it has produced for radio and television use and which are not selected by LifeWay Christian Resources. The North American Mission Board shall be authorized to make use of records and tapes returned by LifeWay Christian Resources in audience building:~~

Upon approval of this recommendation, Business and Financial Plan Article XIX. Publication and Merchandising Policy, would read as follows:

XIX. Publication and Merchandising Policy: All entities of the Convention should give priority to using the services of LifeWay Christian Resources for editing, publishing, and distributing published materials that are to be sold. Entities may publish their own materials in print or digital form promoting their assigned ministries.

No entity other than LifeWay Christian Resources should be authorized to operate physical book stores at any location other than its principal office.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention may review the financial agreements entered into by LifeWay Christian Resources and other Convention entities and should, whenever appropriate, recommend changes in Convention policies and revisions of existing policies related to such agreements. At the request of any Convention entity, this committee should also suggest to LifeWay Christian Resources and other Convention entities steps they should take to resolve any disagreements that arise concerning financial agreements.

No entity shall publish a printed or digital format periodical, for general distribution to the churches or to members of the churches, if the Convention or its Executive Committee votes to request the periodical not be published.

Recommendation 5: International Mission Board: Request to Change its Fiscal Year

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention approve the International Mission Board's request to amend its governing documents to adopt a fiscal year of October 1 through September 30 and amend SBC Business and Financial Plan Article III. Convention Year, SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIII. Financial Report, and SBC Bylaw 28. Closing of Books to reflect the change as follows:

SBC Business and Financial Plan Article III. Convention Year

(Addition of text is indicated by underline and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~.)

III. Convention Year: The financial affairs of the Convention and all its entities, except those of the theological seminaries and GuideStone Financial Resources, ~~and the International~~

~~Mission Board~~, shall be operated on the fiscal year beginning October 1 and closing September 30. The seminaries owned and operated under the authority of the Convention shall use the fiscal year beginning August 1 and closing July 31. GuideStone Financial Resources and ~~the International Mission Board~~ shall use the fiscal year beginning January 1 and closing December 31.

Upon approval of the amendments, SBC Business and Financial Plan Article III. Convention Year would read as follows:

III. Convention Year: The financial affairs of the Convention and all its entities, except those of the theological seminaries and GuideStone Financial Resources, shall be operated on the fiscal year beginning October 1 and closing September 30. The seminaries owned and operated under the authority of the Convention shall use the fiscal year beginning August 1 and closing July 31. GuideStone Financial Resources shall use the fiscal year beginning January 1 and closing December 31.

SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIII. Financial Report

(Addition of text is indicated by underline and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strike through~~.)

XIII. Financial Report:

A. *Audit Reports* - The entities of the Convention and the Executive Committee shall close their books and accounts as of the close of business on September 30 of each year, or July 31 in the case of the seminaries, or December 31 in the case of ~~the International Mission Board~~ and GuideStone Financial Resources, and have them audited by an independent certified public accountant (the external auditor) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

...

Upon approval of the amendments, SBC Business and Financial Plan Article XIII. Financial Report would read as follows:

XIII. Financial Report:

A. *Audit Reports* - The entities of the Convention and the Executive Committee shall close their books and accounts as of the close of business on September 30 of each year, or July 31 in the case of the seminaries, or December 31 in the case of GuideStone Financial Resources, and have them audited by an independent certified public accountant (the external auditor) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

...

SBC Bylaw 28. Closing of Books

(Addition of text is indicated by underline and deletion of text is indicated by ~~strike through~~.)

28. Closing of Books: Entities of the Convention shall close their books and accounts and have them audited as of midnight September 30, or in the case of the seminaries, July 31, or in the case of ~~the International Mission Board~~ and GuideStone Financial Resources, December 31. Supplemental reports for the period between the closing of the books of the entities and the Convention session should be included in the reports to the Convention.

Upon approval of the amendments, SBC Bylaw 28. Closing of Books would read as follows:

28. Closing of Books: Entities of the Convention shall close their books and accounts and have them audited as of midnight September 30, or in the case of the seminaries, July 31, or in the case of GuideStone Financial Resources, December 31. Supplemental reports for the period between the closing of the books of the entities and the Convention session should be included in the reports to the Convention.

Recommendation 6: SBC Annual Meeting: Future Convention Site, 2026

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention select Orlando, Florida, as the site for the 2026 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention contingent upon satisfactory contract negotiations with the convention center and area hotels. The convention dates would be June 9-10, 2026.

Recommendation 7: SBC Annual Meeting: Future Convention Site, 2028

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention select Indianapolis, Indiana, as the site for the 2028 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention contingent upon satisfactory contract negotiations with the convention center and area hotels. The convention dates would be June 13-14, 2028.

Recommendation 8: SBC Calendar of Activities and Amendments

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention recommends the Southern Baptist Convention adopt the 2020-21 *SBC Calendar of Activities* and amendments to the 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 calendars as follows:

October 2021

Cooperative Program Emphasis

Personal Evangelism Commitment Day, **October 3**

Global Hunger Sunday, **October 10**

November 2021

Orphan Sunday, **November 7**

Disaster Relief Appreciation Day, **November 7**

Week of Prayer and Missions Study for International Missions and the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering, **November 28 - December 5**

December 2021

Week of Prayer and Missions Study for International Missions and the Lottie Moon

Christmas Offering, **November 28 - December 5**

January 2022

January Bible Study, **January 2-9**

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, **January 16**

February 2022

True Love Waits Emphasis, **February 6**

Racial Reconciliation Sunday, **February 13**

Focus on WMU, **February 14-20**

Children's Missions Day, **February 19**

March 2022

Week of Prayer and Missions Study for North American Missions and

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, **March 6-13**

Youth Week, **March 6-13**

Substance Abuse Prevention Sunday, **March 20**

April 2022

Cooperative Program Sunday, **April 3**

Baptist Doctrine Study, **April 10**

Seminary Sunday, **April 24**

May 2022

Senior Adult Sunday, **May 1**

Christian Home Week, **May 8-15**

Associational Missions Emphasis Week, **May 16-23**

June 2022

Crossover: Anaheim, California, **June 11**

Baptist Men's Emphasis, **June 19**

Mission:Dignity Sunday, **June 26**

July 2022

Citizenship and Religious Liberty Sunday, **July 3**

Send Relief Sunday, **July 17**

August 2022

Social Issues Sunday, **August 7**

Student Evangelism Day, **August 8**

Worship Music Week, **August 21-28**

September 2022

Single Adult Sunday, **September 4**

Anti-Gambling Sunday, **September 18**

Amendments

2017

Change "Love Loud Sunday" to "Send Relief Sunday," **July 23**

2018

Change "Children's Ministry Day" to "Children's Missions Day," **February 17**

Change "Love Loud Sunday" to "Send Relief Sunday," **July 22**

2019

Change "Children's Ministry Day" to "Children's Missions Day," **February 16**

Add "Send Relief Sunday," **July 14**

2020

Change "Children's Ministry Day" to "Children's Missions Day," **February 15**

Add "Send Relief Sunday," **July 19**

Add "Personal Evangelism Commitment Day," **October 4**

Add "Disaster Relief Appreciation Day," **November 8**

2021

Change "Children's Ministry Day" to "Children's Missions Day," **February 13**

Add "Associational Missions Emphasis Week," **May 17-24**

Add "Send Relief Sunday," **July 18**

SOUTHERN BAPTIST FOUNDATION
901 Commerce Street, Suite 600, Nashville, Tennessee 37203

FRANK S. PAGE, Chairman
WARREN PEEK, President

“Helping this generation and touching the next generation for Christ.”

These words express the purpose of the Southern Baptist Foundation. It is the reason we exist and the driving force for every decision we make and each task we perform. Our steadfast commitment to this purpose is evident to our donors and is seen by our partnerships with other Southern Baptists entities, churches, and evangelical organizations. Furthermore, this purpose helps guide me and my decisions about serving others in my own life.

By partnering with the Southern Baptist Foundation, the world is being changed. Through the help of the Foundation, missionaries are being trained and encouraged, students are being educated to share the gospel, churches are being planted, cities are being transformed, lives are being impacted and forever changed across the world, and so much more.

The Southern Baptist Foundation was created in 1947 to help manage and distribute donations that strengthen Southern Baptist ministries. For *seventy years*, the Foundation has provided services that enable individuals and families the opportunity to accumulate and preserve wealth, shelter estates from paying more taxes than necessary, and make both temporal and eternal impact through generosity. The Foundation is committed to serving your vision, your mission, and your values as we continue to follow the Great Commission. We are ready to assist in discerning God’s purposes for the resources He has entrusted to you, provide counsel about the most effective planning techniques to achieve these goals, and assist you in the completion of these plans.

Believers integrating biblical stewardship in their financial lives can transform the world and estate giving can have a powerful impact for God’s kingdom. If only 10% of the more than two million Southern Baptists who are currently over age 65 (about 202,000) tithed their estates to SBC Great Commission causes, the Convention would receive an additional \$5 billion to kingdom purposes over the next twenty years. The eternal value of the number of new missionaries sent and people engaged for the gospel is beyond measure.

We believe that every Christian should have the opportunity to participate in quality estate planning as an act of stewardship. Our desire is that the resources and the services offered by the Southern Baptist Foundation bring glory to our Lord and results in the advancement of His kingdom. Can you imagine the impact if God’s people developed plans that resulted in releasing billions of dollars to kingdom work in the next generation? Friends, that goal is within reach and is the vision of “My Legacy of Faith.” We invite you to visit www.mylegacyoffaith.org to find information that covers a wide-range of topics including the plan of salvation, the biblical basis for giving, stewardship sermons, and many other helpful resources.

The Foundation’s estate planning initiative formally launched in 2013 and has been incredibly successful. Through this initiative, the Foundation has been able to consult with over 1,150 different families. Over \$180 million in future gifts will be generated for Baptist causes from these families.

The Southern Baptist Foundation has been blessed with yet another strong year and we praise God for this. During 2016, the Southern Baptist Foundation conducted numerous seminars on legacy, estate, and investment planning with the goal of advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ – which is the absolute purpose in everything that we do. The Foundation partnered with SBC entities, churches, evangelical organizations, and individuals with their legacy planning and investment management needs. Through these partnerships, the Foundation distributed over \$430 million in 2016 for various causes across the world.

We pledge to continue to seek God’s wisdom as we make decisions regarding the investments and management of the assets you have placed with us. Thank you for your confidence shown to us each day; we count it a privilege and a joy to serve Him and all Southern Baptists.

GENERAL BOARDS

Ninety-Ninth Annual Report

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

2401 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, Texas 75201-1498

MICHAEL S. HAMLET, Chairman

O.S. HAWKINS, President and Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

“The Year of Influence” was the theme that guided GuideStone’s work during 2016, with this vision arising out of a Scripture passage found in 2 Corinthians 10:15, which reminds us that “Our hope is that as your faith increases, our area of influence may be greatly enlarged.”

GuideStone was founded in 1918 as the Board of Ministerial Relief and Annuities. The ministry, a vision of Dr. William Lunsford, a Nashville, TN pastor who had a burden for the plight of “old soldiers of the cross,” is today a sophisticated financial services organization, yet remains committed to the plight of pastors and their widows living near the poverty line. Through Mission:Dignity, GuideStone continues to enhance the financial security of retired SBC ministers, workers and their widows through much-needed grant assistance. Mission:Dignity is funded primarily through the gifts of individuals, groups, and churches across the SBC. 2016 was a record year for Mission:Dignity. Since 2007, direct cash gifts have nearly doubled. A successful Mission:Dignity Sunday delivered the largest July on record with 821 new donors and more than \$1 million received. Donor count was up about 20% to more than 8,400 and a record 2,452 new donors made first-time gifts. At year-end, the number of recipients had grown slightly, up 0.8% over 2015. Qualifying individuals now receive \$225 per month; couples are eligible for \$300. The neediest individuals with at least 25 years of paid Southern Baptist ministerial service may qualify for double those amounts.

Without a doubt, the driver of market action during the fourth quarter of 2016 was the election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States. Despite fears that such an occurrence would create uncertainty and lead to a market sell-off, all three major U.S. stock indexes hit all-time highs during the quarter based on optimism that Trump’s plans for significant fiscal stimulus would boost economic growth. As expected, the Federal Reserve raised the Fed Funds rate by 0.25% in December, marking only the second rate hike since 2006. The new target range for Fed Funds is 0.50 to 0.75%. Despite improving economic data, foreign equity markets fell during the last quarter of 2016, largely as the result of a U.S. dollar rally, as it reached its highest level since 2003 as optimism about the U.S. economy and the Fed’s rate hike created demand for dollar-based assets. While the market remains potentially volatile, history continues to record that the market has rewarded long-term investors.

On March 23, 2016, lawyers for GuideStone and other plaintiffs argued their litigation against the contraceptive mandate issued under the Affordable Care Act before the U.S. Supreme Court. The Court issued a unanimous opinion on May 16 ordering the government to work out a solution in the contraceptive mandate cases that would protect the religious beliefs of objecting religious organizations. This decision included GuideStone and the affected ministries it serves.

The Court vacated the lower court decision that had gone against the religious organizations and ruled that the government cannot fine the ministries as the case proceeded. No new proposed regulations have been issued out of the ruling as of year-end 2016. The mandate would have

required certain ministries served by GuideStone to provide abortion-causing drugs or devices as part of their health plan or face crippling penalties. Churches and integrated auxiliaries of churches are exempt from the mandate and its penalties. As of year-end 2016, the case is stayed.

Books authored by O.S. Hawkins continue to benefit Mission:Dignity, including *The Daniel Code: Living Out Truth in a Culture That Is Losing Its Way* and *VIP: How to Influence with Vision, Integrity, and Purpose*. The books, published by Thomas Nelson and sold through traditional and online bookstores, have been featured on Trinity Broadcast Network, Daystar television, and numerous, nationwide Christian radio programs, including Point of View and Moody Radio Network. Previous volumes, *The Joshua Code: 52 Scripture Verses Every Believer Should Know* and *The Jesus Code: 52 Scripture Questions Every Believer Should Answer* and *The James Code: 52 Scripture Principles for Putting Your Faith into Action* continue to be marketed and sold. Additional titles are scheduled for 2017 and 2018.

GuideStone is making plans to mark its 100th anniversary during trustee meetings and at the 2018 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Dallas. GuideStone has a team working to discuss ways to observe the anniversary, celebrating the ministry God has guided so faithfully through the years while looking expectantly to the future.

Program Report

The Program of Management of Retirement Accounts

The Program of Management of Retirement Accounts has, as its objective, making available retirement plans for all ministers and all other full-time Southern Baptist denominational workers. The objective is accomplished through a combination of plans.

Following is the statistical report of the retirement plans as of December 31, 2016.

Church Retirement Plan – At the end of 2016 there were 19,150 active churches with a total of 51,353 active participants.

403(b)(9) Retirement Plan – A total of 425 agencies and institutions provided retirement plans for their employees. A total of 37,120 employees comprise active participation in these agencies' plans.

Ministers and Chaplains Plan – The Ministers and Chaplains Plans enrolled 44 during the year.

Qualified Plans – GuideStone Financial Resources provides IRC 401(a) qualified plans as an alternative for use by Southern Baptist Convention organizations when IRC 403(b) approaches do not meet their needs. This includes 401(a) defined benefit and 401(k) defined contribution plans. At the end of the year, there were seven qualified plans being serviced, covering 250 participants who had a contribution in 2016.

Voluntary Retirement Plan – The Voluntary Retirement Plan records 816 participants with an account balance at the close of 2016.

Retirement Income Paid to Participants

The heart of GuideStone's ministry is our recipients. Annuity benefits were paid to 28,813 participants/beneficiaries in 2016. Systematic withdrawal payments were paid to 8,566 participants.

The Program of Ministers' Financial Assistance

Since 1918, GuideStone has been on a mission to help retired ministers, denominational workers, their spouses, and widows live with dignity in their declining years. The Mission:Dignity ministry is at the heart of that endeavor. Approximately 60% of Mission:Dignity recipients are widows of pastors and one in four is over the age of 85.

Individuals who meet guidelines for income, assets, and 10 or more years of paid Southern Baptist service are eligible for \$225 per month, if single; or \$300 per month, if married. Applicants who meet the additional guidelines of poverty-level income and 25 or more years of ministerial service are eligible for \$450 per month, if single; or \$600 per month, if married.

Mission:Dignity saw an increase in the number of recipients being served for the first time in more than a decade. At year-end, Mission:Dignity was assisting 1,787 recipients. This total compares to 1,773 receiving grants at the end of 2015.

A total of \$7,115,135 was paid out in financial assistance in 2016, compared to \$6,927,472 in 2015. One-time emergency grants were granted to 132 persons. Christmas gift checks of \$250, a tradition since 1945, were mailed to eligible recipients in early December.

Donations from churches and individuals provide the funding for the Mission:Dignity program. Fully 100% of direct annual gifts received by GuideStone Financial Resources is used to provide financial assistance to retirees in need and is not utilized for any of GuideStone's operating expenses or overhead.

The Program of Insurance Plans and Related Services

GuideStone Financial Resources administers an insurance program that includes life, long-term disability, personal accident, accidental death and dismemberment, and medical coverage for employees of churches and agencies and products for trustees and seminary students.

The following is the statistical report of the insurance plans.

Life claims - \$14,874,512

Disability claims - \$412,024

Dental claims - \$11,806,392

Medical claims (including pharmacy) - \$188,276,045

Retail and mail-order prescription drug claims - \$48,974,114

Personal Plans (PSP):

Personal Plans Employee Term Life Plans – A total of 15,847 members actively participated on December 31, 2016, a decrease of 1,131 since the same time last year.

Personal Plans Disability Plans – A total of 1,197 members participated in the Short-Term Disability Plans and 5,411 members participated in the Long-Term Disability Plans.

Personal Plans Medical Plans – Members covered totaled 7,818, a decrease of 1,370 since the same time last year.

Premium Waiver – The Personal Plans employee life plans had 239 members.

Personal Plans Supplemental AD&D Plan – Members covered totaled 2,905.

Personal Plans Accidental Death and Dismemberment – Members covered totaled 6,989.

Personal Plans Dental – Members covered totaled 8,112.

Group Plans:

Group Plans Employee Life Plans – A total of 29,604 members were covered on December 31, 2016, a decrease of 359 since the same time last year.

Group Plans Medical Plans – A total of 17,834 members were covered.

Group Plans Dental Plan – A total of 8,662 members were covered in a dental plan.

Group Plans Disability Plan – A total of 1,438 members participated in the Short-Term Disability Plans, and 12,207 members participated in the Long-Term Disability Plans.

Group Plans Supplemental AD&D Plan – A total of 4,734 employees in agencies or large churches were billed.

Group Plans Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plan – A total of 7,575 employees in agencies or large churches were covered.

Premium Waiver – The Group Plans employee life plans had 246 members.

Property and Casualty Insurance Program

The GuideStone Property and Casualty Program provides broad property and casualty coverages for eligible Southern Baptist churches and entities. Those coverages include property and liability, worker’s compensation, commercial auto, and foreign missions and travel. An important aspect of the program is providing ministry protection education and resources for churches and ministries. The related distribution affiliate, GuideStone Agency Services, now serves nearly 1,000 clients with a premium volume of approximately \$20.5 million at the end of 2016. Since 2012, GuideStone Agency Services has worked in alliance with Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company to be their exclusive agent serving Southern Baptists in Texas and Alabama. GuideStone Property & Casualty endorses Brotherhood Mutual as the property and casualty provider of choice for GuideStone’s participant churches and ministries.

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to GuideStone Financial Resources for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention welcomes the attendance of media during the Monday afternoon plenary sessions of the Trustee Board. Media members interested in attending the meeting are asked to notify the Office of Denominational and Public Relations Services at least 30 days prior to a meeting that they will be in attendance so that any special arrangements can be made.

All comments during the plenary session are deemed “on the record,” unless otherwise noted. The trustee chair may, at his sole discretion, move the plenary session into executive session to discuss confidential information. No visitors, including media members, may remain in the room during executive session.

For decades, individual committee meetings of the Board of Trustees, and their reports to the board, are work sessions and involve discussion of sensitive and personal information (including legal, competitive data, personal financial data of Mission:Dignity participants, and private health information governed by HIPAA), and are therefore restricted to trustees, appropriate staff, and invited vendors.

GuideStone’s office of Denominational and Public Relations Services will provide a thorough reporting on actions by the trustee board to denominational press and the public media in a timely fashion, as well as provide assistance to the media to enable them to give accurate reporting.

*One Hundred Seventy-Second Annual Report***INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD****P.O. Box 6767 (3806 Monument Avenue), Richmond, Virginia 23230****SCOTT HARRIS, Chairman****DAVID J. PLATT, President***Introduction*

On behalf of the entire International Mission Board, I want to personally thank you – Southern Baptist churches, church members, and pastors – for the myriad of ways you are working together for the spread of the gospel around the world. Moreover, I want to share with you that because of your partnership together through the IMB, disciples have been made and churches have been multiplied over the last year among the nations in truly breathtaking ways.

Specifically, I want to thank you for giving the highest Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO) in its 127-year history (\$165.8 million). As a result of your giving to Lottie Moon, as well as your continual giving to the Cooperative Program, the IMB is now operating on a 2017 budget that balances our receipts with our expenses.

Moreover, I am pleased to share with you that within the framework of this balanced budget, we are also increasing the number of missionaries serving on the field with the IMB over the next year. After many consecutive years of reducing the number of overseas IMB missionaries on the ground, that trend will officially reverse in 2017. Lord willing, Southern Baptists will have more full-time, fully-supported missionaries overseas over next year than we do now, with additional missionaries going through new pathways designed to engage students, professionals, retirees, and others as part of our mission force.

Even as we look forward to 2017, it is humbling to look back at 2016 and to reflect on the work done by Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the IMB in some of the most difficult, dangerous-to-reach places in the world. Over the last year, I was able to gather personally with our missionaries who work in North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Central Asia, East Asia, and with the Deaf. I listened to story after story of struggle after struggle involving ministry to unreached peoples. At the same time, I heard how God is at work in the middle of the struggle. As our missionaries are evangelizing, discipling, planting healthy churches, and training leaders, the Lord is being glorified through disciples made and churches multiplied among people who at this time last year still had not even heard the gospel!

All of this is only possible through the grace of God and through the faithful and continued partnership of Southern Baptist churches. For this reason, I praise God for you, my brothers and sisters. I praise God for the ways you are giving, the ways you are supporting, the ways you are sending, and the ways you are going. And at the same time, I want to invite you to give, support, send, and go all the more in the days ahead until every tribe, tongue, people, and nation has been reached with the good news of our great King.

David Platt

President, International Mission Board

Reports of Ministries

Ministry Statement: Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.

Significant progress continued during the last year in partnering with SBC churches to reach a lost world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. The challenge of unreached people groups (UPGs) remains great. The most recent IMB GSEC (Global Status of Evangelical Christianity) report notes that the number of UPGs in the world is 7,037 at the time of completing this report (for more information visit: <http://www.peoplegroups.org>). These people groups are a tremendous challenge, and there is much opposition to the gospel among many of them. Yet, IMB missionaries reported 93,922 baptisms last year, and this number includes only those people groups and urban centers where IMB continues to have direct work, influence, and involvement.

The growth that was seen last year was supported by abundant gospel sowing through IMB missionaries. Nearly two million people heard a gospel witness, 1,154,540 had a clear opportunity to respond to the gospel, and of these, 175,290 accepted Christ as Savior.

In terms of discipleship and healthy church formation around the world, 340,787 people participated in ongoing Bible studies, more than 6,000 discipleship groups were formed, and 6,138 new churches were started.

In addition to engaging people groups and establishing churches, IMB missionaries reported that leaders are emerging within people groups in such a way that they are continuing to develop churches through their own efforts, with some engaging other people groups in their own countries and beyond. This trend is growing around the world in a variety of places and we continue to give attention to how we can best steward and catalyze this reality around the world. In the end, people groups that have been previously reached with the gospel are now able to reach their neighbors, and the church is multiplying with a view to reaching other unreached peoples with the gospel.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.

During 2016, the IMB partnered with thousands of SBC churches by assisting in the development of missions strategies and helping churches strengthen field partnerships to see disciples made and healthy churches established among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

In 2016, Southern Baptist churches sent 122 new, career/long-term missionaries and 156 new, mid-term missionaries (terms less than three years) in partnership with the IMB. We also renewed the terms of 22 ISC personnel, which are typically added to our mid-term numbers making the total 178 mid-termers, sent in 2016. Additional missionaries were sent through GC2 (Great Commission Global Connect), Southern Baptist Direct, and the Macedonia Project programs, allowing multiple pathways for sending. Through the Global Cities Initiative (GCI) launched last year, the IMB sent eight missionaries to join missionary teams in global cities around the world. Currently, we have more than twenty people who have been processed through our GCI but are waiting on visas or jobs, so the number being sent through GCI will increase in 2017.

IMB missionary personnel continue to reflect the geographic and church-size diversity of the SBC with missionaries having been sent from all 50 states and churches in size from a few

dozen to multiple thousands. IMB is working with partner churches to grow the number of missionaries sent from churches of various ethnicities. At the end of 2016, there were 256 Asian Americans, 16 African Americans, 61 Hispanic Americans, and 202 people from other ethnic backgrounds serving as IMB field personnel.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.

Southern Baptist churches gave a record \$165.8 million to the 2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. This offering represented the highest total in its 127-year history at the IMB. Gifts to LMCO were made by over 25,000 churches representing the geography, size, and ethnic diversity of the SBC. Many of these churches went far beyond giving, though, committing with us to pray for missionaries and their work around the world. Increasing numbers of churches are wanting to send missionaries and the IMB is working diligently to streamline systems and structures to better serve all the churches who are wanting to send.

The IMB, in partnership with the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), conducted a week of prayer emphasis towards the end of 2016 (December 4-11, 2016). The week of prayer focused on IMB work among peoples in the Americas, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Deaf around the world. During this time, Southern Baptists made a concerted, unified effort to pray for IMB missionaries.

In an effort to relate more effectively with Southern Baptist churches and help them celebrate and pray for the sending of new missionaries, the IMB hosted four livestream sending celebrations in 2016. These livestream sending celebrations provided an avenue for every Southern Baptist to participate and observe a service for new missionaries being appointed and sent to the nations.

In addition to the sending celebrations, our IMB Training Team continues to develop training resources designed for churches to learn more and be better equipped to join in on what God is doing around the world. These resources and training opportunities will continue to be introduced throughout 2017. For example, the IMB Training Team will conduct at least four missions intensives across the country in 2017. These events are hosted in local SBC churches and are open to all SBC churches. For more information visit: <https://www.imb.org/missions-intensives>.

Ministry Statement: Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.

IMB Global Engagement led in strategic mission endeavors in nine specific affinities around the globe (Americas, Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, Central Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the Deaf) in 2016. One particular focus worldwide in terms of our global engagement work is a greater emphasis on our accountability processes. In 2017, we will implement a re-tooled accountability process as we seek to continuously strengthen and improve our work around the world. We want to continue to equip and empower our supervisors to lead well, to encourage our personnel to minister and function at a high level, and in all things to maintain a high standard and level of expectation as we serve Christ and steward the resources entrusted to us by the Southern Baptist Convention. In our administrative support services, we have consolidated and streamlined our processes in an effort to operate more efficiently across the IMB.

Human needs ministries in 2016 included 265 relief and development projects in 58 countries. BGR (Baptist Global Response), in partnership with IMB teams around the world, continued to respond to the global refugee crisis in Syria and surrounding countries by providing food, water, shelter and medical care to almost 200,000 displaced people. In Nepal, BGR also provided 496 permanent homes in five communities as it concluded its earthquake response there. Responding to a massive drought and resulting hunger crisis in Sub-Saharan Africa, BGR conducted food distribution in several countries (Lesotho, Madagascar, and Nigeria) and provided precious plant back seed when the seasonal rains finally came in an effort to serve the communities affected by the drought. BGR and IMB continue to partner and fuel the spread of the gospel in many contexts around the world where spiritual and physical needs collide.

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to the International Mission Board for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: THAT the International Mission Board trustees and leaders, on request that the IMB examine our media policies to consider establishing a policy that trustee and committee meetings be open to the public, have examined IMB’s current media policy regarding board of trustees meetings. IMB trustees and leaders have determined it would be irresponsible to open all committee meetings to the public. IMB trustees and leaders will abide by the Media Policy (1100-13) established November 8, 2013. Reasons to retain the current policy include IMB missionaries’ privacy (including HIPAA laws) and security, and the security of national believers with whom those missionaries work.

2016 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT*Global summary reflecting work in 2015, reported during 2016***Sowing**How many people heard a **gospel witness**? **1,938,973**How many people had an **opportunity to respond** to Christ? **1,154,540**How many who received a gospel witness do you believe are **seekers**? **189,128****Reaping**How many who heard a gospel witness became **new believers**? **175,290**How many believers were **baptized**? **93,922****Gathering**How many **groups** intended to become churches are meeting now? **12,562**How many **new groups** intending to become churches are meeting now? **6,619**How many **new churches** were formed? **6,138**How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** are meeting now? **42,704**How many 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-generation **churches** have **ceased to meet**? **3,815**How many **baptized believers met** in groups or churches? **780,215****Discipling**How many people met in on-going **Bible studies**? **340,787**How many people are being personally **mentored**? **20,447****Training**How many men have received **practical pastoral training**? **15,058**How many people received **training to start new churches**? **28,103**How many individuals received **advanced theological education**? **7,353**How many believers were trained in **other training opportunities**? **89,813**

The International Mission Board's Annual Statistical Report (ASR) contains the most accurate information for the stated reporting period available at the time of publication. Figures reported are for work related to IMB personnel only, and since 2009 no longer include reports from partner conventions and unions. Major movements that are self-sustaining and require only occasional guidance and assistance from IMB personnel have been removed from the statistics this reporting year, which results in some statistics being somewhat different from earlier reporting periods.

After publication, the board's Global Research Department continues to process both new and revised reports as field personnel continually strive to provide the most accurate picture of the board's work and influence during the given reporting period. Field offices may submit new or revised reports for a variety of reasons, including typographical errors in the original report newly received or corrected information, clarification of reporting categories, etc.

After publication of the ASR, all analyses utilize the most current data for the reporting period available at that time, including all new and revised reports submitted since the ASR's publication. Thus, subsequent ASRs will reflect corrected data and may differ from previously published reports.

For current data regarding a given reporting period, including the latest revisions, contact the Global Research Information Center (GRIC@imb.org.)

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, Tennessee 37234

KENT DACUS, Chairman

THOM S. RAINER, President and CEO

Introduction

This past year was truly historic for LifeWay Christian Resources. In November 2015, LifeWay sold our downtown Nashville campus in one of the largest real estate transactions in Nashville's history. Six months later we held a chapel service to commemorate our 125th anniversary and then held a groundbreaking and prayer service on the downtown Nashville property that will house our new headquarters in 2017. Construction on the nine-story, 250,000-square foot office building—one-fourth the size of our former offices—continues according to plans, with the goal of moving in by the end of 2017. Our new location is a place where we can truly build community and demonstrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I could not be more proud of LifeWay's employees and those who make up the leadership team as I watch God work through them to provide Biblical Solutions for Life, which is our vision statement. Last year, LifeWay assisted tens of thousands of churches and literally millions of individuals with Biblically faithful, trustworthy, relevant, and high quality Christian resources. For example:

- LifeWay staff and a group of disciple makers defined four core characteristics of what discipleship is: Progressive, Discipled, Relational, and Replicable. The team used these characteristics to create resources that intertwine these traits into every session. In January, *Disciples Path: The Journey* launched in over 600 churches with a simple, one-year pathway of discipleship designed to make disciples who make disciples. The number continues to grow.
- All of LifeWay Leadership's key initiatives in 2016 were centered on establishing a new brand as LifeWay Leadership and becoming the thought-leader in church leadership development. The team produced four, free, online webinars culminating with an inaugural, sold-out event in Nashville, TN called *Pipeline*, which served 1,000 pastors from across the United States, Canada, and Jamaica. In 2017, the team will host its second national event as well as a number of regional Leadership Pipeline coaching opportunities from coast to coast.
- LifeWay's Women's Events team managed 31 events including 12 "Living Proof Live" events with Beth Moore, which ministered to more than 68,000 women. The team reached another 200,000 women through the annual simulcasts with Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer. LifeWay's Conference for Men returned to Kansas City, MO and Nashville, TN and ministered to over 3,000 men from 22 states, and partnered with Dr. Johnny Hunt and FBC Woodstock, GA to simulcast the Johnny Hunt Men's Conference.
- B&H Publishing Group received 14 Christian Retailing Awards and 4 ECPA awards, all of which is a reflection of God working through our authors, churches, and denominational partners. Additionally, *Onward* by Russell Moore won Christianity Today's Book of the Year, and *Fervent* by Priscilla Shirer won the Evangelical Christian Publishing Association's Book of the Year. In 2016, the CSB Translation Oversight Committee completed its revision of the HCSB, and was scheduled for release in Spring 2017.
- LifeWay distributes life-changing content to 75 countries via print and more than 150 countries through digital delivery (including Amazon, Apple, and Google). LifeWay

Global experienced a record year in 2016 with more than 3 million lives impacted by our trustworthy content.

- LifeWay's Retail division serviced millions of customers and tens of thousands of churches domestically and internationally in over 170 stores in 29 states and online. Ministry remains the division's primary purpose, emphasizing sensitivity to ongoing in-store ministry opportunities.
- Ridgecrest Conference Center hosted 62,000 guests and 437 events in 2016, resulting in many spiritual decisions. Summer 2016 saw 2,736 campers attend Camp Ridgecrest for Boys and Camp Crestridge for Girls.
- LifeWay Research released a variety of significant research studies in 2016 including articles about the views of pastors, Americans, and/or churchgoers on religious freedom, refugees, pastors who left the pastorate before retirement, the effect of the economy on churches, end times, divorce among churchgoers, the election, the state of theology in America, and the receptivity of the unchurched. A major study was also completed on church planting in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.
- The "Rainer on Leadership" podcast is reaching 1.3 million listeners a year. Launched in 2013, the twice-a-week podcast, which has seen a 265% growth over the past two years, offers practical solutions for issues facing pastors and church leaders in the 21st century. Combined with my blog, an estimated two of three Protestant churches in America are reached. Also, ThomRainer.com, launched in 2012, receives more than 7 million views per year. We want to be a sounding board for pastors and we are so pleased that, in many ways, both the podcast and blog have become a friend of pastors and church staff.

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6, CSB)

Ministry Reports

1. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in the development of church ministries.

Sunday School

Significant Accomplishments— Most SBC churches continue to encourage members not to limit their church involvement to worship attendance, but to take the next step on a path toward discipleship by participating in a smaller group for foundational Bible study, ministry, and outreach. Most employ the principles of Sunday School, although some may use a different name. Most gather into classes on Sunday morning at the church facilities, although some offer groups on weekdays away from the church campus. Some offer small groups instead of Sunday School, and many offer small groups alongside Sunday School. Whatever the occasion or location, these groups are typically open and ongoing. Open, ongoing groups can be considered as Sunday School for reporting purposes. On average, the number of people who participate in these groups/classes is about two-thirds of the number of people who attend worship during any given week.

LifeWay continues an "occasion neutral" approach in the development of Bible study curriculum for ongoing groups.

In September 2016, LifeWay refreshed its most popular series, *Bible Studies for Life (BSFL)*. In response to feedback from churches, *BSFL* materials for kids renewed a strong focus on foundational Bible stories and the developmental principles captured in *Levels of Biblical Learning*. LifeWay's newest series, *The Gospel Project*, continued to gain in popularity. *Explore the Bible (ETB)* continued to be the most popular series for adults. Ninety percent

of adult classes using LifeWay materials order one of the three main series. A strong ten percent use one of the other adult offerings: MasterWork, YOU!, Baptist Adults, smallgroup.com or customized curriculum. *Access* and *Special Buddies* continue to serve classes for special needs adults and kids, with LifeWay absorbing the financial loss in support of this vital ministry. Global and domestic sales of *BSFL* materials in Spanish and *ETB* materials in several languages continued to gain traction.

In 2016, LifeWay published the second of four books in the Three Roles series of annual training books. *Teacher: Creating Conversational Community* focused on leading group Bible study. The book was made available as a purchasable booklet and as a free PDF download from LifeWay.com/DavidFrancis. This resource includes teaching plans, PowerPoint® presentations, and other downloads for church leaders who are training others to start new groups. Free downloads of the book were also made available through the iTunes store and through the LifeWay Reader for other devices. *Three Roles for Guiding Groups* provides an overview of the roles of teacher, leader, and shepherd. A book on each specific role will complete the series.

Future Plans— In 2017, the third book in the Three Roles series will focus on evangelism and outreach. *Leader: Creating Commissioned Community* will challenge classes and groups toward intentional obedience to the Great Commission. Allan Taylor, who joined LifeWay in 2015 to serve as Director of Church Education, will co-author with David Francis, along with Ken Braddy. Taylor and Braddy are well-known champions of Sunday School. Dr. Ken Coley will join Francis and Braddy to complete the series for use in 2018 with *Shepherd: Creating Caring Community*. LifeWay will also offer a new video-driven training course, *Sunday School Matters*, edited by Taylor. Additional online training opportunities are planned as well. Several live conference opportunities are being refreshed for 2017, including the popular *TRANSFORM* events for teachers, and a new *Essentials* conference for Sunday School directors and pastors.

In January 2017, many churches launched a year of discipleship by employing *Disciples Path: The Journey*, a new curriculum series. It will be released one quarter at a time, then remain available for purchase on a continuing basis. Churches may begin the path at any time. With the Fall 2017 release, *Explore the Bible* will include enhancements based on feedback from churches. Materials for kids will cycle through the Bible every three years. Adults will have a new option, the Daily Discipleship Guide, in addition to the current Personal Study Guide. The new resource will include brief daily readings that reinforce the group Bible study, as well as a feature for a “D-group” of three or four people of the same gender who gather between group meetings to interact on a deeper level.

Discipleship

Significant Accomplishments— The mission of the LifeWay Resources division is to serve the church in her mission of making disciples. This mission is threaded throughout every experience, training, and resource we seek to provide to the church, and yet there remains a tremendous need for not only discipleship resources, but a systematic and simple plan for discipleship.

Over the past three years, LifeWay has sought to address this need through the creation of a series of resources called *Disciples Path*. The genesis of this series of resources is the church itself, beginning three years ago with a meeting of disciple makers inside the church. This group of disciple makers was brought together to address the discipleship deficiency in many churches across the world. Based on their personal experience with disciple-making, these

leaders worked with LifeWay Christian Resources to define the core characteristics of what discipleship is. The result was four traits universally applicable to discipleship. Discipleship is:

Progressive— From the moment we are born again into new life in Christ, we are on a journey that is progressive in nature. Day by day, it is God’s intention for all Christians, regardless of their stage in life, background, or culture, to progress in maturity to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

Disciplined— We must, if we are going to be serious about discipleship, commit ourselves to a disciplined kind of life. That means doing things like praying, reading and memorizing Scripture, sharing our faith, and meditating on God’s Word even when we don’t feel like it. When we commit ourselves to these disciplines, we are embracing the work of the Holy Spirit in us to transform us into the image of Jesus.

Relational— The journey toward Christlikeness is one we are on together. We are meant to not only walk together, but also to guide each other as we walk. God intends not only that we have friends among believers, but that we are actively involved with someone who is discipling us and then someone or a group of people that we are discipling.

Replicable— Replication is the responsibility of every Christian. In other words, we were meant to be disciples who make disciples. This is the pattern that Paul laid out for Timothy, his son in the faith, in 2 Timothy 2:2 (CSB), “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

Using these four characteristics of discipleship, the team created resources that intertwine these traits into every session. In January, *Disciples Path: The Journey* launched in over 600 churches with a simple, one year pathway of discipleship designed to make disciples who make disciples.

Future Plans— The number of churches engaging on this discipleship pathway continues to grow. Any church or group can begin the one year journey at any time in the future, starting with volume one and progressing through volume four. We will continue throughout the year to press the need for a strategic and intentional discipleship strategy, highlighting *Disciples Path*, for the good of the church and to provide a helpful and simple pathway for making disciples.

Leadership Development

Significant Accomplishments— All of LifeWay Leadership’s key initiatives in 2016 were centered on establishing a new brand as LifeWay Leadership and becoming the thought-leader in church leadership development. Beginning in February 2016, the LifeWay Leadership team produced four, free, online webinars discussing the concept of Leadership Pipeline. The theme for the year was “Every church needs a Pipeline, and every person needs a Pathway.” LifeWay Leadership identified four levels of leadership in the church: volunteer, leader, ministry director, and senior leader. Each webinar addressed one leadership level. The webinars culminated with an inaugural, sold-out event in Nashville, TN called *Pipeline*, which served 1,000 pastors from across the United States, Canada, and Jamaica. *Pipeline* was a three-day event featuring small group coaching and plenary sessions with Eric Geiger, Thom Rainer, Carey Nieuwhoff, Paul Tripp, Trip Lee, and many others.

LifeWay Leadership is a leading voice in the concept of Leadership Pipeline for the local church. In support of the Leadership Pipeline concept, the popular *5 Leadership Questions* podcast has grown to over 60,000 monthly downloads. *Developing Your Leadership Pipeline*, a booklet written by Todd Adkins, has been distributed to/download by over 20,000

church leaders. The LifeWay Leadership team has partnered with Compassion International, Southeastern Seminary, Southern Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary to equip pastors. The three seminaries offered class credit on Leadership Development through the *Pipeline* event. LifeWay Leadership continues to partner with Southeastern Seminary to offer free, online training and, to date, over 4,000 pastors and lay leaders have participated in training.

Additionally, the LifeWay Leadership team continues to resource new church plants. The online training platform at NewChurches.com took off quickly in 2016. Simultaneously, the New Churches team launched a podcast that regularly has over 20,000 downloads per month. New Churches has also partnered with NAMB and other national church planting agencies to offer specific resources geared toward church planting pastors.

Future Plans— The LifeWay Leadership team has a heart for local church leaders at every level. In 2017, the team will host its second national event as well as a number of regional Leadership Pipeline coaching opportunities from coast to coast. *Pipeline 2017* will feature Thom Rainer, H.B. Charles, Bob Russell, and John Piper. Also in 2017, LifeWay Leadership, in partnership with NAMB, anticipates releasing a dynamic new training experience through Ministry Grid. LifeWay Leadership is continually learning new ways to engage pastors and leaders in an increasingly digital world.

Worship and Music Ministry

Significant Accomplishments— Children’s Worship Series has stabilized our children’s choir curriculum and is doing well with new writers, Darlene Abbott and Teresa Harland.

The LifeWayWorship.com web site continues to grow. There are now 7,000 churches that use the site every weekend. There are 2,500 churches who participate in the “Pre-Pay & Save!” program which is up over 1,000 in the last year, a 66% growth. This program ensures that churches are using our site exclusively. This site continues to support the worship life of churches, church plants, and missionaries, both in the United States and around the world.

Site improvements continue to be made, improving the functionality of the site and drawing more and more traffic, thereby improving overall revenue.

LifeWayWorship.com also supports the 2008 edition of *Baptist Hymnal* by providing downloadable companion products, allowing churches to quickly, easily, and affordably obtain worship resources for their ministries. Sales of the hymnal itself continue to climb.

More and more foreign language material is added to the site as well. Our offerings in Spanish continue to expand, with some available in Russian, and more languages to come.

“It all begins with the song,” is a truism you’ll hear in the church music world. To that end three new songwriters have been added to our roster, Jonathan and Emily Martin, and Nathan Woodward. The very popular worship music writer, Tommy Walker, has been re-signed. Walker’s song, “Jesus, Be Near to Me,” has had over 3 million views on YouTube!

It was a banner year for our current songwriters. They secured songs cut this year by Blake Shelton, Chris Tomlin, Karen Peck and New River, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound, Sandi Patty, Scotty McCreery, Michael English, Veritas, and Phillips, Craig, and Dean.

Our 16 periodicals include choral, handbell, and keyboard magazines, CDs, and kits. Our three bulletin lines, *Response*, *Opportunity*, and *SBC*, provide a service to churches of all sizes. Broadman Church Supplies has been added to LifeWay Worship’s purview. This includes envelopes, visitor cards, communion supplies, and more – totaling about 4,000 products.

Our choral clubs, The Red Box from LifeWay Worship, and those from PraiseGathering and Lillenas, continue to grow. The Red Box released adult, student, and children's musicals, collections, and anthems. This year's releases included six Christmas musicals and collections, four for Easter, and two student collections. Counted among these were not only LifeWay-branded choral books, but also Getty and Daywind projects.

A combined 1,600 people attended the student gathering, SonPower, the Choral Music Celebration, and the inaugural WorshipLife event in Gatlinburg, TN.

Future Plans— As we look toward a bright future, we also reflect on a record fiscal year in 2016. Wonderful relationships continue to grow with our publishing partners, Lillenas Publishing Company, PraiseGathering Music Group, Daywind Music Group, Getty Music, and Celebration Concert Tours. LifeWay Songs has great things on the horizon as well. The *Let's Sing* imprint continues to grow. What about LifeWayWorship.com? Well, the sky is the limit! 2017 promises to be another banner year.

Christian Education

Significant Accomplishments— Groups matter! Groups have been the center point of the Christian Education ministry of the church for decades. These groups are defined in numerous ways: open, closed, ongoing, short term, Sunday School, small groups, discipleship groups, and more.

Three elements are essential to successful group ministry in a church:

Launch new groups. LifeWay, along with state conventions and associations, encourages every church to intentionally launch new groups. Groups provide church members the opportunity to use and develop their God-given spiritual gifts which is the beauty of starting new groups. Next to the Word of God and the Spirit of God, born-again people are the church's greatest asset. Starting new groups acknowledges this and leverages these new leaders for God's glory.

Develop leaders. LifeWay is committed to the development of group leaders. Ministry specialists trained thousands of church leaders this past year. These specialists trained leaders in Sunday School, small groups, men's ministry, kid's ministry, student ministry, young adult ministry, adult ministry, women's ministry, and more. In addition, Ministry Grid provides training to church leaders through videos. Leaders can receive quality training at times of their choosing through Ministry Grid.

Sunday School Matters DVD Training Kit. LifeWay has developed a significant training resource to help churches develop group leaders. This resource contains twelve sessions, 20-30 minutes each, to train Sunday School workers and leaders. Each session is taught by some of the top Christian educators in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Feed People. While the avenue of spiritual development is through groups, a group experience alone will not transform. Transformation is the work of God that takes place as people encounter truth through the Word of God. Bible study is the foundation of group ministry. LifeWay continues to provide Bible study curriculum for groups. *Explore the Bible*, *Bible Studies for Life*, *The Gospel Project*, *Disciples Path - The Journey* and *YOU* are biblically-centered curriculum that will engage people in the truths of God's Word.

Future Plans— Training for Christian Educators and Discipleship Pastors: ME (Minister of Education) Essentials (formerly called BETA) conferences continue to be offered for those new to education/discipleship ministry leadership or those desiring continued learning. The

conferences are held in Nashville, TN and other locations across the country several times each year at no registration cost to participants. Attendees learn the basic principles of group ministry, disciple making, how to enlist leaders, staff relations, evangelism strategy, time management, and more. Through this training, educators are equipped to take the first steps toward healthy discipleship. More than 1,400 new education/discipleship ministry leaders have been trained over the past nine years, with another 250 to be trained in 2017.

Those having participated in ME Essentials qualify for ME Essentials2. There is no registration fee and LifeWay provides all meals. Like ME Essentials, it is a three-day conference that dives deeper into leading the educational/discipleship ministry of a local church as attendees learn how to develop a leadership pipeline, shape church culture, build a team, and utilize and manage basic educational facilities and when to plan for multiple Sunday School hours.

In addition, LifeWay is now offering a Pastor/ME Essentials. This conference requires both the senior pastor and the education/discipleship pastor to attend together since they are the two main disciple-makers in the church. Getting these two key leaders unified on a discipleship strategy can have significant impact on their church.

Information concerning any of these three Essentials conferences can be obtained by contacting allan.taylor@lifeway.com. Essentials conferences are also available for leaders in kid's ministry, student ministry, men's ministry, women's ministry, and small group ministry.

Pastoral Ministries

Significant Accomplishments— LifeWay networks with state convention leaders to provide conferences and training events for pastors.

Pastors Essentials - "Pastors Essentials: Leading the Disciple-Making Ministry in Your Church," is a unique workshop designed specifically for the senior pastor who has a heart and passion to develop and lead the disciple-making ministry in the local church. With training and discussion specifically tailored for senior pastors, Pastors Essentials addresses issues and topics pastors face in making disciples. The goal is for pastors to leave the conference with a plan to disciple their people with wisdom and intentionality. LifeWay offers 11 Pastors Essentials each year averaging 20 pastors in attendance.

LifeWayPastors.com - Mark Dance became the director of LifeWay Pastors in 2014 after serving as a senior pastor in SBC churches for 27 years. LifeWay Pastors partners with state conventions, associations, seminaries, and other evangelical ministries to facilitate pastoral health. LifeWay Pastors hosts approximately 15 regional Pastor Date Nights and Pastor Roundtables throughout North America each year, currently averaging 150 in attendance. Mark and his wife Janet also serve pastors and wives at retreats and conferences. The latest events and resources for pastors can be found at LifeWayPastors.com.

Transitional Pastor training - LifeWay continues to partner with state conventions to support training for transitional pastors, equipping them to help churches in smooth, troubled, or crisis transitions. More information is available at <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/Transitional-pastor-overview>.

Rainer Social Media - LifeWay president and CEO Thom Rainer's social media presence has developed into an effective sounding board for pastors across the country. The "Rainer on Leadership" podcast is reaching 1.3 million listeners a year. Launched in 2013, the twice-a-week podcast, which has seen a 265% growth over the past two years, offers practical solutions for issues facing pastors and church leaders in the 21st century. Combined with Rainer's blog, an estimated two of three Protestant churches in America are reached, and

they range in geographic region, denomination, and size. Also, ThomRainer.com, launched in 2012, receives more than 7 million views per year.

Future Plans—Partners’ Summit: LifeWay partners with state convention leaders to provide opportunities for networking, skill development, and encouragement in the annual Partners’ Summit. This is held each year at Ridgecrest Conference Center the first week in December. This annual gathering of state convention and LifeWay leaders is designed to provide opportunities to explore topics of mutual interest that can benefit churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The goals for the Partners’ Summit are:

Enhance LifeWay’s partnership with state convention leaders

Equip the leaders with new insights and skills

Engage other leaders through collaborative learning

LifeWay Church Partners are on the field annually, having more than 22,000 face-to-face conversations with pastors and other ministerial staff. They discover personal, professional, and church ministry needs while providing solutions, serving as trusted advisors, and offering networking opportunities with other church leaders. They also regularly relate to leaders in state conventions and associations to address the needs of pastors and staff.

Evangelism

Significant Accomplishments—Lifeway continues to support and produce a variety of evangelism training resources to assist churches to reach the millions of people in the U.S. and Canada who have no relationship with Jesus Christ. One new evangelism training resource by pastor Greg Laurie is titled, *Tell Someone: You Can Share the Good News*. This video enhanced resource encourages believers to share the gospel by sharing Jesus’ story and their own story of how Jesus changed their lives.

Based on the experiences of Dustin Willis and Aaron Coe, *Life On Mission: A Simple Way to Share the Gospel* is a five-session Bible study that invites believers to connect with God’s mission and equips them to leverage their influence to bring unbelievers to faith in Christ. Find out more at www.LifeWay.com/lifeonmission.

My 8: Embrace and Engage the Wonder of Evangelism is a new 8-session Bible study for students by Ed Newton that deals with the heart and how-to of evangelism. Students are challenged and equipped to share their faith.

One of the greatest evangelism opportunities for churches is Vacation Bible School. Multiplied tens of thousands of people will come to faith in Christ as a result of VBS. And, there are additional untold numbers of families within communities who will be impacted. Vacation Bible School opens a multitude of doors of evangelistic opportunity.

Leading a Child to Christ Training Pack continues to be a strong evangelism tool that is well designed to assist parents, teachers, pastors, and older children in sharing their faith. This training pack includes two video segments, “Leading a Child to Christ” and “Leading a Friend to Christ,” as well as conference plans for training.

Share Jesus Without Fear, revised edition, presents a simple and relational approach to witnessing that underscores dependence on God’s power for the results. Birthed out of the radical life-transformation of its author, Bill Fay, *Share Jesus Without Fear* teaches believers how to navigate a witnessing conversation in everyday situations. LifeWay has released additional *Share Jesus* tools to equip believers to share their faith: the *Share Jesus Without Fear* app and *Share Jesus Without Fear Scripture and Question Cards*.

More to Life, authored by Dennis Pethers, is being utilized across the United States and the world. State conventions, associations, and churches are embracing this resource, as well as the strategy behind it, to strengthen evangelism training and practices. This resource and process offer evangelistic training based on a simple, four-story approach that encourages and enables believers to more easily engage individuals in spiritual dialog and help them reach “people who are far from God, but close to you.” *More to Life* not only trains believers, but also offers a discovery tool designed to engage nonbelievers in discovering who Jesus is, as revealed in four stories from the Gospel of John.

Many churches continue to experience great success with *FAITH Evangelism*. The resources for *FAITH Evangelism*, highlighted at LifeWay.com/Faith, include:

- *FAITH Evangelism 1* which is designed to equip believers to grow in their personal faith while, at the same time, taking the gospel and needed ministry into their communities.
- *FAITH Evangelism 2* which continues the evangelism journey while focusing on building strong, committed leaders who will pour and multiply their lives into the lives of learners.

Marriage and Family Ministry

Significant Accomplishments— LifeWay has resourced churches in family ministry for many years through the publication of quality family and devotional magazines. Included are:

- *HomeLife*— Family magazine with articles and fresh ideas for families, marriages, and personal development (monthly).
- *Mature Living*— Focusing on the spiritual and personal needs of adults, from boomers to seniors (monthly).
- *ParentLife*— Offers practical ideas, devotionals for families, and Christian living insights written especially for parents (monthly).
- *Parenting Teens*— Encouragement, information, and insights address the unique challenges of guiding a teen through adolescence into adulthood (monthly).
- *Journey*— Devotional guide for women with content that is substantive but not overwhelming for busy schedules (monthly).
- *Stand Firm*— Devotional guide for men with role-model interviews and articles that fit into a man’s busy schedule (monthly).
- *Open Windows*— Devotional guide featuring individual daily readings and selected Scripture passages (quarterly, also available in large print).

Churches use these resources to help families realize and prepare for the fact that life happens between Sundays. While these magazines provide wonderful leisure reading, they also hit hard topics of life from a strong biblical perspective.

Through the years, LifeWay has provided Marriage Getaways for couples. These retreats provide the opportunity to worship together, attend workshops, and renew commitments. In 2016, Marriage Getaways were held in Branson, MO and Ridgecrest, NC with some 1,000 people attending these events. God moved through these events to save and strengthen marriages and lead many to Christ.

Future Plans— LifeWay is changing the marriage event strategy for 2017 and beyond. We are currently working with the new LifeWay Marriage and Family Strategist, Josh Straub, PhD. Dr. Straub will lead out on development of new, web-based events to help reach more couples in the future.

LifeWay will continue to offer quality group ministry resources to engage participants to grow in their marriage, and as parents and grandparents. Some leading group resources

produced in 2016 were: *The 7 Rings of Marriage* by Jackie Bledsoe, *Missional Motherhood* by Gloria Furman, and *A Beautiful Design* by Matt Chandler, with more planned for 2017.

LifeWay Global

Significant Accomplishments— The focus of LifeWay Global is to “serve the Church in her mission of making disciples – worldwide.” Over the past year, LifeWay Global has integrated all publishing lines into a unified strategy to better serve global churches. Those lines include Bible and Reference, Trade Books, Leadership Resources, Kids Resources, On-Going Curriculum, and Short Term Studies. LifeWay Global experienced a record year in 2016 with more than 3 million lives impacted by our trustworthy content.

A strategic priority for LifeWay Global is the contextualization of our work. To that end, we have offices and indigenous staff in Beijing, Delhi, Cape Town, Mexico City, Guatemala City, and Rio De Janeiro. Our publishing ministry is also increasingly focused on indigenous authors, including: Miguel Núñez, Sugel Michelén, Otto Sánchez, Laura Chávez, and G. Samuel Gollapalle.

For more than 25 years, LifeWay has published and distributed resources in English and Spanish. In 2016, we began to publish selected resources in Portuguese and Mandarin. More than 50,000 lives were impacted this past year through LifeWay’s training ministry in China.

Today, LifeWay distributes life-changing content to 75 countries via print and more than 150 countries through digital delivery (including Amazon, Apple, and Google).

Future Plans— LifeWay Global is expanding its resources for Latino churches, including the launch of *Disciples Path*, *Armor of God*, *Fisher of Men* studies, *Explore the Bible* in short term, and our 2017 VBS program: *Observadores Galacticos*. Global leadership training will be a growing priority with our publishing program anchored by *Hearts, Heads, and Hands* by Dr. David Sills – available in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

2. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in ministries to college and university students.

Significant Accomplishments— LifeWay continues to emphasize the importance of reaching and equipping the 23 million college and university students in North America through the partnership of local churches and state convention collegiate ministry networks. Through producing resources and hosting events, LifeWay is assisting churches, state conventions, and collegiate ministries in reaching and equipping college students with the gospel.

LifeWay publishes short-term Bible studies and ongoing curriculum that are used by collegiate ministries. As LifeWay serves the Church in her mission of making disciples, the opportunity to connect with college students is of significant importance. The resources that are being produced are relevant and reliable as college students face difficult questions of culture.

Bible Studies for Life-Young Adults has had a significant impact in the lives of college students and young adults and is being used by churches to emphasize how life situations intersect with the truth of scripture. *BSFL: Young Adults* is able to address topics that are of significant relevance to college students and their environment.

Explore the Bible-Young Adult is another ongoing curriculum that has been utilized by churches to emphasize the importance of the starting point of scripture for college students. The book-by-book study of scripture has led many college students into deeper understanding of scripture and truth.

LifeWay Young Adults has also recommended short-term studies over the course of the past year that speak into the culture and lives of college students and young adults. “LifeWay Young Adults Recommends” has a section on the Young Adult website and can be used to find short-term studies that are relevant for young adults and college students.

Youngadults.lifeway.com is the website for LifeWay Young Adults, with a blog that is published on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays that is helpful for leaders of collegiate and young adult ministry. Bcmlife.net is the website that gives emphasis upon the collegiate ministry network in the SBC.

LifeWay also continues to offer meaningful and relevant events that promote spiritual growth and missions to churches and collegiate ministries including:

Beach Reach – The first two weeks of March 2016 saw over 700 college students from churches and collegiate ministries across the U.S. converge in Panama City Beach, FL, for one of the most intense and challenging experiences provided by LifeWay. Through daily pancake breakfasts (in partnership with the Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief Team), free van rides, and street and beach ministry, college students reached out to their fellow students on Spring Break. Throughout the two weeks of Beach Reach, there were 65 decisions of salvation among college Spring Breakers.

Collegiate Week – Over 2,000 college students and leaders gathered at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico during the first week of August 2016, for a week of worship, Bible study, breakout sessions, and recreation. Collegiate Week continues to be a strong connection between churches and state conventions as college students prepare to return to their campuses for the fall semester. Timothy Ateek from Breakaway Ministries at Texas A&M was the speaker and Rush of Fools was the worship band for the week.

A National Collegiate Ministry network continues to thrive and partner with LifeWay to give direction and leadership on a number of topics of importance in reaching and equipping college students. BCNet (Baptist Collegiate Network) consists of six committees comprised of church and campus-based college ministers in coordination with SSDA (State Student Directors Association). LifeWay’s partnership with BCNet is an essential component in continuing to emphasize collegiate ministry in the SBC.

LifeWay also partners with the North American Mission Board and the International Mission Board along with other networks such as College Metro, BSU Advancement Committee, and SSDA to provide resourcing, training, and connections with the opportunity to reach and equip college students as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Future Plans— LifeWay and National Collegiate Ministries continues to seek opportunities to partner with churches and collegiate ministries in reaching college students and young adults.

Youngadults.lifeway.com will continue to publish resources and blogs that will be directed toward leaders of collegiate ministry. The tools will provide resourcing and direction in the work of reaching and equipping college students.

Beach Reach 2017 will be held in Panama City Beach, FL, the first two full weeks of March. College students from ministries all over North America will come to Panama City Beach to give van rides, serve pancakes, and share the gospel to Spring Breakers. LifeWay has been the sponsor for Beach Reach for over 25 years.

In 2017, Collegiate Week will offer more opportunities and space for college students and leaders to participate at Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico. Collegiate Week will

continue to be an important week for college students and leaders to come together for worship, leadership training, and spiritual growth. Speakers will be Michael Kelley, Robbie Gallaty, and Mary Jo Sharp. The Digital Age will be the worship band for the week.

3. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches with Christian schools and homeschool ministries.

Significant Accomplishments—A biblical philosophy of education to guide the training of children and youth is presented in *Kingdom Education: God's Plan for Educating Future Generations, 2nd edition*. This resource provides the driving principles that shape essential biblical education services and resources to Christian schools, churches, and families. LifeWay's Student Ministry continues to provide *CharacterQuest* Bible Curriculum for Christian schools and homeschools.

Future Plans—LifeWay continues to provide consultation to schools and churches related to a wide range of topics about Christian school and homeschool education.

4. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in ministries to men and women.

Women's Ministry

Significant Accomplishments—LifeWay's Women's Events team was once again privileged to minister to women across the U.S. and around the world through Bible teaching events and women's ministry leadership events. In 2016, the team managed 31 events, including 19 enrichment events, two live simulcasts, and 12 leadership training events. The team hosted 12 "Living Proof Live" events with Beth Moore in cities large and small across the country, including Omaha, NE; Springfield, MO; Mobile, AL; and Ontario, CA. For the first time, LifeWay Women partnered with the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention to offer a free ministry event on a Native Indian reservation in Chinle, AZ. "Living Proof Live" events ministered to more than 68,000 women at live events in 2016 and reached another 200,000 women through the annual simulcasts with Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer.

LifeWay Women launched a new multi-platform event for women in late 2015 called "Abundance" and proceeded to host three more successful "Abundance" events in Asheville, NC; Ft. Wayne, IN; and Dallas, TX. The events were very well received.

LifeWay Women continued the popular "dotMOM" event in the Nashville, TN area and also hosted three "Priscilla Shirer Live," events in Seattle, WA and Reading, PA, with a third unprecedented event happening in Hyderabad, India in partnership with Baptist Church Hyderabad.

The 2016 Priscilla Shirer Simulcast was watched in all 50 states and in 17 total countries. The simulcast reached into the communities of 189 large churches and 251 small churches. There were also 4,199 individuals who participated in their own living rooms. States with the most viewers included: CA, FL, NC, and TX. Countries with the most viewers (outside of the U.S.) included: Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Bermuda, and South Africa. Overall, the Priscilla Shirer Simulcast reached thousands of women for the kingdom of God in 2016.

The 2016 "Living Proof Live" Simulcast with Beth Moore was another incredible success. There were over 6,000 individuals and 580 churches participating in the broadcast. Moore's message stretched across the globe and was seen and heard by women in 13 different countries including Australia, Great Britain, Puerto Rico, Germany, Poland, and Zambia. All of the 50 states in the U.S. was represented in the 2016 simulcast as well as over 200 hosts in Canada. Women truly lived out the Great Commission by bringing the gospel and the message of the body of Christ as a symphony to the ends of the earth this year!

Over 8,300 leaders representing almost 3,200 churches were trained during 2015 through 36 live training events. A variety of women's ministry leadership training opportunities were offered, including "YOU Lead," which is a training pre-conference before "Living Proof Live" to make the best use of leaders' time as they bring women from their church to the enrichment event.

Other leadership events included the Women's Leadership Forum and partnerships with state conventions, universities, and seminaries to provide the most effective tools for women's leaders. Women's Ministry also hosted two events for women's ministry directors with three years or under experience called Women's Ministry BETA.

A highlight was the 20th Women's Leadership Forum with the theme "One" based on Ephesians 4:1-6. The forum featured LifeWay authors Jen Wilkin, Karen Kingsbury, and Rebekah Lyons. LifeWay Women also enjoyed a partnership with the SBC Ministers' Wives by providing registration and event planning assistance for their annual luncheon in 2016.

LifeWay Women continued production of "The Chat, with Priscilla," a talk-show format, web-delivered show, featuring Priscilla Shirer as host. The show began in late 2012. Priscilla approaches topics ranging from dealing with modern-day culture as a Christian to fashion, health, and more. LifeWay Women produces the show monthly and it airs on www.theChatwithPriscilla.com each Tuesday and Thursday evening. The show is now being released through YouTube on a channel set up by LifeWay Women. The channel has been successful and has 4,500 subscribers with many thousands of views of her shows.

In the year 2016, the women's short-term Bible study area released many wonderful studies from both new and well-known authors. Beth Moore's Bible study, *Entrusted*, is a study of 2 Timothy, and *All Things New* by Kelly Minter, is a study on 2 Corinthians. Other 2016 women's short-term studies include *The Gospel of Mark* by Lisa Harper; *1 Peter* by Jen Wilkin; and *Redeemed* by Angela Thomas-Pharr. In 2016, LifeWay Women also released a number of studies with first-time Bible study authors like Nicki Koziarz, Annie F. Downs, and Gloria Furman.

LifeWay Women's social media footprint continued to expand its reach in 2016. The LifeWay Women blog had 1,819,307 total page views and more than 1,061,691 visits. The LifeWay Women Facebook page has 144,214 fans or likes, 49,600 followers on Twitter, 46,400 followers on Instagram, and 5,874 followers on Pinterest.

LifeWay continues to discover ways to meet the needs of leaders through various social media strategies with video webcasts and also by providing leadership help at our leader blog, LifeWay.com/WomenReachingWomen.

Future Plans— In 2017, the women's enrichment events area will host 11 Beth Moore events across the country in cities such as Fairfax, VA; Wichita Falls, TX; Baton Rouge, LA; and Sacramento, CA, along with a global simulcast. Three "Priscilla Shirer Live" events and a global simulcast are planned for 2017. LifeWay will take Priscilla to Tulsa, OK; Knoxville, TN; and Toronto, Canada. LifeWay Women will not host the "dotMOM" event in 2017, but does plan to bring the event back in 2018.

LifeWay Women is excited to launch brand new events for women in 2017 including "The Word Alive" featuring Lysa TerKeurst and "in real life: connect" in partnership with (in) courage. The Word Alive with Lysa will be held in the fall of 2017 in Kansas City, MO; Houston, TX; and Orlando, FL. The event "in real life: connect" will be held in Franklin, TN in mid-October. This event will also be simulcast. LifeWay Women will also continue to host the successful "Abundance" event in Phoenix, AZ; Memphis, TN; Minneapolis, MN; and

Greenville, SC. 2017 will be the biggest year for women's events that LifeWay Women has ever implemented.

Leadership training continues in 2017 across the country with over 40 live training events scheduled including "Women's Ministry Essentials" (formerly Women's BETA), YOU Lead, YOU Lead One Day (new training as a preconference to Priscilla Shirer Live event), Women's Leadership Forum, and partnerships with state conventions, seminaries, universities and other organizations. LifeWay will continue annually to assist with and register attendees for the annual SBC ministers' wives luncheon.

2017 brings with it plans to publish more women's Bible studies including: *Finding I AM* by Lysa TerKeurst; *Proven* by Jennie Allen; *We Saved You a Seat* by Lisa-Jo Baker, *Steadfast Love* by Lauren Chandler, and more.

Men's Ministry

Significant Accomplishments— 2016 was another good year for LifeWay Men. The Main Event – LifeWay's Conference for Men – returned to Kansas City, MO and Nashville, TN. Our Nashville event featured Tim Tebow, Dr. Johnny Hunt, and Nic Vujcic. We saw over 3,000 men from 22 states and multiple denominations – the bulk being SBC churches. We once again partnered with host church FBC Raytown for the event which featured Jonathan Evans, son of Dr. Tony Evans; Donnie Smith, CEO of Tyson Chicken; and Dr. Owen Strachan, professor at Midwestern Seminary. The Kansas City event served churches from dozens of Midwest states. Several hundred churches across the country came together for two-day transformational events.

In 2016, we expanded the training component prior to the Main Event. The newly branded *Leading Men Pre-Conference Training* featured nationally known speakers Jeff Kisiah, Dr. Johnny Hunt, and Kris Dolberry and reached around 100 pastors and men's ministry leaders. This is a significant increase from 2015.

LifeWay once again partnered with Dr. Johnny Hunt and FBC Woodstock, GA to simulcast the Johnny Hunt Men's Conference. The response was greater than expected – reaching 71 churches and 639 individuals (50 budgeted) from all across the U.S. and several foreign countries (total estimated audience: 25,000).

LifeWay Men presented two Men's Ministry Essentials Conferences. These three-day conferences, hosted at LifeWay in Nashville, TN, were provided for church leaders new to men's ministry and interested in starting or strengthening it in their churches. It is worth noting that we originally planned for only one of these events (Spring 2016), but due to large demand, we added a second (Fall 2016).

Along with the Essentials conferences, we partnered with national organizations such as Iron Sharpens Iron, Man in the Mirror, and the National Coalition of Ministries to Men to train hundreds of leaders on strategies, resources, and events for men's ministry.

In January 2016, we released Volume 6 of 33 The Series, entitled *A Man and His Fatherhood*. This completes the popular 6-volume set, and allows us to serve churches well by providing a complete "men's ministry content in a box" set. The series remains popular and continues to perform well. Our audio devotional CDs (volumes 1 and 2) continue to perform well and help us get trustworthy Bible content into the hands of an increasing number of men. Though it was released in 2012, the *Kingdom Man* Bible study by Dr. Tony Evans continues to perform well.

In order to serve churches well and meet the needs of increasingly busy men, along with seeking savvy ways to engage men in trustworthy Bible study content, we offered two of our Bible studies in an online format through the LifeWay Men blog. *Kingdom Man* was offered in Spring 2016 and Game Plan for Life was offered Fall 2016. These studies engaged over 1,200 men from across the country.

Our social media properties and blog continue to grow. The newly redesigned website, LifeWayMen.com, saw nearly 700,000 page views in 2016. We offer fresh content several times per week in the categories, Leading Men, Spiritual Growth, and A Man's Life.

Future Plans— In 2017, we will bring The Main Event and Leading Men Training back to Nashville, TN on July 28-29. We will be adding New Orleans, LA on April 29 and Greenville, SC on August 18-19. The focus of these transformational events will be *All In*. God doesn't seek men because of their success, wealth, charisma, or fame. He is not looking for the popular, the polished, or the perfect. God is seeking ordinary, broken men who are just willing to go *All In* with Him. Platform guests (appearing live at select locations) include: Kurt Warner, Darryl Strawberry, Dr. Russell Moore, Dr. J.D. Greear, Dr. Robby Gallaty, Dr. Eric Geiger, and others.

LifeWay Men continues to provide biblically trusted resources most notably – *Kingdom Man* with Tony Evans, *Manhood Restored* with Dr. Eric Mason, and *33 The Series*. In January 2017, we released a new 8-week Bible study resource for men from Dr. Eric Geiger entitled *Unfolded*. This study will help men know the overarching story of the Bible and the implications for our lives today of God's powerful story of redemption.

We are currently exploring new ways to serve the church in her mission of making disciples by developing fresh models for the changing dynamics of men's groups.

To provide opportunities for small churches or men who, for various reasons, are unable to attend a men's Bible study in their local church, LifeWay Men will offer *Unfolded* (with Dr. Eric Geiger) online. The study is housed at lifewaymen.com and began in January 2017.

LifeWay Men will present five, major training events in 2017. First, our three-day Essentials Conferences will be May 2017 and October 2017. Leading Men, our one-day training conference for ministry leaders, will be held prior to each Main Event conference.

We will work to strengthen partnerships within the Convention with state and association leaders and seminaries along with local churches. We will seek to discover and build new partnerships outside the Convention to broaden our influence and champion men's discipleship.

5. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through operation of Conference Centers and Camps.

Significant Accomplishments—Ridgecrest Conference Center hosted approximately 62,000 guests and 437 events in 2016, resulting in many spiritual decisions. Summer 2016 saw 2,736 campers attend Camp Ridgecrest for Boys and Camp Crestridge for Girls, and many of these kids made spiritual decisions while at camp. In addition, 518 lives were impacted by attending Family Camp, Father & Son Weekend, and Mother & Daughter Weekend.

6. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through the publication of books and Bibles.

Significant Accomplishments

B&H Books— B&H publishes books that impact children, teens, adults, families, churches, and God's work around the world. The fruit of this was seen in key accomplishments for the

past year. The titles we published received more awards than any other publisher, including 14 Christian Retailing Awards and four ECPA awards, all of which is a reflection of God working through our authors, churches, and denominational partners. Additionally, *Onward* by Dr. Russell Moore won Christianity Today's Book of the Year and *Fervent* by Priscilla Shirer won the Evangelical Christian Publishing Association's Book of the Year. Other key titles published for adults recognized include: *Designed to Lead, I Am Going, The Gospel & Abortion, The Gospel & Marriage, The Gospel & Adoption, The Will of God is the Word of God, Craving Connection, Detours, She Reads Truth, 100 Little Bible Words, The Read & Reflect with the Classics Series, Unfriended, Technicolor, The Money Challenge, and Hearts, Heads, and Hands*. Key titles published for children include: *Prince Warriors: Unseen Invasion, Faith, Hope, and Love Children's Devotional, It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook, Bible Stories for Courageous Girls, Bible Stories for Courageous Boys, and 100 Little Bible Words*. We are also so pleased to have had the opportunity to work with Dr. Frank Page on a book to be used by pastor search committees, which will release at this year's Annual Meeting. We are honored to partner with others throughout LifeWay and across the denomination to produce resources that lift up the Kingdom work of the SBC.

B&H Bible & Reference— In 2016, the CSB Translation Oversight Committee completed its revision of the HCSB and submitted the final CSB database. Development and production has begun on CSB Bibles, scheduled for release in spring of 2017. Key CSB Bible releases will include the revised and updated *CSB Study Bible* featuring the ECPA award-winning Holman Study System, the *She Reads Truth Bible* in partnership with the popular She Reads Truth ministry based in Franklin, TN, revised and updated editions of the *Apologetics Study Bible* and *Apologetics Study Bible for Students*, *The Spurgeon Study Bible* in partnership with General Editor Alistair Begg, and the revised and updated *Disciple's Study Bible* in partnership with General Editor Robby Gallaty and Replicate Ministries. In addition, the CSB Text Bible will be available in multiple sizes and with multiple covers. In 2016, we continued to serve readers with our Holman Study Bibles and through new releases such, as the *KJV I Am Bible, NKJV Reader's Reference Bible, and KJV/NKJV Summary Bibles*. KJV/NKJV English Bible sales also continue to grow in partnership with LifeWay Global in India and Southeast Asia. Large-print Bibles were released in 2016 to accompany the standard print editions released in 2015, with plans to release editions of KJV/NKJV study Bibles as well as low-cost CSB Bibles in 2017-2018. The Bibles team also saw new opportunities in 2016 through continued partnership with key ministry partners, such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Go Therefore Ministries. Our Bibles are sometimes featured on QVC and in Walmart, and we continue to partner with LifeWay Christian Stores and Family Christian Bookstores. The Reference team will release the second and third edition in the Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation commentary series in 2017, to follow the well-received release of *Commentary on Hebrews* by Dr. Tom Schreiner. In 2017, we will continue to make available new volumes in the popular Christ-Centered Exposition commentary series, as well as release the New American Commentary volume for *Ephesians*.

B&H Academic— In 2016, we published 17 titles designed to serve our academic and pastoral audiences. This was a significant year for Greek resources; we produced three major volumes – *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek, Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament: John, and Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament: Ephesians*. Designed for those with a basic knowledge of Greek, *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek* is a user-friendly textbook for intermediate Greek courses taught at the college or seminary level. We also published a quick-reference, laminated Greek chart that presents the rules and syntactical categories covered in *Going Deeper with New Testament Greek*. The Exegetical Guide to

the Greek New Testament (EGGNT) series serves both students and pastors by providing paragraph-by-paragraph exegesis of the Greek text as well as homiletical helps.

B&H Academic was also honored to publish a custom series for Liberty University named The Everyday Series. This series covers topics such as theology, evangelism, Bible study, and biblical worldview. These books will be required for all students at Liberty. Other significant releases include: *One Nation Under God*, a book that addresses a Christian's response to politics while providing the hope of the gospel; *Unchanging Witness*, which presents the consistent orthodox view on homosexuality by engaging with primary sources throughout Christian history and by interpreting the biblical texts in their cultural context; *The SBC and the 21st Century*, a book that calls SBC leaders to action by focusing on critical issues that the Southern Baptist Convention will face in the 21st century; and *God the Trinity*, a foundational book that offers a careful and clear response to issues regarding the Trinity through exegesis of pivotal texts from both testaments.

In addition, B&H Academic has used our proprietary digital platforms, WORDsearch and myWSB.com, to expand the digital libraries and resources of pastors, students, and faculty. Partnering with a variety of like-minded publishers, B&H Academic Digital has aggregated thousands of resources to aid in the instruction and training of future pastors and church leaders through the Seminaries and Undergraduate Bible Colleges currently using the site myWSB.com to deliver trustworthy textbooks to students both within the United States and abroad. Over 60,000 students used our web and mobile platforms in 2016 to access their digital libraries.

WORDsearch Bible Software sold nearly \$1,000,000 worth of WS11 upgrades in 2016. In 2016, WORDsearch Bible was profitable for the first time since LifeWay acquired this company six years ago. Total bottom line profit improved by two million dollars over 2015.

7. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through the operation of LifeWay Christian Stores.

Significant Accomplishments— LifeWay's Retail division seeks to transform lives by the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. During 2016, LifeWay's Retail division serviced millions of customers and tens of thousands of churches domestically and internationally through over 170 stores in 29 states and online.

The Retail division also continued its emphasis on serving church leaders through the minister's discount program. At the close of 2016, more than 200,000 ministers were represented in the minister discount program. Ministers, church staff, and furloughing missionaries use this discount for solutions vital to their ministry efforts. Additionally, the LifeWay Rewards customer loyalty program continues to grow. An emphasis this year on our *Price Match Promise* has helped our customers know that we will match the price in our store of any store or online retailer for any new item that we carry.

The division focused intently on serving church customers with a renewed commitment this year. An initiative to hire a Church Connection Specialist for each store was launched. These employees specifically focus on reaching and serving the needs of our church customers with greater expertise.

ONESource Direct extends the distribution channel and helps churches maximize stewardship of their resources by continuing to connect them to savings opportunities on a broad range of quality products and services, such as background checks and church buses through LifeWay's ONESource program.

Ministry remains the division's primary purpose, emphasizing sensitivity to ongoing, in-store, ministry opportunities. LifeWay Stores donated over 10,000 Bibles to ministries across the country with a national Bible Drive, inviting customers to donate new and gently used Bibles through their local LifeWay Store. Stores also partnered with SBC Global Hunger Relief for a national food drive to benefit local ministries in their communities. In addition, LifeWay Stores partnered with Voice of the Martyrs and distributed more than 4,000 medical bags that customers filled with needed supplies. These medical bags were sent to persecuted missionaries overseas. Finally, LifeWay Stores once again partnered with Samaritan's Purse for a National Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection Day where more than 12,000 shoeboxes were collected through LifeWay Stores.

Future Plans— LifeWay's Retail division anticipates being well positioned to assist millions of customers every step of their way by providing trustworthy answers for life issues. Caring team members will be ready to prayerfully equip and guide customers. We plan to carry a vast selection of Bibles, Bible Studies, and other products for transformational impact as we emphasize ministry concerns of the Southern Baptist Convention. Plans are to attract families with more in-store events and activities as we grow our ministry.

8. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches through church architecture consultation and services.

Significant Accomplishments— LifeWay Christian Resources provides architecture and planning services through a strategic relationship with Visioneering Studios, Inc. (VSI). Visioneering Studios exists to launch inspired vision into reality by being trusted stewards of story and space. They have won numerous, national Solomon Awards such as Best Church Architect, Best Church Design, and Best Building Contractor. Recently the firm was awarded the 2016 Solomon Award for Best Church Design for Youth and Children's Spaces for its work with Centerpoint Church in Murrieta, CA. Visioneering was also awarded the 2016 Solomon Award for Best New Campus Construction Design for Grace Place in Berthoud, CO. Through this dynamic ministry resource, LifeWay connects churches, associations, state conventions, and denominational entities with an expanded array of services including Real Estate Brokerage, Development Advisory Services, Campus Master Planning, Architecture and Interior Design, and Construction Services. VSI's integrated project approach of "Envision – Design – Build" allows them to engage each church uniquely and in a way of serving their individual people, place, and passion.

Visioneering Studios has full-service, multi-disciplinary studios in Irvine, CA; Denver, CO; Nashville, TN; and Charlotte, NC; with regional offices in Seattle, WA; Dallas, TX; and Boston, MA.

Highlights from the past year include:

- Visioneering has provided services to churches and other non-profits in approximately 20 states.
- Visioneering has developed a new service called Development Advisory Services (DAS) aimed at answering the paralyzing questions causing analysis paralysis in the early stages of project planning such as: What do we need to build? How much will it cost and how will we pay for it? How long will it take? DAS has been completed for churches and non-profits in California, Texas, West Virginia, Illinois, and Massachusetts. Other processes have recently begun in Oregon, Texas, and Florida.
- Visioneering had the opportunity to speak at the Story Gathering in Nashville, TN.

- Visioneering continues to provide master planning BlueSky Workshops. This process integrates Auxano navigators into the early planning process to add an initial degree of vision clarity before launching into the planning stage of a new Master Plan and next phase building project. Workshops were conducted including Tabernacle Baptist Church in Ennis, TX; Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, KY; and others. Future BlueSky Workshops are scheduled for Centerbranch Church in Mt. Clare, WV; Kingsland Baptist in Katy, TX; and Valley Grove Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN.
- Visioneering has produced, or is currently generating, architectural and engineering plans and specifications for several new facilities including Calvary Baptist Church in State College, PA; Gateway Fellowship Church in San Antonio, TX; the YMCA at Crosspointe Church in Cary, NC; and others around the country.
- Visioneering has provided, or is currently providing, Design-Build services for Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch, CA; Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, TX; Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, KY; The Brook in Tomball, TX; and others.

Future Plans— Visioneering Studios is dedicated to continue providing services to churches and non-profits utilizing its diverse team of real estate professionals, developers, architects and designers, financial analysts, and construction professionals to steward all of their client partners assets including facilities, budgets, time, and each unique story, vision, and mission.

Call Visioneering Studios CENTRAL, co-located at LifeWay Christian Resources in Nashville, TN, at (877) 899-1872, or check www.visioneeringstudios.com for more information on how God is using this nation-wide ministry.

9. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches in capital fund raising.

Significant Accomplishments— This year we experienced four major accomplishments. First, we completed a comprehensive curriculum set called Generous Life. Second, due to growth, we expanded our team to three, full-time Lead Navigators. Third, we expanded our network of giving partners being asked to speak, provide content, or collaborate on many unique giving challenges that the church faces. Fourth, we experienced a project that raised a record high of \$12 million via Auxano Resourcing services toward kingdom expansion causes.

The one-of-a-kind resource, Generous Life, was launched and used by several churches. It is not money management content, but instead seeks to identify five different growth steps in becoming a generous disciple by looking at ten different giving heroes in scripture. The curriculum includes:

- 5 sermon outlines
- 5 small group lesson guides for preschool through adults
- 5 family devotions
- Media kit

Auxano Resourcing in 2016:

- Served 30 congregations;
- Served in 15 states coast to coast;
- Served 6 denominations;
- Served church plants, small churches averaging less than 200 in worship, mega-churches averaging over 3,000 in worship, and multi-campus churches;
- Spoke at numerous events across the country to church planters, senior pastors, and discipleship pastors

Future Plans— In 2017, we will be adding a fourth, full-time Navigator to the team. We will complete all training of staff in both capital campaign and generosity coaching services. We will also continue to extend our reach into other SBC agencies, supporting and strengthening local church stewardship ministry. The expansion of our networks and partnerships beyond SBC life will also continue to be a priority.

10. Ministry Assignment: Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics.

Significant Accomplishments— LifeWay Research released a variety of significant research studies in 2016. These included articles about the views of pastors, Americans, and/or churchgoers on religious freedom, refugees, pastors who left the pastorate before retirement, payday lending, prison ministry, the effect of the economy on churches, end times, sports betting, transgender, divorce among churchgoers, the election, the state of theology in America, and the receptivity of the unchurched. A major study was also completed on church planting in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

LifeWay Research conducted research with significant partners including Focus on the Family, Wheaton College's Billy Graham Center for Evangelism, Ligonier Ministries, Faith for Just Lending, and Outreach Magazine.

The SBC Annual Church Profile (ACP) for 2015 showed that the Southern Baptist Convention added more churches in 2015, due mostly to church planting efforts. Churches also experienced an increase in total giving, but other key measures declined including membership, average worship attendance, and baptisms.

The number of churches affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention grew by 0.63% over 2014. Total and undesignated church receipts reported through the ACP increased 3.51% and 4.64%, respectively.

While the number of SBC-related congregations increased, reported membership declined 1.32% and average weekly worship attendance declined by 1.72%. Southern Baptists also experienced a decline in baptisms, down 3.3% to 295,212. Reported baptisms have fallen eight of the last 10 years.

New software called SBCWorkspace was developed in recent years by eleven Baptist state conventions. LifeWay provided access to SBCWorkspace to many additional state conventions for collection of the 2016 Annual Church Profile. This cooperative effort by state and national entities provides greatly enhanced sharing of information between congregations, associations, state conventions, and national entities.

Future Plans— LifeWay Research will release significant studies in 2017 on domestic violence, assisted suicide, worldviews, parenting, church finances, racial reconciliation, and Bible reading. Additional validation will be completed on the Transformational Church Assessment Tool (TCAT) among African-American churches.

Matters Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to LifeWay Christian Resources for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: That LifeWay Christian Resources report to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, that LifeWay Christian Resources does have written guidelines providing for news coverage of trustee meetings. Copies of the guidelines are available from LifeWay’s Corporate Communications team.

2. SBC Referral: Encouraging LifeWay to publish memoirs of SBC presidents (Items 33 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, pp. 60 and 91)

Motion: Graham Weaver, Kansas

“That the SBC presidents (both past and present), through LifeWay, write their memoirs. This will help the Convention to preserve its history and hopefully encourage future SBC leaders to learn from our past.”

Response: That LifeWay Christian Resources report to the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, June 13-14, 2017, that a wealth of information about each SBC president’s service is available in existing books, periodicals, and websites, and a nearly exhaustive amount of information is collected, archived, and cataloged by the SBC Historical Library and Archives, all of which serves to preserve the Convention’s history and encourage SBC leaders to learn from our past.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD
4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Georgia 30022

MARK J. DYER, Chairman
KEVIN EZELL, President

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) wants to help every church take its next step in missions. And we want to see every believer living life on mission no matter where God has placed them.

It is a privilege to be part of the Southern Baptist family and we are grateful for the pastors who lead their churches to sacrificially give to the Cooperative Program, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We are committed to being the very best stewards possible with dollars we receive.

Pastors are NAMB's number one customer. We are here to serve them and help them succeed as they minister on the front lines. We serve pastors and churches in two primary ways: Send Relief and Send Network.

We launched Send Relief at the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri in June 2016. Just as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has worked so well to match urgent needs with volunteers who can help, Send Relief is taking that approach to areas like adoption and foster care, hunger and poverty, mobile dental and medical clinics, human trafficking, refugee ministry and more. We are working now to establish several Send Relief ministry hubs that will meet needs in specific regions and give Southern Baptists from all over North America opportunities to serve in long- or short-term settings. Each year we will provide Southern Baptist churches with dozens of opportunities to meet needs and share Christ through Send Relief.

Through Send Network, we help Southern Baptists plant new churches. This is a priority because in the last 100 years as the North American population has grown, the number of Southern Baptist churches in proportion to the population has dropped dramatically.

NAMB helps plant churches everywhere in North America, but we have a special focus outside the South where Southern Baptists are weakest and in our cities where more than 80% of North Americans live. Planting evangelistic churches is the best way to introduce people to Jesus and grow them strong in their faith.

Each year Southern Baptists lose about 900 churches. Planting evangelistic churches is the best way to introduce people to Jesus and grow a new church out of what once was a failing, dying church. Instead of losing hundreds of buildings each year, these churches now have a chance to continue to be places where the gospel is proclaimed and lives are transformed.

Ethnic church planting is also a priority for us. We have Church Planting Catalysts that focus on Hispanic, Korean, Chinese and other Asian groups, Native American, and African-American church planting. Others focus on planting churches for the deaf, for military communities, and near college campuses.

Send Network helps discover new church planters and then develop them with the skills they need so they can be deployed to the North American mission field. At the same time, we are working to help Southern Baptist churches take on a more active role in church planting. Some are ready to plant a church right now. We can help them find a place in need and connect them with a church planter. Some churches might not be ready to plant, but they can partner with other churches to provide what a new church needs like prayer, encouragement, and assistance from short-term mission teams. Every church can play a part in church planting. No church is too small or financially constrained to be involved.

Looking back, there is much to celebrate of what God did in 2016:

- We praise God for the more than 5,200 missionaries and more than 3,700 chaplains that NAMB has the privilege of supporting because of what Southern Baptists give. These missionaries and chaplains are serving in difficult places. Many have left behind everything that is familiar so they can tell people about Christ.
- Southern Baptists started 732 new churches in 2016, the most recent year for which data is available. These churches are already introducing people to Jesus and building people strong in their faith. They will continue to have an impact for years to come. In addition, there were 232 new church affiliations with the SBC, for a total of 964 new SBC congregations added in 2016.
- Existing church plants are reporting some exciting trends. Churches planted in 2011 have a 77% five-year survival rate. Church plants baptized one person for every 14 members, compared to one for every 52 members in established churches. Louisiana Baptists recently reported that their church plants have averaged 126 decisions for Christ each month since 2010. In Vermont, 83% of baptisms reported last year came from churches that were started since 2010; in the Baptist Convention of New England, which includes six states—it was 39%; and in Canada, 53% of baptisms came from churches planted in 2010 or later.
- Our *3 Circles Life Conversation Guide* is helping thousands of people point everyday conversations toward Christ. We have distributed two million of them in print and the app has been downloaded more than 50,000 times. Engage 24 conferences for pastors help them re-ignite the flames of evangelism in their churches.
- Disaster Relief responses included the historic flooding in Louisiana; West Virginia flooding; the water crisis in Flint, Michigan; wildfires in Canada and Gatlinburg, Tennessee; and the Hurricane Matthew response.

NAMB works closely with Baptist conventions to assist their efforts in taking Christ to North America and annually invests more than \$43 million in these convention partners.

With a challenge so great, we need the participation and resources of every Southern Baptist church. So please join me in praying and advocating for these efforts. Thank you again for your leadership and for everything you are doing to help push back lostness in North America.

Serving Together,

Kevin Ezell

President, North American Mission Board

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). The North American Mission Board has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2017 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

Relative to the listed Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that NAMB receives.

I. Assisting churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist Churches in the United States and Canada.

Representing the church plant class of 2016, Southern Baptists partners reported 732 new church starts. In addition, 232 churches were newly affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. This brings the total number of new congregations added in 2016 to 964.

We would like every church plant to become a multiplying church. That mindset is part of the DNA of every church plant with which NAMB is involved. Of the hundreds of existing plants in the United States and Canada that are 0-5 years old, NAMB has identified over 120 located in Send Cities as potential multiplying churches and are placing special emphasis on them. This means these plants are on a trajectory toward being self-supporting and have an intentional process to raise up and send out church planters and other missionaries. The goal is to create a movement that multiplies with indigenous leaders/planters in each city. To further assist churches in becoming multiplying, NAMB is preparing resources that will help churches implement this type of intentional pipeline in their congregations to increase the number and quality of future planters and other missionaries.

To determine the health of existing plants, NAMB is creating a quarterly reporting system for church planters. This tool will provide sending churches and other entities involved in a church plant a clear picture of the vitality of the plant.

NAMB recognizes that there must be exponentially more churches willing to become sending churches. Catch the Vision Tours and Sending Labs are in place to inform, motivate, and help develop more sending churches.

II. Assisting churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.

In 2015, NAMB embarked on a study of the top evangelistic churches around the nation. Churches from every state and of all sizes were researched. After receiving and analyzing the data, the “Your Church on Mission” blog was developed. Launched in 2016, the blog, located at www.namb.net/yourchurchoonmission, provides practical, strategic training to pastors to help them lead their churches on mission.

NAMB continues to promote the *3 Circles Life Conversation Guide*, available in both English and Spanish. To date, more than 2 million print guides have been distributed via sale orders, as well as through grants and gifts. A 3 Circles pastor’s kit is also available. In addition, we are developing three more evangelism kits in conjunction with influential evangelistic pastors.

NAMB provided three Engage 24 evangelism workshops in 2016. They were hosted in Nashville, Tennessee; Kansas City, Missouri; and Atlanta, Georgia. Almost 100 pastors attended each event. These workshops provided hands-on, practical training by some of the most evangelistic pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 2016, the Evangelism Response Center, which equips and mobilizes Southern Baptists to offer prayer and spiritual counseling via telephone or online chat with people all over North America, was streamlined and began utilizing user-friendly technology that incorporates texting. Plans are in progress to begin engaging lost people through social media to drive them to chat and text platforms, through which the gospel will be shared.

III. Assisting churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.

In total, NAMB provides multiple levels of support to more than 5,200 missionaries and more than 3,700 chaplains across multiple categories.

Southern Baptist chaplains serve in the U.S. military, state and federal prisons, hospice, hospitals, disaster relief, as volunteers, and in many other settings around the world. NAMB endorses chaplains on behalf of Southern Baptists and helps train and encourage them as they share Christ every day and have the opportunity to disciple those who already know Him.

NAMB continues to provide Southern Baptist church planting missionaries with the highest level of care through our Church Planter Care Ministry, which exists to “breathe vitality into the life and mission of our planters and their families.” This past year, the Planter Care Ministry team made over 26,000 personal contacts to our church planters and their families serving throughout North America in 2016. Those personal contacts came in the form of phone calls, handwritten notes, meetings, events in their cities, orientations at NAMB, and a variety of resources and gifts.

Currently NAMB is providing 89 missionary residences scattered among the Send Cities to enable planters to settle into their assignment for the first six to twenty-four months of their ministry. Transition to these cities can be very expensive and stressful for the planter and his family.

In 2016, NAMB hosted two Send Network Orientations in Alpharetta, Georgia attended by more than 250 church planting missionaries serving in 32 Send Cities. These planters were informed of and equipped on the Send Network values of brotherhood, multiplication, and kingdom — in addition to learning more about the Cooperative Program and the SBC. To further connect and encourage planters and their families serving in those cities, NAMB hosted several family and spouse enrichment events.

Send Network also provides free resources to equip planters and sending churches via our Send Network Blog. This blog offers new content every week along with videos and e-books from leading practitioners and Send Network staff. These and many others are just a few accomplishments this past year that add value to the Cooperative Program and other funds that NAMB receives.

NAMB has continued to create new technology systems and applications that provide churches and missionaries with a more robust, streamlined experience during the application process as well as higher accountability in missionary endorsement, and an overall better customer experience for churches and missionaries seeking to be mobilized.

NAMB teams, working with LifeWay Christian Resources, have also created a comprehensive online resource that will help churches assess, train, and coach missionaries as they live out the calling God has placed on their lives.

Additionally, a significant amount of time and resources has been used in the creation of a quarterly reporting system for church planters. This tool will provide sending churches and other entities involved in a church plant a clear picture of the vitality of the plant.

IV. Assisting churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.

The North American Mission Board provides missions education in both a traditional manner and in avenues that engage members in missions actions that spark and grow a lifelong passion and advocacy for missions.

NAMB continues to circulate the Send North America Activity Book for Children, with supplemental, online lessons available. As part of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® Week of Prayer for North American Missions, NAMB provides study lessons and videos for children, youth, and adults. NAMB produces missions education resources for the Cooperative Program’s web presence. *On Mission* magazine, NAMB’s primary print publication, carries missions awareness and advocacy features. Additionally, NAMB continues to resource Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) with missionary contacts for children, student, and adult curriculum materials produced by the auxiliary and provides

content review for all of those materials. NAMB produces missions education videos for WMU and for use in LifeWay student camps. NAMB also produces annual Baptist Men's Day resources and assists with other entity requests for materials to enhance missions awareness and education.

Through our GenSend Program, NAMB placed approximately 500 students in 21 Send Cities to locally engage various people groups within these large urban areas. This continues to be a great educational platform for creating awareness of ethnic diversity in the collegiate sector.

In support of Send Relief efforts, NAMB provides hands-on mission opportunities through mission experiences, service projects, training events, online resources, and consultation.

The North American Mission Board Disaster Relief Team partnered with state Baptist Conventions to provide help, healing, and hope for disaster survivors, churches, and communities. The "yellow shirts" demonstrated the love of Christ in very practical ways and shared the message of the gospel in love. These volunteers were willing to do anything they could to share God's love with people who had experienced great loss and trauma. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers provided support to pastors and church planters during times when the hearts of survivors were tender and open to the gospel. See more statistics for Disaster Relief participation under Accomplishment VI.

During 2016, Send Relief provided numerous avenues to see churches and church members engage in compassion ministry efforts. During the 2016 SBC Annual Meeting, churches from nine states collectively worked to serve the community of Ferguson, Missouri, and assisted First Baptist Church Ferguson in launching into new mission efforts. Post-convention, the mobile health clinics were utilized in five different states, providing churches with tangible ways for ministry engagement.

Appalachian Regional Ministry and Mississippi River Ministry continue to provide incredible ministry to key areas in the United States. In 2016, more than 99,000 volunteers from more than 3,300 churches were engaged in ministry projects, impacting these regions. These efforts resulted in more than 3,300 churches engaged in missions, producing more than 4,000 professions of faith. The Christmas backpack program yielded the highest ever totals with more than 50,000 backpacks being distributed.

In addition, our web pages related to Send Relief include suggestions and resources for several ways that churches and individuals can mobilize to serve their community by meeting tangible needs and sharing the gospel.

V. Assisting churches by providing leadership development.

NAMB planned and hosted several events with the focus of developing leaders throughout the SBC.

- Sending Labs — NAMB provided training for church leaders who are presently supporting church planting. There were a total of 356 people (representing 219 churches) who attended Sending Labs in 2016 to learn how to establish a sending culture in their churches.
- Pastor Roundtables — NAMB provided a venue for pastors to encourage one another and share best practices in sermon preparation and various aspects of leading a local congregation. In 2016, 173 pastors attended one of 11 roundtables. Each roundtable was facilitated by a pastor, with NAMB leadership serving as hosts in the process.

- Revitalization/Leadership Conferences — In partnership with State Baptist Conventions, NAMB provided seven leadership conferences for pastors and church leaders. These conferences provided encouragement and training for pastors — and last year’s conferences had a bonus session for aging pastors to encourage them in the effective transition of leadership. Through the Timothy + Barnabas ministry, NAMB provided scholarships to underwrite the cost for pastors and wives to attend these three-day training events. There were six events in 2016 with 632 pastors/leaders and 525 wives attending.
- Galatians 6:6 — NAMB, in partnership with the Great Commandment Network, provided scholarships for pastors/wives to attend five marriage retreats. Working through our pastor ambassadors, NAMB provided Pastor Appreciation Luncheons in various state conventions. These events celebrate our cooperative partnerships and challenge pastors to engage their churches through various missions opportunities.
- Engage 24 — NAMB’s evangelism team hosted three Engage 24 workshops, one in Nashville, Tennessee; one in Kansas City, Missouri; and one in Atlanta, Georgia. These workshops gave pastors an opportunity to hear from Southern Baptist pastors of top evangelistic churches on how they can practically lead on mission and help their churches live on mission. The workshop is a 24-hour engagement that begins with lunch on day one and ends by noon on day two. Each workshop has three or four speakers who lead various sessions and includes a Q&A panel to give pastors plenty of time to ask questions. Approximately 100 pastors attended each of the three Engage 24 workshops in 2016 and the feedback indicated it was well received.

In addition to the events listed above, NAMB’s evangelism team is working to provide evangelism resources and tools for pastors through the “Your Church on Mission” blog site. The blog is a great resource for pastors, providing articles and videos that focus on leading their church to be on mission.

Promoting leadership development among our ethnically diverse church leaders is also important to NAMB. In 2016, NAMB trained 15 Hispanic Church Planter Coaches from across the United States. These 15 have already trained another 50 Hispanic Church Planting Coaches in their regions and are also coaching 20 Hispanic Church planters. We cast vision to, motivated, and trained approximately 75 Hispanic pastors and more than 100 Hispanic church leaders in Church Planting. We trained more than 70 Hispanic pastors in the importance and best practices of disciple-making. We provided copies of the *3 Circles Life Conversation Guide* in Spanish to 34 Hispanic churches and started providing basic discipleship materials. In addition to the above, we led 17 workshops/conferences for pastors in relation to ethnic church planting/partners (Chinese, Korean, South East Asia groups).

VI. Assisting churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.

NAMB’s investment in Disaster Relief (DR) continues to be a positive and constructive force for opening doors and avenues for sharing the gospel and planting churches. State and local leaders continually seek to engage SBDR (Southern Baptist Disaster Relief) for long-term assistance in their communities.

During 2016, the entire SBDR network, as coordinated by NAMB, saw large numbers of natural disasters. In serving communities during these times, SBC volunteers contributed to the following statistics:

Volunteer Days	109,743
Ministry Contacts	35,181
Chaplaincy Contacts	31,592
Gospel Presentations	3,581
Professions of Faith	549
Total Meals	1,910,985
Bibles Distributed	6,748

The NAMB DR Team partnered with state Baptist Conventions to provide help, healing, and hope for disaster survivors, churches, and communities. The “yellow shirts” demonstrated the love of Christ in very practical ways and shared the message of the gospel in love. These volunteers were willing to do anything they could to share God’s love with people who had experienced great loss and trauma. SBDR volunteers provided support to pastors and church planters during times when the hearts of survivors were tender and open to the gospel.

During the past year, as responses and rebuild projects came to an end, there was tangible evidence that churches were going to be planted. In New York and New Jersey, reports continue to be shared with NAMB concerning how churches were strengthened and planted because of the commitment and hard work of SBDR volunteers.

In the Greater Detroit area of Michigan, SBDR volunteers, working with four church planters and a Church Planting Catalyst, were instrumental in cultivating many relationships that the planters could follow up with and start Bible studies that, prayerfully, will result in new churches being started in the area.

In many communities SBDR has been able to secure housing at no cost for long-term projects. This is a tribute to the value that community leaders see in the presence of Southern Baptists providing leadership to long-term recovery efforts. These open doors to housing locations enable Southern Baptists to assist residents and engage in opportunities to give a verbal witness to the gospel with less expenditure of Cooperative Program dollars for volunteer support. As SBDR volunteers in these communities, it provides a positive witness for Christ and allows local Southern Baptist churches to build rapport, increase their perceived value, and significantly multiply community relationships.

Louisiana Baptists have 260 new believers to follow up with and engage in discipleship as a direct result of the ministry of SBDR volunteers from two major flooding events in 2016. In addition, there are another 2,087 who heard a clear explanation of the gospel that ended in an invitation to accept the forgiveness only available in Christ Jesus. On the eastern seaboard where SBDR has supported Baptist State conventions responding in areas affected by Hurricane Matthew, the number of new believers in need of follow-up ministry is 131.

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the listed Ministry Assignments?

I. Assisting churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist Churches in the United States and Canada.

The challenge before us in planting churches is that as we raise the bar of expectations on those who are endorsed through the Send Network Planter Assessment process, the number of qualified prospects shrink. Raising the bar is the right thing to do because this will lead to healthier plants that will not simply survive, but will become multiplying churches of

the future across North America. With more churches stepping forward to engage in church planting, and the need for more new churches continuing to grow, finding qualified planters is a real challenge.

This challenge, though, also creates an opportunity for churches to change their approach and become the solution. Most churches involved in planting look for “the guy” they can latch onto and partner with to plant. While this is a positive step, it would be even better if that church raised up, from within their congregation, a prepared and qualified planter. NAMB is working on a planter pipeline resource/process that can be implemented in the local church or church plant, which will allow the church to discover, develop, and deploy larger numbers of planters and other missionaries to meet this challenge.

As our endorsed church planters grow in number, so also does the need for more supporting and sending churches. NAMB will take every opportunity to encourage every SBC church to be on mission. You can learn more about church mobilization by visiting www.namb.net/church-mobilization/index.

II. Assisting churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.

There are challenges ahead in the arena of evangelism and baptisms. Across North America, many churches seem to have lost their evangelistic fervor. That being the case, NAMB is committed to “stirring the dust” of evangelism with more intensity and focus. By providing hands-on, strategic training and resources for pastors, and calling pastors to the gospel and Great Commission, our goal is to bring evangelism back to the forefront of the conversation and activity of the local church. For a list of ways NAMB is doing this, see our response under Accomplishments II.

While not a new direction, it is an increased focus.

III. Assisting churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.

At this point, we anticipate no changes or new directions. We will continue to refine the recently introduced tools and processes.

IV. Assisting churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.

The challenges are as follows:

- Coordination of missions education and volunteer opportunities continues to create challenges for the SBC as a whole. NAMB must become more technologically advanced to communicate in a timely way and at the same time provide specialized opportunities. Society and individuals are more specialized in their desired areas of service and we must provide accordingly.
- Relevance is always a challenge as SBC church members are bombarded through multiple communication channels. Mission education and volunteer opportunities must be clearly communicated and contain compelling requests for involvement.
- One challenge Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) is currently facing is a change in volunteer engagement dynamics. A large segment of SBDR trained volunteers are not participating in disaster responses today. Due to the normal aging processes, and resultant health conditions, they are no longer able to perform the strenuous work or manage the challenging housing arrangements (sleeping on cots or floors) that are frequently required during disaster responses. Add to this a younger generation that

is engaging in disaster response in new ways. News outlets and social media bring images of hurting people into view immediately and repeatedly, creating a sense of urgency about responding. There are numerous avenues for engaging, more than ever before, and people with an urgency to respond will go with whoever offers them the opportunity first.

- This new generation of volunteers consumes information in quick bursts and expects to use it immediately, not at some unknown time in the future. No longer can we expect every volunteer to attend two- and three-day training events or deploy for a week to 10 days at a time. Younger adults have less time available to respond, and they want the time they do have to make a difference.

Opportunities:

- Societal changes compel us to provide opportunities delivered by current technology. This will allow us to engage much more broadly than historical communication methods.
- SBDR is responding to the need for faster, more streamlined, on-demand training by developing an online training component that will allow volunteers to connect and gain needed training on their own schedule. With the support and leadership of NAMB, SBDR leaders are developing standardized training for the SBDR network and churches or volunteers desiring to respond when disasters occur. This training will guide individuals through a process that can lead to becoming a fully trained, credentialed SBDR volunteer and connect them to leaders in their home state. In addition, our training options will provide a mechanism to offer “Spontaneous Untrained Volunteers” (SUV) or “Event Volunteers” to quickly access an orientation to the ministry of SBDR and to “just-in-time” response-specific training that can prepare them to successfully engage in a disaster response ministry once they arrive on scene. This is a significant step forward from previous responses to SUVs.

V. Assisting churches by providing leadership development.

NAMB will continue to work diligently to engage congregations in support of missions by engaging with missionaries and supporting church plants. The key to this engagement is the pastor – NAMB’s number one customer.

Though there are multiple ways to communicate with pastors, we often discover how pastors are living in information overload. Therefore, there is no single approach of communication that works. We are challenged to ensure that our multiple opportunities do not add to this information overload. This requires us to focus on constant internal communication that simplifies and prioritizes external communication.

Pastors continue to ask for opportunities to learn from fellow pastors. This desire gives us a great opportunity to provide venues to share best practices (evangelism workshops, revitalization conferences, pastor roundtables, sending labs, etc.). We also have the opportunity to deliver updated content of these best practices by utilizing multiple forms of electronic media. This allows content to be fresh, digestible, and self-paced.

VI. Assisting churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.

In 2017, Disaster Relief celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The ministry without question has provided Southern Baptists numerous inroads to communities that otherwise would have remained unengaged. As our Send Relief strategy develops, we desire to engage Southern Baptists in many new areas of mercy and compassion. Send Relief has six focus

areas – community engagement, foster care and adoption, human trafficking, refugees/internationals, collegiate, and disaster relief. Each of these areas naturally bridge many SBC churches to engage inner cities, various nationalities, and those of varied economic circumstances. These areas and the broad engagement spectrum will provide significantly more pathways for church members to become engaged in ministry. This expansion of service opportunities will create challenges as we seek to mobilize at a scale far beyond anything in SBC history.

The uses of technology and new social communication platforms will be both challenging and rewarding as we seek to see grass-roots movements created throughout the SBC network of churches. The focus of Send Relief to help create awareness of mercy and compassion ministry opportunities will provide ways Southern Baptists can be united in ministry.

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to the North American Mission Board for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

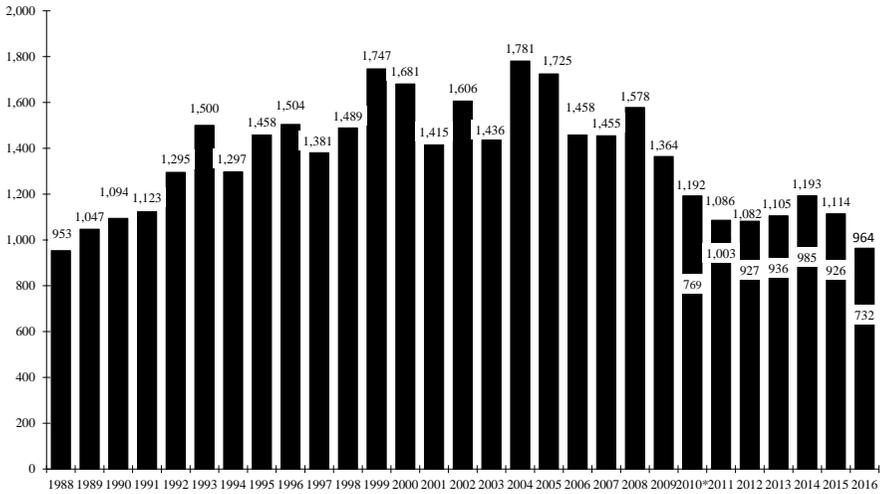
“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response:

Response from the North American Mission Board, February 7, 2017:

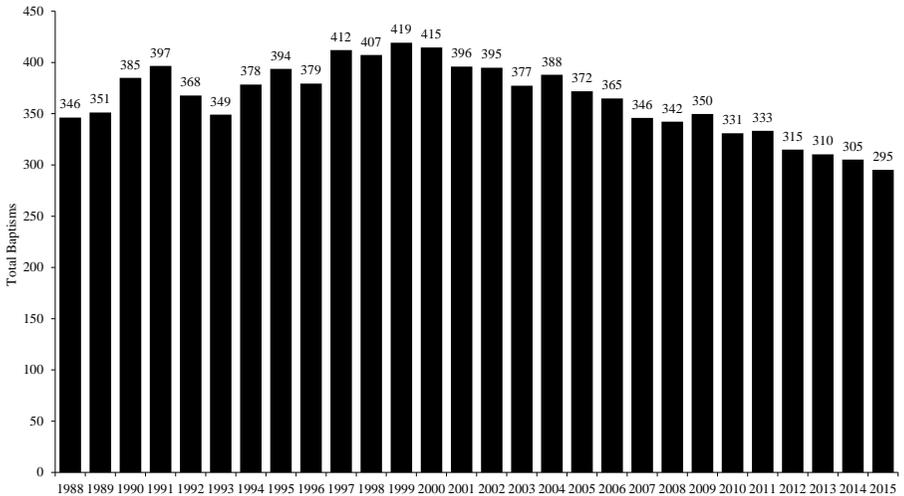
The North American Mission Board enjoys a positive, open relationship with the media—especially members of the Southern Baptist media. We have reviewed our long-standing policy regarding media coverage of North American Mission Board trustee meetings and believe that it continues to serve both NAMB and the media well. Under the policy, media are invited to attend public Board meetings. In addition, we have made it a practice to invite media to join trustees on vision tours when they are visiting NAMB missionaries in the cities in which they are meeting. Media are invited to join our City Celebration dinners with trustees as well. These provide opportunities to visit with and get better acquainted with trustees, missionaries, and NAMB staff. Also, the NAMB office of public relations is happy to arrange media interviews with the president of NAMB, as well as the chairman of the Board of Trustees at any time. We believe that keeping our committee meetings closed to the media allows our trustees to openly and freely discuss personnel and other confidential matters without the concern of information being shared inappropriately. This is an important factor in the ability of trustees to provide proper oversight and to conduct necessary business.

Figure 1—New Congregations (Church Plants Plus New Affiliates), SBC, 1988–2016



Source: Reports from State Directors of Missions compiled by the North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, GA
 * 2010 was the first year a SBC ID # was required for each reported congregation. In 2016, partners reported 732 new church starts and 232 new affiliations.

Figure 2—Baptisms Reported by SBC Churches, 1988–2015*
 (In Thousands)



Source: Annual Church Profile, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville, TN
 *At press time, 2016 baptisms were not available from LifeWay Christian Resources, but will be included in the 2017 SBC Annual.

SEMINARY COMPARATIVE DATA

1. Enrollment:

a. Total SBC Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) both funded and unfunded — (Total credit hours divided by 24):

	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	3-Yr. Rolling Average
GS	490	616	586	564
MWBTS	931	740	559	743
NOBTS	1,309	1,369	1,460	1,379
SEBTS	1,278	1,335	1,518	1,377
SBTS	2,294	2,208	2,187	2,230
SWBTS	<u>1,249</u>	<u>1,332</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>1,335</u>
Total	7,551	7,600	7,734	7,628

b. Actual FTEs approved by the Council of Seminary Presidents for Cooperative Program (CP) Seminary Funding Formula:

	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	3-Yr. Rolling Average
GS	388	468	480	445
MWBTS	931	740	559	743
NOBTS	1,120	1,167	1,254	1,180
SEBTS	1,278	1,335	1,518	1,377
SBTS	2,294	2,208	2,187	2,230
SWBTS	<u>1,249</u>	<u>1,332</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>1,335</u>
Total	7,260	7,250	7,422	7,311

c. CP allocation per SBC student:

	Total SBC Students	2015-2016 CP Allocation	2015-2016 CP Allocation Per Student
GS	490	\$ 4,097,604	\$ 8,362
MWBTS	740	4,627,709	6,253
NOBTS	1,309	7,221,576	5,517
SEBTS	3,111	7,886,842	2,535
SBTS	2,294	9,607,969	4,188
SWBTS	<u>1,249</u>	<u>8,227,361</u>	<u>6,587</u>
Total	9,193	\$41,669,061	\$33,442

d. Nonduplicating head count (number of students registered and taking one credit hour or more):

	Total Non-SBC Students	Total SBC Students	Total
GS	412	1,661	2,073
MWBTS	377	1,587	1,964
NOBTS	558	3,332	3,890
SEBTS	468	3,111	3,579
SBTS	872	4,501	5,373
SWBTS	<u>552</u>	<u>3,724</u>	<u>4,276</u>
Total	3,239	17,916	21,155

e. Basic Degrees awarded for the 2015-2016 academic year:

	M.Div. (3 year)	Th.M.	M.A. & other 2-year
GS	69	35	237
MWBTS	27	0	78
NOBTS	114	23	103
SEBTS	166	16	146
SBTS	234	40	105
SWBTS	<u>143</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>207</u>
Total	753	120	876

f. Total Tuition Revenue:

	2016-2017	2015-2016	2014-2015
GS	\$ 4,726,568	\$ 3,957,951	\$ 4,082,000
MWBTS	\$ 6,880,129	\$ 5,299,967	\$ 5,493,825
NOBTS	\$ 8,900,000	\$ 8,377,168	\$ 8,320,840
SEBTS	\$ 12,700,000	\$ 12,692,823	\$ 12,103,252
SBTS	\$ 22,248,174	\$ 19,936,434	\$ 19,388,549
SWBTS	<u>\$ 12,246,199</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,124</u>	<u>\$ 11,141,941</u>
Total	\$ 67,701,070	\$ 62,539,467	\$ 60,530,407

g. Credit Hour Costs: 2016-2017

	Non-SBC Student	SBC Student
GS	\$470	\$255
MWBTS	\$295/395*	\$225
NOBTS	\$335	\$225
SEBTS	\$526	\$263
SBTS	\$560	\$280
SWBTS	\$400	\$220

*\$295 for non-SBC Baptist/\$395 for non-Baptist

h. Annual Cost per Student (for a married student on campus—tuition, fees, books, housing):

	2016-2017 Non-SBC	2016-2017 SBC
GS	\$21,920	\$16,760
MWBTS	\$15,773	\$12,140
NOBTS	\$15,170	\$13,190
SEBTS	\$18,812	\$14,078
SBTS	\$24,460	\$17,740
SWBTS	\$13,820	\$10,220

i. Full-Time Faculty Salary Structure Range (Base Salary): Assistant Professor

	2016-2017	2016-2017	2016-2017
	Low	Median	High
GS	—	—	—
MWBTS	\$ 51,500	\$ 59,286	\$ 81,600
NOBTS	\$ 47,188	\$ 54,088	\$ 60,324
SEBTS	\$ 46,848	\$ 53,585	\$ 75,000
SBTS	\$ 49,000	\$ 56,840	\$ 76,500
SWBTS	\$ 53,000	\$ 58,600	\$ 64,000

j. Full-Time Faculty Salary Structure Range (Base Salary): Associate Professor

	2016-2017	2016-2017	2016-2017
	Low	Median	High
GS	\$ 60,000	\$ 64,500	\$ 69,000
MWBTS	\$ 40,800	\$ 69,001	\$ 91,777
NOBTS	\$ 54,992	\$ 63,548	\$ 65,840
SEBTS	\$ 47,023	\$ 53,585	\$ 67,762
SBTS	\$ 57,222	\$ 69,000	\$ 89,000
SWBTS	\$ 59,200	\$ 64,600	\$ 76,600

k. Full-Time Faculty Salary Structure Range (Base Salary): Full Professor

	2016-2017	2016-2017	2016-2017
	Low	Median	High
GS	\$ 69,000	\$ 75,000	\$ 81,000
MWBTS	\$ 40,800	\$ 62,600	\$ 91,856
NOBTS	\$ 59,350	\$ 66,738	\$ 77,458
SEBTS	\$ 50,470	\$ 61,644	\$ 95,500
SBTS	\$ 34,775	\$ 83,475	\$ 106,703
SWBTS	\$ 65,900	\$ 72,900	\$ 87,200

l. Percent of total budget that relates to personnel expenses based on each seminary's E&G budget (salaries and benefits):

	2016-2017	2016-2017	2016-2017
	Low	Median	High
GS	66%	68%	
MWBTS			
NOBTS	70.5%		
SEBTS		68%	
SBTS			
SWBTS	70.6%	60%	66.7%

m. Statement of Income for 2015-2016:

Seminary Statement of Income for 2015-2016							
	GS	MWBTS	NOBTS	SEBTS	SBTS	SWBTS	Total
Operating Income							
Tuition and Fees	\$ 4,212,868	\$ 6,880,129	\$ 8,377,168	\$ 12,692,823	\$ 21,412,312	\$ 12,246,199	\$ 65,821,499
Auxiliary Enterprises	\$ 631,000	\$ 1,429,624	\$ 2,122,288	\$ 4,247,329	\$ 7,137,214	\$ 7,513,391	\$ 23,080,846
Cooperative Program	\$ 4,097,604	\$ 4,829,288	\$ 7,633,199	\$ 8,356,106	\$ 9,607,969	\$ 8,227,361	\$ 42,751,527
Private Gifts	\$ 1,149,000	\$ 716,790	\$ 6,632,657	\$ 1,183,164	\$ 2,726,311	\$ 15,291,046	\$ 27,698,968
Endowment Income	\$ 2,313,586	\$ 84,290	\$ 1,459,447	\$ 207,138	\$ 3,779,520	\$ (3,774,239)	\$ 4,069,742
Investments	\$ 42,000		\$ 2,867,102		Included in Endowment Income		\$ 2,909,102
Return on Beneficial Interest Trusts	\$ 238,435				Included in Endowment Income	\$ 207,117	\$ 445,552
Other Income	\$ 115,507		\$ 668,236	\$ 315,700	\$ 560,558	\$ 696,418	\$ 2,356,419
Total Income	\$ 12,800,000	\$ 13,940,121	\$ 29,760,097	\$ 27,002,260	\$ 45,223,884	\$ 40,407,293	\$ 169,133,655
% of CP to Total Income	32.0%	35.0%	25.6%	31.0%	21.2%	20.0%	25.2%

INSTITUTIONS

GATEWAY SEMINARY OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

3210 E. Guasti Road, Ontario, California 91761

LARRY FELKINS, Chairman

JEFF IORG, President

Gateway Seminary has now completed one of the most significant seminary relocations in American history. We moved the primary campus of one of the ten largest seminaries in North America four hundred miles – while remaining fully operational. Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and friends banded together to accomplish this amazing step into the future. At key moments throughout the process, God has intervened and accelerated our progress.

The Seven Miracles

Gateway Seminary needed a confluence of miraculous circumstances to relocate our seminary and launch a new seminary for the 21st century. To borrow from Ephesians 3:20, we needed God to do something “above and beyond what we could ask or think.” God has moved among us and here are seven miracles we have experienced.

First, God provided a buyer for our Marin County property. We had three key terms – a cash sale, a two-year lease back of our campus to facilitate our transition, and the buyer had to assume all future development risks. God provided. We sold the property for \$85 million, secured a two-year lease back to continue full operations, and the new owner assumed all development responsibilities.

Second, God provided a building for our new primary campus. We developed ten parameters to consider for our new campus location. When we found the building, built in 2009 and left unfinished and unoccupied for five years, it met all ten parameters. We were able to purchase this facility and customize the finishes for our use in record time.

Third, God provided the right leadership team for this season in our seminary’s life. Our vice-presidents were uniquely suited for the challenges we have faced. God gave us the right leaders, at just the right time, to see us through the relocation. Our team of Gary Groat, Michael Martin, Adam Groza, Ben Skaug, Tom Hixson, and Jeff Jones gave sacrificial service and outstanding leadership throughout the project.

Fourth, God provided remarkable gifts to encourage us. During the relocation, we received an \$850,000 scholarship gift. We received a \$2.9 million land gift in Fremont, California where our new San Francisco Bay Area Campus opened in January 2017. We received a \$500,000 gift to purchase the new Casey and Doris DeShon Missionary-in-Residence home near the Ontario campus. We have received special gifts from about 40 past trustees for our Board Room. We also received special gifts to furnish the Charles Bass Library Study Room, the Jearl and Jo Smart Classroom, the Jerry Stubblefield Classroom, and the Henry and Marilyn Blackaby Prayer Room in the facility.

Fifth, God has given us governmental favor. The Ontario and Fremont communities, governmental employees, and political leaders have streamlined our relocation process.

Sixth, God has given us supernatural unity. We have moved with minimal external opposition and no internal conflict. Our 9,000 graduates have supported us, most of our 2,000 students have stayed with us, and many employees have sacrificed to relocate with us. The Gateway

family truly models the phrase so often spoken when we first announced the relocation decision – *the mission matters most*.

Seventh, God has sustained us through the process so that we now have two new anchor campuses in California, a new campus housing complex, multiple other real estate holdings, and a significant increase to our endowment. We are debt free today with more than \$105 million in real estate and endowment assets for future, kingdom ministry. We thank God for his supernatural provision.

The Ontario Campus

The new location in Ontario, California is open and fully functional. It has 155,000 square feet of space devoted to seminary functions – as well as tenants like the Inland Empire Baptist Association and the California Baptist Foundation (arriving later in 2017). The campus has also hosted more than 70 outside groups during its first year. These have included the North American Mission Board of Trustees, the Southern Baptist Fellowship of State Executive Directors, the Association of State Baptist Publications, the Korean Global Mission Conference, the network of Associations In Megacities, and the Southern Baptist Stewardship Development Association.

The campus is proving to be a well-designed learning center with state-of-the-art technology and many enhancements to the learning environment. It is also proving to be a significantly more efficient campus design than was used in our former traditional-style campus.

The Fremont Campus

The new location in Fremont, California is open and fully operational. It has 20,000 square feet of space devoted to seminary functions. The campus is well-located near major transportation arterials, including light rail. It is a thriving nerve center for commuter students across the Bay Area and Northern California.

The seminary has four full-time faculty members living in the Bay Area and working from this campus. Other full-time staff, part-time faculty, and adjunct faculty provide a continued robust presence for Gateway in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Regional and Online Programs

The overall impact of the relocation on regional campuses in Vancouver, Washington; Phoenix, Arizona; and Denver, Colorado was negligible. These campuses continued to offer their full programs during the transition and students reported minimal service disruptions. The enrollment at these locations remained steady during the relocation.

The overall impact of the relocation on the online program was positive. The online program has grown during the transition as students displaced during the relocation took more classes online. The program has also grown by continuing to enroll new students. The technological turnover from the old systems to the new systems had a manageable number of minor problems, but overall was not a factor in students being able to continue their online studies. The new systems are now fully operational.

Remote access classrooms

One of the innovations that the new facility in Ontario has made possible is the creation of remote access classrooms. These classrooms enable students to enroll in classes, participate in a classroom setting by videoconference, and enjoy live interaction with their professor and classmates.

The first student evaluations for this delivery system were positive and students requested access to more classes in subsequent semesters. Gateway is now enlarging this program to make it possible for many more students to attend seminary, with live participation from anywhere in the world where there is internet access.

Enrollment

The seminary's enrollment naturally declined during the final year prior to the relocation. This was caused by several factors – the pending move, the reluctance of new students to commit to enroll until the move was complete, the large number of students who accelerated their program to graduate before the relocation (meaning there were fewer carry-over enrollments), etc.

The good news is that enrollment has rebounded during the Spring 2017 semester. The seminary set records (going back at least to the year 2000) for masters-level students approved for admissions in a spring semester (305), new masters-level students enrolled for a spring semester (159), and masters-level students enrolled in a spring semester (750). Enrollment trends at Gateway are very positive.

One of the challenges to enrollment has been the slowness of some students to relocate from a distance to attend seminary. Many of them have been waiting for the new campus to formally open before moving across the United States or from an international setting. Now that we are open and have student housing readily available, we anticipate enrollment by these students will also increase.

Chinese-English bilingual program

Gateway will open a new Chinese-English bilingual program in 2017-2018. When fully operational, this program will offer the Master of Divinity, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry degrees. The first masters-level courses will be offered in Fall 2017. By using the remote access classrooms described above, Gateway will be able to train Mandarin-speaking leaders anywhere in the world where there is internet access.

The launch of this program was made possible by a special \$500,000 gift received in Fall 2016. We are delighted God has answered our prayers and made it possible for us to start this program right after completing our major relocation.

Grand opening events

As part of the grand opening of the Ontario campus, the seminary hosted a multi-day celebration in October 2016. Events included a Dedication Service, Academic Lecture, Gala Banquet, and Festival in Gateway Park. Hundreds of people attended these events to celebrate God's provision of the new location and the successful relocation. The faculty and staff served beyond the call of duty to make these events happen just weeks after completing their own personal moves and opening the new campus.

Leadership changes

Gary Groat, Vice President for Strategic Services, will retire in July 2017. He served at Gateway as the Vice President for Business Services and Chief Financial Officer from 2001-2017 and then transitioned to his new role. Mr. Groat was a very significant leader in all aspects of the relocation – including selling the former campus, completing the new campus in Ontario, and building the new campus in Fremont. He combined his business acumen and love for the Lord into a capstone career achievement in leading so much of the relocation. In appreciation, Gateway Seminary acknowledged him with the highest award given to a non-graduate for their contribution to the seminary – the Harold K. Graves Award.

Since 2016, Tom Hixson has been serving in conjunction with Mr. Groat and has now assumed his role as Vice President of Business Services and Chief Financial Officer. Mr. Hixson is a former Vice President at two Baptist universities and president of the Northwest Baptist Foundation. We are grateful for continued highly skilled leadership related to the seminary's business and financial matters.

During this past year, there were no retirements from the faculty. We added several new faculty members to both enlarge our team and replace two faculty members who retired last year. These additions include: Dr. Carl Mosser (Theology), Dr. John Taylor (New Testament), Dr. Kristen Ferguson (Online Director), Dr. Alicia Wong (Women’s Ministry), Dr. Dwayne Ulmer (Educational Leadership), and Dr. Eddie Pate (Evangelism).

Pressing forward

Gateway Seminary – your seminary in the West – is poised for its most significant years of expanding God’s kingdom around the world. We now have the finest facilities and the largest faculty in our history. Students are coming to us in large numbers and we are equipping them with biblical, theological, historical, and practical tools necessary to share the gospel around the world. We are grateful for our present strength, but readily acknowledge our progress rests on the sacrificial service of those who have gone before us.

We thank God for visionary forefathers who started our seminary – pastors with a dream later affirmed and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

We thank God for donors and friends who sustained us through challenging years of service in a very expensive and resistant former location.

We thank God for Southern Baptists who have given faithfully through the Cooperative Program – our financial lifeline for more than 70 years.

We thank God for people who have prayed for us and continue to pray for us, encourage us, promote us, and stand with us.

The past few years have been challenging, but the results have been worth the effort and sacrifice. We pledge to continue serving Southern Baptists across the Western United States and around the world with world-class seminary training. Our biblical focus, missional passion, and global scope remain strong. We press on!

Enrollment Report

Gateway operates six fully accredited campuses in Ontario, California; Fremont, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Denver, Colorado; Vancouver, Washington and a transitional location in Brea, California.

In addition, Gateway supports 65 Contextualized Leadership Development centers in partnership with Southern Baptist churches, associations, and state conventions. The centers offer courses in English, Spanish, Burmese, Chin, Korean, Thai, Lao, Khmer, Karen, Portuguese, Mein and Nepalese.

Gateway enrolled 2,073 students in all programs at all locations in 2015-2016 and graduated 371 students.

Full-Time Equivalent Report by Campus for 2015–2016

<u>Campus</u>	<u>Total Enrollment</u>	<u>Total FTE</u>	<u>Total SBC Formula FTE</u>	<u>Total SBC Funded FTE</u>
Northern California	872	332	242	242
Southern California	319	117	92	92
Pacific Northwest	53	16	15	9
Rocky Mountain	98	32	31	24
Arizona	115	28	28	21
CLD Centers	457	105	82	0
Online Courses	159	(104)	0	0
TOTALS	2,073	630	490	388

* Online courses are not included

Full-Time Equivalent Enrollment by Degree Program

	<u>2011–2012</u>	<u>2012–2013</u>	<u>2013–2014</u>	<u>2014–2015</u>	<u>2015–2016</u>
Prebaccalaureate					
Diploma-CLD	203	200	198	236	214
Diploma-Other	36	34	36	27	6
Basic Degrees					
MDiv	243	260	259	216	169
MA	104	119	117	67	73
Special Status (includes PMT)	20	20	23	23	26
Advanced Degrees					
DMin	81	70	113	121	117
ThM	12	6	8	4	4
PhD	30	26	30	28	21
Total FTE*	729	735	784	722	630
Total SBC Funded FTE*	426	433	480	468	388
Nonduplicating Enrollment	2,276	2,087	1,977	2,473	2,073
New Students	774	805	635	883	576
Graduates	249	287	309	237	371

* Online courses are not included

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: Gateway Seminary has an established policy that meetings of the Board of Trustees, including standing committee meetings, are open to the public – including the media. The Board, including the standing committees, reserves the right to meet in Executive Session when necessary.

MIDWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
5001 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, Missouri 64118

DWIGHT A. BLANKENSHIP, Chairman

JASON K. ALLEN, President

Confidence and trust in an institution within most any sphere is difficult to come by in our present day - much less an institution of higher learning. Amidst reports, and actualities, of the demise of colleges and seminaries across the country in areas such as moral/ethical issues or financial stewardship difficulties, Midwestern Seminary strives to maintain the trust and confidence of the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by adhering to our confessional statements and carefully stewarding the resources provided to our care. Over the past four years, through intensive planning and constant prayer, every aspect of Midwestern Seminary has been geared toward equipping pastors, ministers and missionaries *for the Church*. This vision touches on every aspect of seminary life: the curriculum we teach; the programs we offer; the events we host; the personnel we hire; and the community and culture we cultivate. It brings great institutional joy to see this vision being adopted locally, regionally, and across the Southern Baptist Convention.

It is with laser-focus that we understand and carry out our mission, which entails the assurance that Southern Baptist churches have preachers of God's Word. In a culture where all things biblical and sacred are being cast aside at an alarming rate, a seminary's top priority must be to strengthen the preaching and teaching capabilities of its students. From an institutional vantage point, we continue to emphasize our residential Master of Divinity program. This degree track is the gold standard in theological education, offering the complete toolkit for ministry service. While not every graduate will minister within a local church setting, seminary students should view their calling through the prism of serving the church. There is no better degree for preparing a student for ministry than the M.Div. We are grateful to the churches of the SBC for their confidence in this institution, sending students and entrusting us to further their theological education and training.

Each new year, when we contemplate what has taken place at the seminary over the past year and set goals for the new one, it is clear to see the Lord's evident blessings. Institutional momentum and goodwill on every front continues to progress Midwestern Seminary forward at a brisk pace within the denomination and the greater evangelical world. We are thrilled with the amazing things we witness on a weekly basis, and God is granting us wisdom and grace in evaluating, strengthening, and improving every aspect of the organization.

Among the many exciting happenings aforementioned, two stand out: trustee approval to move forward with a forthcoming campus student center, and the launching of the Center for Public Theology.

During its Fall Trustee Meeting on October 17-18, 2016, the Board voted unanimously to move forward with plans to construct a 39,000 square foot student center in the heart of Midwestern Seminary's campus. The need for such a facility has existed since the school's inception in 1957, and now this need will become reality. The proposed two-story center will include a fully-equipped gymnasium; exercise and aerobic areas; education and recreational spaces; a campus bookstore and resource center; a new cafeteria and café; seminar-style classrooms; offices for student services; campus events and select administrative staff; and commons areas to foster mentorship, discipleship, and campus community. Of the nearly \$12 million dollar cost of the facility, more than \$9 million has been raised, and the plan is to accomplish the project debt-free. We are grateful for the trust and confidence of our trustees in enabling us to move

forward with this much-needed complex. All plans point to breaking ground on the project in April 2017.

At the 2016 Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting, Midwestern Seminary launched the Center for Public Theology (CPT) under the direction of Dr. Owen Strachan. Due to a concern that the church struggles in knowing how to engage culture, the aim of the CPT is to prepare believers theologically to engage matters of society, politics, and culture knowledgeably and confidently, yet humbly and in a Christ-like spirit. The Center will carry out this task through a regular podcast entitled, "The City of God," and through public events hosted on campus. The Center's first major public event was the C.W. Scudder Lectures, which was held on September 22-23, 2016. The guest lecturer was Dr. Kevin Vanhoozer of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and his lecture focus was "The Pastor-Theologian as Minister of the Gospel."

Midwestern Seminary is divided into three divisions: an academic division, an administrative division, and an institutional relations division. On the academic front, we are pleased to announce the largest fall enrollment in the seminary's history. In fact, over the past five years, the Lord has seen fit to more than double the enrollment here. By any measure, this is a remarkable feat to which we give God all the glory. It is deeply encouraging to everyone at Midwestern Seminary to know that Southern Baptist churches are entrusting the training of the next generation of pastors and ministry leaders to our care. Our doctoral program continues to expand at a robust rate with its modular format appealing to students from across the nation, and this fall a residential aspect of the Ph.D. program, called "The Residency," was rolled out; and the third year of our Accelerate program, which enables students to earn bachelor's and M.Div. degrees in five years, has surpassed even our greatest expectations. Our aforementioned residential M.Div. program continues to expand, providing students with all of the tools necessary in theological education to prepare them well for their ministry calling. Midwestern Seminary and Midwestern Baptist College's online presence continues to increase at a rapid pace, enabling students across the globe access to state-of-the-art and the highest quality theological education. In addition, through our Online Connect program, all of our online courses have been tailored to meet students' individual ministry education and training needs.

Within our Institutional Administration division, the Lord has allowed us to continue to increase our financial health. We are keenly aware of the numerous challenges associated with theological education, and our focus on stewardship of the resources we have been provided is something we take with utmost seriousness. Our business model operates in a way that maximizes the overwhelming generosity of Southern Baptists and makes the work of training students for gospel service possible. Looking forward, we will rely on, in even greater measure, the generosity of Southern Baptists as is evidenced by our budget, which relies on the Cooperative Program for nearly 35% of our budgetary needs. We pray that Southern Baptists will continue to faithfully channel these funds to their seminaries, and that God will continue to bless the efforts of his people through an ever-growing Cooperative Program. May Southern Baptists throughout our convention know of Midwestern Seminary's gratitude for all they have done and are doing to support the Lord's work here.

Our third division, Institutional Relations, efforts in the fields of recruiting, admissions, marketing, retention, and advancement have continued to be blessed by the Lord and have been extremely fruitful. Our very best energies are spent expanding the mission and ministry footprint of the school through this department. Such efforts have resulted in the aforementioned record enrollment and seminary growth. The ultimate aim of this division is that more pastors, evangelists, missionaries, and ministers will be thrust into Kingdom service both in the present and well into the future. Another way this is accomplished is through the

growth of a valuable resource called FTC.com. This website has received millions of visitors in its year-and-a-half of existence, as it is daily providing useful articles, wisdom and insight on topics and issues facing today's ministry leaders. Lastly, but certainly not least, is the incredible financial blessing the Lord has provided through the work of our Advancement team. This past fall, Midwestern Seminary received a \$1 million matching grant from the Mabee Foundation, as well as a \$200,000 gift from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention toward the student center project. Additionally, other extremely kind seminary friends have substantially supported the school's Legacy Fund, including a \$300,000 year-end gift, which makes a direct impact on every student through keeping tuition and fee costs low and allowing them to be deployed into ministry without crippling debt.

At Midwestern Seminary, we understand the complex world in which we minister. We understand the incredible responsibility that is ours to steward on behalf of Southern Baptists to train the next generation of pastors and ministry leaders *for the Church*. We understand that every decision we make points us in the direction of being faithful to the call that our great denomination has given us here in Kansas City. The people of the Southern Baptist Convention can be confident that this institution will continue to be faithful to her churches in fulfilling what they have charged us with by the way of ministry assignment and by the way of doctrinal convictions.

Sincerely,

Jason K. Allen, Ph.D.

President

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2017 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Midwestern College, through its residential and online degree programs, provides students who are called to ministry with a rigorous academic environment designed to prepare them to engage a rapidly changing culture. The ultimate goal of our academic programming is to prepare the next generation of pastors, missionaries and ministers for kingdom service *for the church*.

In 2016, Midwestern continued to populate and implement its Accelerate program, designed to enable students to earn a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies and a Master's of Divinity degree within five years. This program enables these students to engage more quickly in full-time ministry, while keeping debt to a minimum.

Midwestern further developed its FUSION program as well. This unique missions training track offers students specialized equipping in serving local churches and evangelizing the lost around the globe. After rigorous academic and physical training in the first semester, by the second semester of their first year, FUSION students deployed into some of the most austere

locations in the mission field. Upon returning, students continued toward the completion of their training over the next three years to a BA in Christian Ministry with a Missions Focus.

Midwestern College also continued its Contextualized Leadership Development and Adult Degree Completion emphases, which provide theological education both for adults who have yet to complete an undergraduate degree or who desire certificate training to assist their lay ministry. Such programs offer opportunities for these students to serve local churches in multiplied ways in addition to traditional undergraduate education.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is committed to emphasizing the Master of Divinity degree as its primary track for ministry preparation. This degree equips students most fully and effectively to serve the church in pastoral ministry, Christian leadership, evangelism, missions, and more. Our residential Master of Arts degrees train students theologically for multiple roles within the ministry and are for those seeking additional specialized training. Midwestern Seminary also offers 100% online degrees for those students needing a more flexible approach to theological education or who cannot relocate to our Kansas City campus.

In 2016, Midwestern Seminary continued to provide and encourage students to pursue the Master of Divinity degree. Regardless of what new changes, thought, or direction may arise in theological education, this degree is the gold standard degree for all those called of God to gospel ministry and who seek to serve local churches.

Midwestern Seminary expanded its online course offerings and degree programs while providing more opportunities for online students to come to the main campus for instruction in a hybrid environment. Through practicum-based coursework, students worked with ministry leaders in the field for hands-on ministry training. This education format further enables students a degree program that is custom fit to their educational needs. Midwestern believes its quality, online programs have many strengths for ministry training and seeks to provide further training through regular on campus interaction.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

The Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry degree programs are designed for persons seeking high-level competence in the practice of pastoral and other ministry leadership roles within the local church. Additionally, the Doctor of Counseling degree prepares students to practice professional counseling at the highest level of clinical competence. Although it includes theory and research, the emphasis of the degree is on increasing professional skills. Overall, the professional doctoral seminars that Midwestern Seminary offers involve rigorous pre- and post-research and writing, and then students attend five-day, on-campus intensives. Students taking two to three seminars a year can remain in their place of full-time ministry service while pursuing professional doctoral education.

In 2016, Midwestern's continual evaluation of professional doctoral emphases resulted in the addition of new emphases as well as the option of a path for D.Min. graduates to pursue a Ph.D. Further innovation took place in the area of incorporating online delivery to components of the seminar experience.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

The primary focus of the Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies degree is to prepare students to serve local churches as teachers, pastors, and leaders on the highest academic, professional, and spiritual level. The modular Ph.D. seminars involve five-day intensives

held on Midwestern Seminary's campus and require significant pre-seminar and post-seminar research and writing. Students taking two to three seminars a year can remain in their place of full-time ministry service while pursuing research doctoral education.

In 2016, Midwestern Seminary implemented "The Residency," which benefits Ph.D. students by merging independent, advanced, theological research with cohort-based mentorship and oversight, adding regular, intensive engagement with faculty and other theological leaders within the regular rhythm of the unique, on-campus ministry culture of Midwestern. In this community context, The Residency provides students with a unique avenue for following their calling to serve churches through the academy.

Based on each of MBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how MBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Midwestern College is well positioned to continue to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable pre-baccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2017, Midwestern will continue to grow its Accelerate, which enables students to get into their ministry context more quickly and affordably. Additionally, continued focus will be upon the Fusion program, which provides first-hand missions training and experience like no other opportunities. Both of these programs present opportunities for Midwestern College graduates and students to serve the church, both locally and across the globe, in ways that glorify God and interact positively with an ever-declining spiritual culture.

Midwestern College will look to update its Contextualized Leadership Development Program to position Midwestern to better serve local churches and those who desire further theological training in those settings.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

Midwestern Seminary is well positioned to continue to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable master's level, theological education. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2017, Midwestern will continue to prioritize the Master of Divinity degree as the gold standard degree for those seeking to serve local churches as pastors and ministry leaders.

In addition, Midwestern Seminary will continue to prioritize its new Master of Theology degree designed specifically to provide a path for those who did not complete study in the biblical languages to do so on their way toward doctoral study.

Midwestern will continue to strengthen partnerships with local churches through the Midwestern Training Network and extension campuses offered at key partner churches in Ames, Iowa and St. Louis, Missouri.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

Midwestern Seminary is well positioned to continue to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable, professional doctoral education. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2017, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars in its professional degrees – D.Min., D.Ed.Min., D.Coun. – as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring professional doctoral education.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

Midwestern Seminary is well positioned to continue to prepare students to engage a rapidly changing global environment with the end goal of preparing men and women for kingdom service *for the church*. Whether future years bring further economic concerns or threats to religious liberty at home or abroad, Midwestern is committed to fulfilling its ministry assignment of providing affordable, professional doctoral education. A key to this is regular innovation and adaptation built upon Midwestern's core degree programs.

In 2017, Midwestern will continue to refine the format of modular doctoral seminars as well as offer such in conjunction with other ministry partners to further equip ministers desiring research doctoral education. We will also launch "The Residency," which will offer unique opportunities on campus for those able to relocate to our Kansas City campus.

ENROLLMENT

Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	16	4	37	28	39
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	145	56	55	71	129
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	262	243	291	365	398
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	639	644	674	795	1,000
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	404	436	537	682	971
Total	1,466	1,383	1,594	1,941	2,537
Credit Hours					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	43	10	104	57	84
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	1,113	354	274	405	525
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	5,473	4,503	5,365	6,647	6,940
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	8,157	8,130	7,581	9,143	12,022
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	2,667	3,433	3,334	3,896	4,925
Total	17,453	16,430	16,658	20,148	24,496
SBC Annual Formula FTE					
Annual Total	604	507	559	740	931
Three-year rolling average	536	554	557	602	743
New Student Unduplicated Headcount Enrollment					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	7	1	19	19	19
CLD (taking Associate level courses)	27	10	10	44	93
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate)	57	94	118	164	170
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	211	249	286	359	441
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	118	110	89	191	307
Total	420	464	522	777	1,030
Graduates					
Prebaccalaureate (Dip-Ministering Wives)	1	2	0	0	0
Undergraduate (Bachelor's & Associate [CLD graduates])	41	91	38	49	56
Basic Degrees (MDiv, MACE, MACM, MACO, MA-)	71	95	121	104	128
Advanced Degrees (PhD, DMin, DEdMin)	28	21	25	30	38
Total	141	209	184	183	222

Cooperative Program (CP)

Allocation and Educational and General Expenses	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Total CP Allocation	\$3,995,576	\$4,161,068	\$4,465,430	\$4,728,405	\$4,805,338
Total Educational & General (E&G) Expenses	\$8,921,179	\$10,187,090	\$11,123,082	\$12,064,877	\$12,953,638
CP allocation per SBC annual formula FTE	\$ 6,615*	\$ 8,207	\$ 7,988*	\$ 6,390	\$ 5,161
CP allocation per unduplicated headcount student	\$ 2,726	\$ 3,009	\$ 2,801	\$ 2,436	\$ 1,894
CP allocation per total credit hours	\$ 229	\$ 253	\$ 268	\$ 235	\$ 196
CP allocation per total E&G expenses	\$ 0.448	\$ 0.408	\$ 0.401	\$ 0.392	\$ 0.371
E&G expenses per unduplicated headcount student	\$ 6,085	\$ 7,366	\$ 6,978	\$ 6,216	\$ 5,106
E&G expenses per total credit hours	\$ 511	\$ 620	\$ 668	\$ 599	\$ 529

Faculty

Full-time teaching & administrative faculty	32	30	30	29	32
Part-time/adjunctive faculty	68	60	63	56	86
Full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty	36	41	37	34	47

*The CP allocation per SBC annual formula FTE has been to reflect accurate CP allocation.

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: As a seminary owned and governed by the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to practice, in every appropriate way, full openness and transparency. To this end, it has long been Midwestern Seminary’s practice for the Board of Trustee plenary meetings, unless in executive session, to be open to the public for news media and any other guests who desire to attend.

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126

DAN WILSON, Chairman**CHARLES S. KELLEY, JR., President***Introduction*

Greetings from the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary! Thank you for your partnership and that of Southern Baptists in our ministry of preparing the rising generation of SBC churches, missions, and ministry leaders. The Cooperative Program plays a huge role in our institution and we look for every opportunity to make that clear to our students. The required class on the Cooperative Program is taught in a way that both personalizes it to the student's personal circumstances and provides resources the student can use to teach church members more about CP. Operating our seminary truly would be very difficult without this partnership. Thank you again for remaining engaged with us.

As you will see in our report, the last year was a fruitful year for us. We had one of the largest enrollments in our history. Every ten years we go through a very intensive process to reaffirm our accreditation with our regional accreditor (SACS) and our national accreditor (ATS). This was the year for that process. It was indeed a very intense experience, but it has been a positive experience. Our regional accreditor (SACS) has given us formal approval for another decade of accreditation. Our national accreditor (ATS) has also given us formal approval for another decade of accreditation.

For several years we have been operating a dig site in Israel at the ancient city of Gezer. This summer, the team made some extremely significant discoveries, giving new insight into the Bible and the ancient world. We opened a Museum of Archaeology and the Bible on campus, giving our students and guests an opportunity to see a number of artifacts from the ancient world, significant Bible manuscripts, and published editions of Scripture through the centuries. Our programs in apologetics, expository preaching, and counseling continue to be very popular with our students.

We remain intensely focused on access, with a view toward making every program we have accessible for both residential and non-residential programs through multiple delivery systems. We believe strongly in the distinctive value of residential programs, but we also made undergraduate, graduate, and all doctoral programs, including the Ph.D., available to those students who are called but unable to relocate to New Orleans. These programs are offered through on-campus programs, off-campus programs, mentoring programs, online programs, and hybrid programs combining more than one delivery system. Our goal is to make it possible for anyone God calls to receive some form of theological education, whatever their particular circumstances might be.

One of the most distinctive aspects of NOBTS is our ministry engagement. We offer Christian counseling to our community as we prepare our students to help those who are struggling with their souls and with life. We have a partnership with an addiction recovery program located across the street from our campus. In addition to working together on various projects, we do ministry training for both men and women in their program. Watching the progress of the gospel in their lives is amazing. Our work in maximum security prisons continues. We are now in five prisons in four states. In one prison alone, our inmate students have started more than 20 congregations on the cell blocks. Conversions, discipleship, and church planting are following the training of inmate ministers in each of the programs we operate. Added to these ongoing ministries are evangelistic visitations in the neighborhoods around us, church planting

partnerships with the local association, state convention, and the North American Mission Board, as well as various mission trips at home and abroad.

As we look toward the future, we see a horizon bright with opportunity but also filled with challenges. Next year will be the 100th anniversary of NOBTS. As we prepare to celebrate our first century and move into our second century of ministry, we do so with joy, excitement, and gratitude. The biggest opportunities are the many paths available for theological education and the tremendous need for both ministers and lay leaders to be prepared to serve the Lord. The biggest challenges are the need to keep theological education affordable for anyone God calls, the changing culture of the United States and its effects on the church, and the decline that is gripping more and more SBC churches. We must do the best job we have ever done in theological education and ministry preparation because our churches will need the best leaders we have ever had. Thank you again, Southern Baptists, for your partnership in the gospel. The Cooperative Program is the greatest driver of ministry and missions in the history of our nation. Your support is making a profound impact at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Yours and His,

Chuck Kelley

President

NOBTS

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2017 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

Please describe accomplishments, relative to each of your convention assigned Ministry Assignments, in the past year that create “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary receives.

The greatest challenge that our students face is finances. Many current ministers remember paying \$150-200 for an entire semester at seminary. Today’s students pay over \$200 per credit hour (about \$750 per course), and over \$900 per course for online classes. The value added from Cooperative Program funding is that it makes theological education more affordable for these students. Most of these students will not go to “top shelf,” well-paying jobs. They will go to church plants, mission settings, small churches, or entry-level church staff positions. Unlike most professionals (i.e. attorneys or medical doctors), their earnings will not be sufficient to repay large student loans. Some missions volunteers already have to delay their going to the missions setting because they cannot afford to do so. NOBTS has no other source for \$7-8 million dollars per year, which comprises just over a third of our total budget. The Cooperative Program is not just a “value added,” it is our lifeline without which we could not exist. It allows most students the freedom to enter ministry without a large student debt.

I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Leavell College of NOBTS had 1,657 undergraduate students taking courses for credit on the main campus, at extension centers, and by Internet, a modest increase over the previous year. This does not count for the approximately 600 not-for-credit certificate students offered in church and associational settings. The “value added” is that these are typically older, second career people called into ministry later in life who can fill the many bivocational and small church ministry positions in the SBC. Many of them are also ethnic or minority students who desire to serve in ethnic church settings, particularly African-American, French-speaking

Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean settings. These older students do not fit well in a typical Baptist college setting, but Leavell College is designed specifically for them. Leavell College also had 574 for-credit certificate students. Many of these certificates were for laypersons in churches, from large to small, as well as in National Baptist churches, predominantly African-American SBC churches, Haitian churches, and Hispanic churches. Our certificate programs are our most ethnically diverse programs, which addresses the initiatives in this area by the SBC.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

NOBTS had 1,692 master's level students last year, 1,059 of them being Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree students, which we consider the standard ministry preparation degree. However, many students at NOBTS and other seminaries have transferred to the new shorter M.A. degrees offered online, at extension centers, and on campus. The remaining 633 master's level students were in these various degree programs providing focused training for music ministry, discipleship ministry, counseling ministry, or for specific areas in theological and biblical studies. We consider the training of master's degree students to be our primary assignment from the convention and it is the focus of our efforts. We believe that the "value added" of these degrees from NOBTS is particularly in their practical focus – with courses such as interpersonal skills, church revitalization, discipleship strategies, and church leadership and administration, along with the standard biblical, theological, and ministry courses offered in most seminary degrees. We strive to prepare each of our graduate students (particularly M.Div. students) in seven crucial areas of ministerial competency – Biblical exposition, Christian theological heritage, disciple making, interpersonal skills, servant leadership, worship leadership, and spiritual and character formation.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

The D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) and D.Ed.Min. (Doctor of Educational Ministry) at NOBTS continue to be among the strongest such programs in the nation, with 376 students enrolled. The D.Min. program continues to be one of the largest and best such programs, with 321 students enrolled. Of that number, 63 are Korean D.Min. students, although enrollment in this program has been hindered by strict enforcement of immigration rules. The NOBTS D.Ed.Min. is one of just five such programs in the United States, and has 55 students enrolled. The "value added" of these professional doctoral programs is that as Southern Baptists are upwardly mobile and better educated, they desire a better educated clergy. In many churches, the D.Min. has become the required degree for consideration of prospective pastors. This program provides students with that credentialing, and does so with excellence. Since the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. programs only accept ministers with three or more years of experience, these degrees probably do more than any academic degree to help ministers make mid-career adjustments in their own ministry that positively impact the churches and ministries in which they serve.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

NOBTS has developed two delivery systems to make our Ph.D. program accessible for interested nonresidential students wherever they live, thereby not requiring the students to live at the main campus. Seminars and colloquia in the following six Ph.D. majors are offered in a block format that allows students to meet in on-campus sessions from Thursday through Saturday, three or four times during the semester. Campus meetings may be supplemented by virtual, real-time sessions between class meetings.

- Christian Education
- Christian Leadership
- Evangelism
- Great Commission Studies
- Missions
- Psychology and Counseling

In June 2016, the ATS Board of Commissioners approved a three-year experiment allowing an exception to the Commission's on-campus Ph.D. residency requirement, allowing roughly two-thirds of the Ph.D. program's total credits to be available to nonresidential students through synchronous interactive video. Students who are unable to take advantage of the campus' scholarly environment can participate fully in seminars and colloquia through live Internet connections. Some workshop courses still will require travel to the main campus in January or summer breaks.

Also, courses in the following ten Ph.D. majors have the option of being taken via synchronous interactive video:

- Biblical Exposition
- Biblical Interpretation
- Christian Apologetics
- Christian Education
- Christian Leadership
- Church History
- Evangelism
- Great Commission Studies
- Missions
- Theology

These new delivery systems have created a much greater interest in the NOBTS Ph.D. program. Last year, 163 students enrolled in the Th.M., Ed.D., D.M.A., and Ph.D. programs. NOBTS launched a new Doctor of Education (Ed.D) program in Fall 2014, and nine students are enrolled so far. The Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) degree program enrolled 17 students last year, which was among the most DMA students ever at NOBTS, and the largest such program in the SBC. NOBTS intends to add two new Ph.D. majors in Apologetics and in Christian Leadership next year. The "value added" of these programs is to train the next generation of seminary and college teachers, in addition to providing highly trained practitioners in every area of ministry.

Based on each of NOBTS' Convention assigned ministry statements, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how NOBTS is accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

I. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

The greatest challenge confronting most undergraduate students is the problem of affordability and student debt. Many of these older students have children and it is very difficult for them to juggle several jobs (ministry and secular) in order to get by while earning their theological education.

II. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

Two main challenges confront masters' level theological education. One challenge is the proliferation of many Master of Arts degrees that are significantly shorter than the M.Div.

degree. Obviously, these M.A. degrees do not offer as much training as the longer M.Div. degree, but many students are taking them as a shortcut to ministerial training. The second challenge is the proliferation of new competitors. The six SBC seminaries had little direct competition a decade or so previously, but now there are many competitors. Baptist colleges are offering over 50 master's degrees in theological and ministerial areas. New CBF-connected seminaries have arisen all around the South, most of which offer tuition-free training. Some online seminaries have gobbled up over 10,000 students, many of whom are Southern Baptist. These new competitors create a drain on our pool of potential students and make it more difficult to provide theological education as efficiently or cost-effectively as we could have otherwise. One new opportunity we are offering is that we now have the Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) degree available online in both Korean and Spanish. We hope this will help train leaders in these important segments of SBC churches and around the world.

III. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

Our professional doctorate programs are among the best in the country, so we anticipate no major changes. We will investigate new locations and language groups to serve in the days to come.

IV. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

The key to the success of a Ph.D. program at NOBTS is offering the seminars in a format that is accessible for nonresidential students. The number of ministers around the New Orleans area is limited (due to the small Baptist population in South Louisiana), but the number of students who would come to our campus for a short term visit is large, as evidenced by our D.Min. program. So the key to providing training at the Ph.D. level is a nonresidential format that nevertheless maintains the highest academic standards. As noted earlier, we have designed both a block format and a synchronous video format for research doctoral delivery options to address the needs of our nonresidential students. With special approval from our ATS accreditation agency for an experiment, NOBTS offers all but two of its Ph.D. majors in formats accessible for nonresidential students, with few trips to the main campus required.

Statistical Tables

Enrollment

Basic Degrees	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Graduate Certificate	48	150	155	161	125
M.Div.	1,126	1,185	1,045	1,096	1,061
M.A.C.E.	157	149	137	172	170
M.M.C.M.	14	35	37	34	26
D.Min.	289	285	287	301	313
D.Ed.Min.	68	61	64	56	55
Th.M.	43	60	60	48	75
Ph.D.	127	136	140	128	64
D.M.A.	8	8	8	16	17
M.A.M.F.C.	29	41	36	34	33
M.A.	65	56	58	75	119
Diploma	3	1	0	0	0
Certificate	637	675	637	677	687
Associate	239	225	156	135	144
Baccalaureate	642	667	640	818	814
Internet	*214	*288	*373	*491	*540
Nondegree	75	95	93	102	82
Formula allowances for off campus programs	182	187	178	163	157
Total FTE Enrollment	3,784	3,849	3,705	3,955	3,890

* This amount is included in the degree programs.

Annual Accumulative Enrollment (nonduplicating head count) 2015-2016: 3,890

Graduates	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Prebaccalaureate	307	194	170	191	137
Baccalaureate	51	111	98	87	86
Graduate	205	221	219	205	217
Doctoral	54	68	83	40	76
Total	617	594	570	523	516

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response:

Media Policy
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Approved by Board of Trustees
October 12, 2016

General Media Requests for Information – Media representatives interested in information or quotes from the Seminary should be channeled through the Seminary Public Relations Office, who will either provide the information or direct the media person to a specific Seminary office for more information or a quote on a specific topic. Our faculty includes many experts in a number of fields of study and they can comment on a wide range of topics broadly relating to Christian faith and culture. Regarding questions about the Seminary itself, the President is the primary spokesperson for the Seminary.

Trustee Meetings – Plenary sessions of the NOBTS Board of Trustees are open to credentialed media representatives and the public, except when personnel or other sensitive legal issues are being discussed. However, media members should present themselves to the moderator before a given session.

All personnel issues, both in plenary sessions and trustee committees, are automatically dealt with in executive session. During executive sessions, everyone except trustees and key Seminary administrators are asked to leave the room. Going into executive session does not imply a controversial discussion, but is done regarding all personnel discussions simply to assure confidentiality in personnel matters and to provide the trustees and Seminary administrators the ability to speak freely. However, whatever actions are taken in executive sessions will be reported by the moderator as soon as open session is reconvened.

Reporting any statements made by trustees in trustee meetings must follow background rules – that is, media may not quote or give attribution to any specific trustee. If a quote or comment is desired, the media member should seek the guidance of the Seminary Public Relations director to direct them to a specific person authorized to address the issue, normally the President or his designee, or the Trustee chairman.

The Public Relations Office and the Seminary administration are glad to work with the media to assure that reporting about the Seminary is accurate, complete, and balanced.

THE SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

P.O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588-1889

CHARLES M. JACUMIN, Chairman

DANIEL L. AKIN, President

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to equip students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission. We believe this with our whole heart, and it is our desire that every classroom be a Great Commission classroom – with all our students, faculty, and staff ready to GO beginning with their current context and reaching all the way to the ends of the earth.

Our overall student count is up 148 students from last year, making this the sixth year of record enrollment for Southeastern. Concerning academics, this year we started receiving students into our newly designed Master of Divinity program. Our faculty and administration spent months asking the question, “What curriculum would best prepare our students to take the gospel to our neighbors and the nations?” The answer came in the form of an M.Div. with a larger and even stronger core that better equips our students biblically, theologically, and practically for their current and future ministries. Our total hours decreased to 81-84 hours, depending on the track, but the core increased to 69 hours, so that we could make sure that our students have everything they need and are fully prepared to enter the world of vocational ministry.

In addition, we revised our vocational Master of Arts degrees, launched new research Master of Arts degrees, and continued building our robust doctoral programs, both on the Ed.D., D.Min., and Ph.D. levels. These changes give us even more occasions to equip students for multiple ministry opportunities.

One of our best kept secrets at Southeastern is The College at Southeastern. We like to say that “The College at Southeastern is more than a college – it’s a calling”. Whether our undergraduate students become lawyers, business professionals, English teachers, missionaries, or pastors, we believe God has a plan for them to be involved in His mission. The College at Southeastern is a place where someone can be trained both theologically and vocationally. With 14 majors, 19 minors, and one Great Commission, we can equip students to live out the gospel in any career path.

We are also excited about our GO Certificate Program. We have looked at how we could do more to equip students at every level and every stage, for every ministry opportunity. Along with members of our world-class faculty, we have designed a program that brings sound teaching with practical application in an easy format for busy schedules, with students receiving academic credit and valuable training specifically geared for laity. Our GO certificates can prepare all church members, staff, and lay leaders – anywhere in the world – to grow in the knowledge of Scripture and to live out the Great Commission wherever they are. All certificate programs are completed entirely online. We’ve launched our first GO Certificate this year, the Certificate in Biblical Studies and Theology, and we have more on the way in areas such as apologetics, student ministry, biblical counseling, and teaching English as a second language. It’s our desire to train Great Commission Christians who will reach the world for King Jesus wherever they happen to be and at whatever level of education they would like to pursue.

We have continued with our Global Theological Initiative which is primarily an international leadership development process. We engage select cohorts of proven, positioned leaders with training on both the masters and certificate levels. We are equipping faculty members, denominational leaders, and key church pastors to train the next generations within their context and countries. Hundreds of students on five continents take part in this program including over 50 biblical counseling students in Hong Kong and 23 recent masters level graduates who serve

on the leadership teams of the national and international mission boards of Brazil. One of my greatest joys this year, along with my wife Charlotte, was to go to Rio de Janeiro to confer the degrees on 23 men and women in Brazil – our very first of what we hope will be many graduations. This wonderful Great Commission partnership saw its first fruits with this cohort, and I was honored to celebrate with those leaders as they received their Master of Theological Studies degrees. There are many groups like the Brazilian Baptists and our vision and passion for theological education, personal evangelism, and missions is one. We want to stand with them in building God’s kingdom all around the world.

One of our major areas of focus for the past few years has been what we call the Kingdom Diversity Initiative. We want to build an institution that reflects the body of Christ in heaven – every tribe, tongue, and nation worshiping Christ together. To that end, we believe that ethnic diversity is hardwired into the Great Commission. So, if we were to truly call ourselves a Great Commission school, we had to move in this direction. We decided that it’s never too late to start doing the right thing, and to set some goals to change our campus was clearly the right thing to do. I’m happy to share an update with you:

- We now have fully functioning teams for both Kingdom Diversity and Hispanic Leadership Development.
- We are actively hosting discussions and developing resources, both for our students and for churches, to equip God’s people from every corner of the kingdom to serve in every context of the kingdom.
- This past year, over \$675,000 has been given specifically for student aid to minority students.
- The overall student population of non-white students at Southeastern has grown from 8.3% in 2011 to 15.6% in 2016. That represents a 137% increase in the actual number of non-white students.

We are excited for the future of Southeastern and the Kingdom Diversity Initiative.

This year, it was our great honor to announce to our campus community that we have a new official hymn for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and The College at Southeastern, written by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townsend, titled “For the Cause.” We want to stand with our students and sing words that truly capture our heart for the nations. The second verse and chorus of that song say this:

For the cause of Christ we go
With joy to reap, with faith to sow
As many see and many put their trust in the Son

Christ we proclaim,
The Name above every name:
For all creation, Ev’ry nation, God’s salvation
Through the Son!

This is my prayer for Southeastern and it is my prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention. Thank you for letting us be a part of what the Southern Baptist Convention is doing by supporting us through the Cooperative Program and by praying for us. It is an honor to serve you through training men and women to take the gospel across North America and around the world.

Danny Akin
President

**Enrollment Figures by Degree Programs and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Students
as per the SBC Seminary Funding Formula**

	2011- 2012	2012- 2013	2013- 2014	2014- 2015	2015- 2016
Special Students					
Credit Only	237	204	246	193	320
Certificate/Diploma	120	175	220	263	255
Special Student Total	<u>357</u>	<u>379</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>456</u>	<u>575</u>
Prebaccalaureate & Baccalaureate					
Associate of Divinity	29	32	28	30	23
Associate of Arts	13	9	14	14	12
Bachelor of Arts	434	457	431	424	418
Prebaccalaureate & Baccalaureate Totals	<u>476</u>	<u>498</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>468</u>	<u>453</u>
Basic Programs					
Master of Arts	434	446	519	532	608
Master of Church Music	15	14	11	6	2
Master of Theological Studies	58	76	71	48	169
Master of Divinity	1,226	1,241	1,220	1,382	1,206
Basic Programs Totals	<u>1,733</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>1,821</u>	<u>1,968</u>	<u>1,985</u>
Advanced					
Master of Theology	46	41	53	66	74
Doctor of Ministry	141	164	192	221	218
Doctor of Education	73	75	70	74	77
Doctor of Philosophy	134	150	146	178	197
Advanced Total	<u>394</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>461</u>	<u>539</u>	<u>566</u>
Total Unduplicated Headcount	<u>2,960</u>	<u>3,084</u>	<u>3,221</u>	<u>3,431</u>	<u>3,579</u>
Cooperative Program Funded FTEs					
Full-Time Equivalent Students	1,922	2,009	2,082	2,106	2,155
<i>Unfunded FTEs</i>					
Over 70 hours BA deduction	(64)	(84)	(73)	(75)	(76)
Online SBC FTE students	(116)	(144)	(260)	(377)	(430)
Adv. Degree Students Past Time Allowance	(138)	(136)	(164)	(219)	(226)
Non-SBC FTE students	(49)	(57)	(67)	(101)	(145)
<i>Total Unfunded FTEs</i>	<u>(367)</u>	<u>(421)</u>	<u>(564)</u>	<u>(771)</u>	<u>(877)</u>
Total Cooperative Program Funded FTEs	<u>1,555</u>	<u>1,588</u>	<u>1,518</u>	<u>1,335</u>	<u>1,278</u>
Graduates					
Prebaccalaureate & Special	9	4	3	20	39
Baccalaureate	36	66	62	57	52
Basic Programs	225	265	311	291	312
Advanced	63	66	39	79	68
Total Graduates	<u>333</u>	<u>401</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>447</u>	<u>471</u>

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary Board of Trustees is committed to a spirit of openness and accountability to Southern Baptists and has always welcomed members of the media to the plenary sessions of our meetings. Our official policy states:

All Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) trustee plenary sessions are open to the public, and news media are welcome to attend. Each participating trustee and staff member should be aware that all statements made in open meetings are “on the record” and subject to news reporting. The trustees have the right and responsibility to conduct executive sessions at any time, as designated by the presiding officer.

All official actions by the Board of Trustees are subject to reporting by denominational press and public media. The Office of Communications shall be responsible for generating news releases with full and accurate coverage. The Director of Communications shall also provide assistance to members of the media to enable them to give accurate reporting. As such, any interviews with trustees or staff should be requested through the Office of Communications.

The dates of all board meetings are publicly available and posted in advance on the SEBTS website. Media personnel should contact the Communications Office in advance regarding their visit.

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40280

JOHN THWEATT, Chairman**R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR., President*****Introduction***

It's my great privilege as President to bring you the report on behalf of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I wish each of you could come to 2825 Lexington Road in Louisville, Kentucky in order to see what Southern Baptists have done here – over 150 years of theological education committed to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. With pride, Southern Seminary is the mother seminary of the SBC. We are glad that we have sister seminaries, but we feel a particular stewardship in leading the Southern Baptist Convention with the trust that has been given to us through all of these generations.

But as much as I would wish for every single one of you to come to the campus of Southern Seminary to receive the top-flight theological education in the world today, you don't have to physically come to this campus. You can come to us by other means. The development of our global campus means that the reach of Southern Seminary and our academic programs for the church now stretches around the world 24/7. There is no one who can be connected to the internet and who is qualified to take these courses, who does not have the opportunity to study at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and at Boyce College.

Perhaps the most incredible thing, for which I am thankful, is the global reach that now marks this institution. Not only through the global campus, whereby we can take quality theological education anywhere in the world, but because the world is coming here. In the last 24 months, we've had students from all 50 states and from 63 different nations of the world. That's something for which we are very thankful. When you go to a chapel service or sit in a classroom at Southern Seminary, you are seeing the world come together. We feel a particular responsibility in this generation to reach the world with not only theological education, but, in particular, with the gospel of Christ by encouraging gospel churches.

One of the most exciting initiatives over the last year at Southern Seminary has been our Hispanic Initiative, whereby in North America and around the world, especially with a concentration on Latin America, we are seeking to take faithful, biblical, and practical theological education where it is so desperately needed. In the Latin American world that has been so misshapen by the prosperity gospel, and in which Roman Catholicism has been the dominant religious message for centuries now, there is an incredible openness and opportunity. I believe Southern Baptists bear a particular and very urgent responsibility to reach Hispanic brothers and sisters in Christ, to encourage those churches, and to also lead others to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The training of pastors is absolutely central to our mission. That's the first assignment given to us by Southern Baptists. The main mechanism whereby we do that is the Master of Divinity degree. That's the degree track for pastors that prepares them to lead the local church and to teach and preach the word of God. I'm very thankful to report that we have the largest Master of Divinity, not only in Southern Seminary's history, but in the history of the Christian Church. There are more young men in the Master of Divinity program at Southern Seminary training for the pastorate than have ever been gathered at one place at one time in the history of the Christian Church. That is something we don't take for granted. That is the blessing of God, and for it, we are very thankful. On the strength of that program and its enrollment, we can then train others who will serve the church, in the mission field, and in Christian leadership.

We have an array of degree programs and are very careful about these programs. We keep them limited so that they can be very clear in their focus. Every single degree program and every single school and part of this institution is directed towards the gospel of Jesus Christ, establishing gospel churches, and seeing those gospel churches fed by those who have received not only a theological education of the highest quality, but also of the greatest practical impact. I'm very thankful for the academic excellence that marks Southern Seminary.

In recent months we have had this institution ranked in the top five Ph.D. programs in the nation. That academic excellence is something to which we are committed to as an institution, not to receive the applause of the world, but in order that we may faithfully serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention.

As I reflect on what it means to be The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the honor of serving as its president, and when I speak to Southern Baptists as I am right now, I want you to know that my main message is gratitude – gratitude for the investment that is being made right now in the lives of these students, in their future ministries, and thus in our churches and mission fields of the world by means of the Cooperative Program. We want to do everything possible to help our students understand not only the Cooperative Program, but to be committed to it in terms of their own ministries so that successive generations will have even richer opportunities. We also understand that it is the sacrificial generosity of Southern Baptists that makes all of this possible.

I want to conclude this report by saying to Southern Baptists that we belong to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. We take as our greatest honor to serve the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention. Our word to those churches – through the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and to the Convention as it itself gathers together – is always in the first, in the last, and at every point, thank you.

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2017 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

1. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

a. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.

Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, continues to experience significant growth. For the 2015-2016 academic year, Boyce College enrolled a record 1,466 students, an increase from 1,235 in the previous academic year. The number of applications received for admission increased 49%. For the Fall 2016 semester, Boyce College registered 81 new high school students in dual enrollment courses, enabling them to receive undergraduate course credit as they completed their high school studies. In order to meet the needs of a growing student population, Boyce expanded its student life staffing to include an associate dean of student life and an increased number of resident assistant positions. Additionally, Boyce College added both an activities coordinator and an additional academic advisor.

b. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

A major initiative to expand course offerings at Boyce College is the development and launch of a new major in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics. The PPE degree will prepare students to apply a Christian worldview in the areas of politics, international justice, and economic development while addressing the mounting challenges facing Christians in a globalized society. This interdisciplinary degree will advocate for religious liberty, public justice, human flourishing, and the need for a holistic ministry.

Furthermore, the Augustine Honors Collegium at Boyce College will publish the inaugural issue of an undergraduate research journal in June 2017. The *Augustine Collegiate Review* is designed to present interdisciplinary conversations across broad theological, cultural, and philosophical topics from a Christian perspective and promote undergraduate research and writing. The journal will be published twice a year and each issue will feature approximately six undergraduate student-written pieces, articles requested from active scholars, and a variety of book reviews from both students and scholars.

2. Assist churches by programs of masters' level theological education for ministers.

a. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates "value added" to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.

The development and expansion of Southern Seminary's Global Campus continues to be a primary way in which Southern Seminary is able to serve a wide variety of pastors, missionaries, church planters, and Christian leaders for service in the church and for the nations. With the Global Campus, Southern Seminary is able to reach sectors of students previously underserved by theological education. In the 2015-2016 academic year, Southern's Global Campus served online students in at least 20 countries, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia.

The School of Theology and the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry both experienced continued growth in their respective Master's programs. In the 2015-2016 academic year, Southern Seminary's Master of Divinity degree – the primary track for training pastors – enrolled a record 2,099 students. Our faculty continues to grow as the need to serve our students increases. In addition to their classroom responsibilities, our faculty continues to set the pace for serving in local Southern Baptist churches, speaking at conferences, and contributing to evangelical scholarship through writing books and delivering academic presentations.

b. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

Southern Seminary is committed to offering the best quality theological education while also working to develop students with spiritual depth and maturity. Along these lines, Southern will host an All Student Summit for Southern Seminary and Boyce College students and spouses. During the event, students will hear from key leaders on campus who will talk about issues including how to take care of their mind, soul, family, time, and finances.

Southern is also committed to helping students overcome private sins that could potentially damage their ministry and the churches they serve. In this vein, *Renew* is a discipleship

service for students in the midst of a fight with pornography, sexual immorality, and other private sins. This program involves separate male and female tracks. Southern will continue to monitor ongoing effectiveness of the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts degrees for training students to lead in missions, evangelism, and ministry, as well as the best means for delivering courses to missionaries on the field and church leaders throughout North America.

3. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

a. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.

Southern Seminary offers professional doctoral education through the Doctor of Ministry and the Doctor of Educational Ministry. Professional Doctoral Studies expanded their program offerings to include a Doctor of Educational Ministry in Applied Theology while also seeing the successful implementation of the D.Min. and D.Ed.Min. in Christian Worship, with resulting growth in both programs. Additional cohorts began in Expository Preaching and Biblical Theology during the year. The 2015-2016 year marked another record high in graduation rates with 27 students graduating in the fall semester (an increase from 26 in Fall 2014) and 26 graduating in the spring (an increase from 24 in Spring 2015). This is the direct result of curriculum redevelopment that occurred in 2013-2014 with a focus on students writing their projects or theses along the way.

Regarding curriculum development, seven new seminars were developed and approved by faculty for use in the Professional Doctoral Programs. Concentrations in the areas of New Testament Exposition and Christian Theology and Practice were developed and approved by faculty. In addition, significant attention was given to deepening community among students and professors through the implementation of chapel services, luncheons, and coffee gatherings while modular students are on campus. These measures have been received with enthusiasm.

b. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

The Professional Doctoral Program has excellence and expansion as continuous goals. In light of this, several strategic changes are planned. Southern will give special attention to marketing strategy and recruitment in the following areas: Applied Theology, Biblical Counseling, Church Revitalization, Expository Preaching, and Leadership. Furthermore, the Seminary will redevelop the Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry concentration in Leadership. Other goals are to continue to increase the quality of writing and degree completion rates by offering three writing retreats during the 2016-2017 academic year and to add a minimum of five new Doctor of Ministry and Doctor of Educational Ministry project supervisors that will be approved by faculty and equipped to supervise.

4. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

a. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that SBTS receives.

Southern Seminary offers research doctoral education through the Doctor of Philosophy, Doctor of Education, Doctor of Missiology, and Master of Theology. The entire Doctoral Studies department maintained strong enrollment and executed plans to ensure ongoing

academic strength and rigor. An increased focus on mentorship in the doctoral community was evidenced through a variety of means.

The Research Doctoral Studies office expanded initiatives to promote a deeper sense of community among doctoral students by expanding the 1892 Club to include modular students, and by offering a special chapel service for modular students during their time on campus. The weekly 1892 Club continued to attract many students for fellowship and to interact with a visiting scholar. Twenty-three doctoral students presented papers at the prestigious national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. Several other students presented at other national academic conferences. Dr. Jonathan Pennington was able to secure a grant from the Wabash Center to evaluate how well the program has done in training Ph.D. students as teachers. This evaluation included an on-campus consultation in March 2016 with nine Ph.D. alumni and administrative staff.

b. Based on the above Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

Though the Research Doctoral Studies department at Southern Seminary is currently operating from a place of strength, numerous goals are in place to ensure Southern continues to equip ministers and theological educators at the highest academic level. In keeping with the Southern Baptist Convention’s commitment to serve the nations, the department will continue to develop partnerships related to international student teaching opportunities with the intention of student deployment. Additionally, Southern will enhance the residential Ph.D. program through intentional mentoring and community development. As a result of the Wabash Center evaluation, an increased focus upon preparing Ph.D. graduates to teach in undergraduate programs will be implemented. Furthermore, Southern will continue to increase the quality of writing and degree completion rates by offering two writing retreats during the 2016-2017 academic year and by having a minimum of 30 Research Doctoral Studies students present papers at regional and national academic conferences.

**Enrollment by Degree Program Converted to Full-Time Equivalent
as per SBC Seminary Formula**

Prebaccalaureate Programs:	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Theology	11	15	12	24
Christian Education/Church Ministries	1	0	0	0
Church Music	0	0	0	0
Missions	0	0	2	1
Special (including Prebacc. and SWI)	144	124	145	180
Boyce: Associate of Arts	18	15	21	29
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	204	239	271	329
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	361	394	443	612
WMI	1	0	0	0
Basic Degree Programs:				
M.Div	1,305	1,407	1,267	1,401
M.A.T.S.	40	38	38	54
M.A.C.E.	31	33	33	35
M.A.Y.M.	11	9	16	3
M.C.M.	6	4	7	6
M.A. in Worship	10	10	17	30

	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
M.A. in Missiology	40	38	34	33
M.A.C.C.	0	0	0	0
M.A.B.C.	77	86	77	107
Diploma Missions	18	34	29	12
Other M.A.	50	82	80	75
Adv. Mstr of Divinity – Mssn	8	8	8	4
Special (Mssns – FMB)	0	0	0	0
Special (MATSIL Candidate)	1	0	0	0
Special (Postbacc.)	41	39	52	53
Advanced Degree Programs:				
Th.M.	64	80	82	75
D.Min.	276	253	252	248
D.Miss.	6	5	7	12
D.M.M.	0	0	0	0
D.Ed.Min.	27	34	61	79
D.M.A.	4	0	0	0
Ed.D. in Leadership	31	46	51	47
Ph.D.	285	326	325	308
Special	0	0	2	3
Total FTE Enrollment	3,071	3,319	3,332	3,760
Official FTE	2,000	2,187	2,208	2,294
(Nondup. HC)	4,567	4,763	5,067	5,373

Degree Program Graduates**Degree Programs:****Prebaccalaureate Programs:**

Theology	0	1	0	1
Missions	0	0	0	5
Missions - M.A.T.S.	0	0	0	1
Worldview Studies Certificate	7	5	1	0
Seminary Wives Institute	14	16	16	19
Boyce: Associate of Arts	7	6	8	11
Boyce: Bachelor of Arts	24	18	21	21
Boyce: Bachelor of Science	36	33	34	54

Basic Degree Programs:

M.Div	205	200	214	217
M.A.C.E.	6	9	11	6
M.A.Y.M.	7	3	1	0
M.C.M.	3	1	1	0
M.M.	0	0	0	0
M.A. in Worship	2	2	1	2
M.A. in Missiology	18	11	5	8
M.A.T.S.	33	26	20	24
M.A.B.C.	22	28	26	19
M.A. Other	18	17	44	41

Advanced Degree Programs:	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
Th.M.	20	22	23	38
D.Min.	33	31	30	42
D.Ed.Min.	3	4	8	6
D.Miss.	2	2	0	1
D.M.A.	3	2	0	0
Ed.D. in Leadership	2	2	13	10
Ph.D.	27	33	34	35
Total Graduates	492	472	511	561

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: Southern Seminary is committed to fully cooperating with news media representatives to keep Southern Baptists informed about the work they support through the Cooperative Program. We understand this can only happen through a close working relationship between the seminary and the members of the news media. To this end, all plenary sessions of trustee meetings are open and on the record. Moreover, the leadership of Southern Seminary will do everything within their means to assist members of the media as they endeavor to provide accurate, complete, and fair reporting.

THE SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**2001 West Seminary Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76115****P.O. Box 22040, Fort Worth, Texas 76122-0040****LASH BANKS, Chairman of the Board****PAIGE PATTERSON, President*****Introduction***

Below I give my report of what is transpiring at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In the short space that I have, there is no way adequately to tell the story, but let me simply hit a few highlights. There is a rumor that we have been losing enrollment. This is not true. We have lost quite a number of Cooperative Program supported students because we have placed a much heavier emphasis on personal evangelism, and that appears not to be popular these days. However, what is more important is that through our *Global Theological Innovation* program, we now have 137 seminaries and campuses involved in our seminary consortium. Not only are we making more than 100,000 library volumes available to each of these campuses (which they have never had before), but we are also welcoming their students, who will be the future professors at those seminaries. Because they do not count for Cooperative Program funds, and because they are not Southern Baptists, they do not show up on our count of Cooperative Program assistance. However, they are coming in remarkable numbers. The total number of students on the campus includes more than 800 students from around the world. Until such time as our future pastors show an interest in evangelism, we are happy to continue making this contribution even though it costs the seminary more. Our Chinese Theological Studies Initiative is off the ground and running, and we have faculty and staff personally translating the gospel into the Mandarin language.

Mathena Hall will be completed by the summer. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 18, 2017. This building will emphasize missions and evangelism and will house our Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, as well as our college. It comes with the most advanced technological methods in working externally with these students, who only can come occasionally to the campus. This continues to be a major impact at Southwestern.

Further, regarding evangelism, our students and faculty have accounted for more than 1,800 professions of faith in the last three years. This does not include what they have done in their churches, but only what has been done as a direct part of the ministry here at the school. This spring, our on-campus M.Div. enrollment has actually grown, and we are grateful for that indication of the blessings of God since our requirements are considerably in excess of those in our other seminaries, with the exception of one.

We are very grateful for the Southern Baptist Convention and all that is done for us, but we are also very grateful for how God is using the school at this time internationally. To my knowledge, there has never been an international theological engagement that is anything like the one underway. Thank you also for helping to make that a possibility.

God's blessings upon you.

Until He comes,
Paige Patterson

Program Report

I. Enrollment by Degree Program in SBC Funded Full-Time Equivalents

	2008– 2009	2009– 2010	2010– 2011	2011– 2012	2012– 2013	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016
Undergraduate and Certificate Programs								
B.A.	249	222	223	190	154	127	98	81
B.S.	N/A	N/A	N/A	59	120	158	165	146
B.M.	N/A	23						
Certificate	23	29	37	20	20	20	20	15
Diploma	7	2	2	1	0	0	1	1
Special	38	33	26	27	28	33	14	25
Basic Degree Programs								
M.A.A.B.S.	7	6	6	11	8	8	9	9
M.A.B.C.	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	29	46	62	63
M.A.C.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.C.C.	40	33	14	6	2	0	1	0
M.A.C.E.	272	217	218	180	147	107	81	84
M.A.C.M.	19	22	25	26	20	9	10	11
M.A.C.S.E.	9	9	10	13	14	14	10	9
M.A.I.S.	11	16	20	20	13	13	6	8
M.A.L.M.	7	6	5	6	4	2	1	0
M.A.M.	50	42	39	32	24	15	19	17
M.A.M.B.E.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.M.F.C.	140	148	91	37	5	0	0	0
M.A.Theology	18	15	28	19	24	22	13	11
M.A.W.	4	4	1	1	2	3	4	3
M.Div.	762	720	676	647	567	473	473	424
M.M.	53	58	56	51	49	51	44	39
M.A.C.A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7
MTS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	26	33
Advanced Degree Programs								
D.Ed.Min.	21	14	13	8	4	12	13	13
D.Min.	88	50	64	70	61	102	57	39
Ph.D./D.M.A.	133	158	154	152	176	170	182	170
Th.M.	29	32	26	29	26	23	20	18
Total SBC FTE								
Enrollment	1,981	1,836	1,734	1,617	1,497	1,424	1,332	1,249
Head Count								
Enrollment	3,535	3,381	3,246	3,210	3,259	3,582	3,942	4,276

	2008– 2009	2009– 2010	2010– 2011	2011– 2012	2012– 2013	2013– 2014	2014– 2015	2015– 2016
II. Graduates								
Undergraduate and Certificate Programs								
B.A.	16	29	26	31	40	34	24	20
B.S.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	53	51
B.M.	N/A	1						
Certificate	16	15	19	25	9	21	12	20
Diploma	17	10	4	2	0	1	0	0
Basic Degree Programs								
M.A.A.B.S.	0	0	3	1	2	1	2	5
M.A.C.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.C.C.	3	0	7	3	3	0	1	0
M.A.C.E.	134	118	116	98	82	65	55	34
M.A.C.M.	2	2	2	3	0	3	0	2
M.A.C.S.E.	2	3	2	6	2	6	3	3
M.A.I.S.	2	2	8	3	6	7	6	2
M.A.L.M.	4	2	3	1	4	4	2	0
M.A.M.	15	29	17	12	16	10	10	9
M.A.M.B.E.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.A.M.F.C.	47	57	57	55	15	0	0	0
M.A.Theology	14	16	8	10	10	12	14	9
M.A.W.	2	2	3	0	0	0	1	0
M.Div.	167	147	135	148	159	143	137	143
M.M.	19	11	12	12	26	11	13	25
MA.BC	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1	8	9	17
MTS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19	39	103
M.A.C.A.	N/A	1						
Advanced Degree Programs								
D.Ed.Min.	4	1	3	4	10	4	6	2
D.Min.	14	18	12	12	13	10	9	10
Ph.D./D.M.A.	24	12	15	14	34	29	24	18
Th.M.	28	18	13	15	10	9	10	6
Total Graduates	533	493	465	455	442	405	430	481

III. New Students and Faculty

Fall & Spring								
New Students	1,041	1,011	983	1,049	1,091	1,387	1,434	1,455
Full-Time Faculty	119	113	113	117	104	104	104	107

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, SBC Annual, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: Regarding the motion to the Southern Baptist Convention by Lonnie Wilkey, June 14-15, 2016, the executive committee of the Board of Trustees of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary continues its long-standing policy of welcoming press to the general sessions of the Trustees, and where helpful, will also provide a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting. Committee meetings often deal with personnel issues, pastoral concerns, sensitive donor information, and other issues which are neither necessary nor helpful for the general public. Southwestern also reserves the right to give its own press releases to the public initially.

SEMINARY EXTENSION

A ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention:
Incorporated under the Council of Seminary Presidents
901 Commerce Street, Suite 500, Nashville 37203

R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR., President of the Council
RANDAL A. WILLIAMS, Executive Director of Seminary Extension

Introduction

Seminary Extension is a ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention. Through this ministry, the SBC provides an opportunity for theological education and ministry training to individuals who cannot or will not attend a traditional institution of learning. Students may take one course or they may enroll in a complete program. Many take individual classes for personal, spiritual development. Others enroll in Certificate or Diploma programs where they take a prescribed group of theological and ministry training courses that are practical and immediately applicable.

By action of the Southern Baptist Convention, Seminary Extension began its work June 15, 1951, with Lee Gallman as its director. Randal A. Williams became the director of Seminary Extension in 2007. Under his leadership, Seminary Extension continues to serve Southern Baptists by educating people where they live.

Seminary Extension is not a formally accredited institution. Nevertheless, many college and seminary undergraduate programs recognize the value of our courses and readily accept credit for them. Recognition is generally based on the following criteria. First, Seminary Extension courses are of excellent academic quality. Courses are written by individuals approved by the Council of Seminary Deans (the academic deans of our SBC seminaries). Most course writers are professors in our SBC seminaries. Second, Seminary Extension testing methods ensure the integrity of the work done by students. Third, student records are permanent, accessible, and accurate. Although we maintain these standards, Seminary Extension cannot guarantee that another institution will receive transfer credit for its courses. Therefore, it is important to check with other institutions before investing in courses with Seminary Extension for the purpose of transferring credit.

Seminary Extension is licensed by the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and currently has eight programs registered with the Commission.

Seminary Extension students may take advantage of several methods of study. Many of our students have the opportunity to study together with friends and neighbors in an extension center. These students normally meet in local, Baptist association offices or churches in which Seminary Extension certified instructors teach classes. Students may also study independently by correspondence or as a part of one of our online assisted classes.

Program Report

The statistical data below shows the number of course completions and total number of students enrolled for the 2015-2016 academic year.

Course Enrollments	1,073
Total Number of Students	620

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

901 Commerce St., Suite 400, Nashville, TN 37203

TAFHEY HALL, Director

Governed by the Council of Seminary Presidents

August 2015 - July 2016 (under Bill Sumners, Director)

Yearly Highlights

- Acquired 688 pages of Nannie Helen Burroughs correspondence with Katherine Mallory and Blanche White of the Woman's Missionary Union
- Accessioned several archival collections related to the Home Mission Board, including the Chaplains Department Collection, Interfaith Witness Department Records, Metropolitan Missions Office Records, and Puerto Rico/Caribbean Missions Work Collection
- Accessioned two series of SBC Executive Committee Records, including the Office of Convention Relations and a collection on the Crowder Lawsuit
- Accessioned the Don Rutledge Photograph Collection
- Acquired Tennessee Baptist Children's Home Records and completed processing
- Acquired four African American Baptist newspapers on microfilm
- Completed processing Christian Life Commission Staff Files, Nannie Helen Burroughs Papers, Johnny Hunt Papers, NAMB/HMB Research Division Collection, M.C. Johnson Collection, W.O. Lewis Collection, and the Home Mission Board Chaplains Department Records
- Completed processing and cataloging of the Fon H. Scofield Photograph Collection of Biblical Antiquities and Missions
- Acquired the Penn-Jersey Baptist Convention Collection
- Added 167 annuals, 27 archival collections, 474 audio-visual items, 660 books and pamphlets, 2,093 periodicals, 126 informational files, and 1,708 photographs
- Received two grants totaling \$3,500 to assist with the processing of two archival collections and one digital resource project
- Completed the scanning and posting of online issues of the *Baptist and Reflector* from 1923 to 1939 to the Digital Resources page of the website
- Microfilmed antebellum sermon collection of James H. DeVotie sermons

Research Use

The collection continues to attract scholars and students from a wide range of colleges and universities. Researchers from 47 different institutions conducted research in the collection during the past year, including international researchers from Nigeria, Scotland, and Serbia. The collection was visited by 123 registered researchers and the staff provided 1,979 patron contacts.

Acquisitions

The SBHLA staff continues to process material acquired from the closing of the Dargan Library at LifeWay. All of the Treasure Room books and periodicals have been added to the SBHLA collection. The archives added the records of the Tennessee Baptist Children's Home. The Research Department of the North American Mission Board placed its library of materials in the SBHLA.

With the assistance of former researchers, we acquired a collection of correspondence of African American Baptist leader Nannie Helen Burroughs. This collection includes correspondence between Burroughs, Kathleen Mallory, and Blanche S. White of the Woman's Missionary Union of the Southern Baptist Convention. The correspondence documents the efforts of these women for joint projects of ministry, training, and efforts to improve race relations between

white and black Baptists. Papers are copies of material located in the Nannie Burroughs Papers in the Library of Congress.

The SBHLA acquired the Don Rutledge Photograph Collection. Rutledge served as photographer for the Home and Foreign Mission Boards from 1966-1996. The archives acquired a collection on the Penn-Jersey Baptist Convention and made additions to the Eastern Cuba Baptist Convention Collection and the SBC Executive Committee Office of Convention Relations Collection. The Library and Archives made a distinct effort to collect African American Baptist newspapers. The collection has added the following titles on microfilm: *Baptist Vanguard* (AR), 1893-1897 and 1951-1981; *Christian Banner* (PA), 1900-1915; *Georgia Baptist*, 1918-1949; and *Negro Star* (KS), 1936-1949.

Access to the Collection

The papers of past SBC president Johnny Hunt were processed and are available for use. The Christian Life Commission Staff Files were also completed. This sizable collection spans the years 1970-1987. The subject matter includes many of the issues related to the moral and ethical concerns of the CLC. With the absence of Foy Valentine's papers in the SBHLA, this collection fills a void for documenting the work of the CLC during this time period.

In the process of microfilming the records of the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia, the SBHLA was able to microfilm a sermon collection of James H. DeVotie, antebellum Baptist minister in Alabama and Georgia. DeVotie was active in the establishment of Howard College, now Samford University, and the founding of the *Alabama Baptist*. He served as pastor to Alabama churches in Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, and Marion, as well as the First Baptist Church of Columbus, Georgia. The handwritten sermon collection covers the years 1835 to 1850 and includes several sermons written in Irish.

The closing of the Dargan Research Library resulted in the transfer of the Fon H. Scofield Photograph Collection to the SBHLA. Fon Scofield served as Associate Secretary of the Department of Visual Education for the Foreign Mission Board from 1948 to his retirement in 1977. In his travels to photograph mission work, he also photographed numerous biblical sites, artifacts, and structures. This massive collection of prints, negatives, and slides visually documents biblical related sites in all Middle Eastern countries and many European nations. The processing and cataloging of this collection was completed.

A significant collection from the HMB/NAMB Research Division was also completed, including the processing and cataloging of the Chaplaincy Division. Staff completed processing and cataloging of the W.O. Lewis and M.C. Johnson collections. Lewis was born in Missouri in 1877. He pastored churches in Missouri and also taught at William Jewell College. He served as General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance from 1939-1950. Johnson was a Southern Baptist pastor to churches in Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Maryland, and Mississippi. Processing of the T.L. Holcomb Papers continues by the staff.

Outreach and Study Grants

The project to update the online holdings of the *Baptist and Reflector*, the state paper for Tennessee Baptists was completed. The issues for the years 1923 to 1939 were scanned, edited, and posted to the Digital Resources page on the website. Eleven finding aids were completed and added to the website this year. Staff completed two new displays on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the SBC Building. The 2nd floor exhibit is entitled, "Love in Action: Ministry and Promotion of the SBC Cooperative Program, 1925-Present." Last year the North American Mission Board transferred to the SBHLA a replica of the desk used at the First Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia, at the organizational meeting of the SBC in 1845. SBHLA staff added images of the 1845 meeting to help explain the significance of the desk. A brochure for building guests

and tour groups that explains the various exhibits and displays in the SBC Building was also completed.

The SBHLA awarded fifteen individuals with Lynn E. May Study grants for the year 2016-2017, which ranged from \$400 to \$700 each.

Final Word

We continue to be amazed at the researchers who conduct study at the SBHLA. The value of our easy-to-use online catalog and finding aids on the website is seen every week. The researchers who study here are never disappointed to find much more than they anticipate. Our experienced staff is amazingly effective in finding information, material, and answers to the most challenging requests. The work of acquiring, cataloging, preserving, and making available for use materials in our collection continues to test our resources. Although a challenging task, our staff steadfastly does its work grounded in the knowledge that we are doing meaningful servant work.

COMMISSION**THE ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION****901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, Tennessee 37203****KEN BARBIC, Chairman
RUSSELL MOORE, President***Introduction*

Years ago, I remember hearing a story on the radio about a psychological study. This study would ask people: If you could choose one superpower, flight or invisibility, which would you choose and why? Most of the participants in the study ended up choosing the power of invisibility, but what struck me was the reason why they chose that power. Many of these people were intrigued by invisibility precisely because it empowered them to do things that were wrong. “If I were invisible,” one person said, “I could just walk into a store and take anything I wanted.”

Now, as Christians, that shouldn’t surprise us. We know the sinfulness of our own hearts, and we know that invisibility is dangerous. It has always been that way. The question your ERLC is asking to the watching world, though, is similar: Who are the people that we wish to keep invisible? Our culture assumes that life is only worth living when it is powerful and of a perceived usefulness. But we believe that every human being bears the dignity rooted in the image of God.

That’s why, over the course of this year, we have been active in courts and in Congress. We’ve fought for legislation, filed briefs in courts around the country, and made arguments on behalf of unborn children, religious liberty, family stability, and human dignity. We’ve stood with GuideStone and our Baptist colleges against the Obamacare contraceptive mandate. In the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision on same-sex marriage, we have continued to speak a word of prophetic witness and dissent, but we also have sought to equip Christians and churches to come behind this cultural moment with the knowledge that the Sexual Revolution cannot deliver on its promises. We must be the people who pick up the wreckage left in its wake with the offer of living water, as we engage a culture that does not recognize many of the things we believe, like the union embedded in marriage or the promise of the gospel to which it points.

Beyond that, we have also devoted ourselves to equipping churches for these challenging times. We’ve spearheaded major events on Capitol Hill, connecting pastors with legislators, equipping churches on how to stand and speak for our unborn children and their mothers. We’ve created resources pastors can give to their members and that small groups and Sunday School classes can use together. We have also partnered with our seminaries to train next-generation pastors and leaders to help them think ahead of time about the sort of questions they likely never had to ask or answer before, but will inevitably be required to in the years ahead.

The last year has seen an ugly uptick in racial bigotry, and we have worked to make clear that the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is one family and one body, and an attack on one part of the body is an attack on the whole. As the rest of the world retreats back into blood-and-soil racism, we will recognize what that is: hellish idolatry. Not only that, but we will work to model another way, of a community of brothers and sisters reconciled to God and to one another.

As we serve our churches and engage the world around us with the gospel, we’re determined not to be fearful or panicky people. This is our mission field, and no matter what goes on in the culture, we understand what has been told to us and handed down for centuries. We realize that

no matter how much one might seek to be invisible, or to keep others invisible, there is a Light from which no one and nothing can hide. This Light has come into the world, and the darkness has not—the darkness will not, the darkness cannot—overcome it.

For the kingdom,

Russell Moore

President

Ministry Goals and Accomplishments

(All SBC entities present informative ministry reports to the Executive Committee each February in compliance with the provisions of SBC Bylaw 18 E (12). The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has requested that the content of this report be taken from its 2017 Ministry Report, previously tendered to the Executive Committee.)

Relative to the listed Ministry Assignment, please describe accomplishments in the past year that creates “value added” to the Cooperative Program dollars that ERLC receives.

I. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.

Throughout the year, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has sought to provide an array of resources to churches to help them apply the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life. Each day, the ERLC website publishes new content directly related to the issues of human dignity, family stability, civil society, and religious liberty—and these in a variety of formats ranging from popular-level to academic, from articles to videos to podcasts. In the 2016 ministry year, the ERLC set record numbers in terms of downloads, reach, and followers, in some cases more than doubling the previous year’s record highs.

Additionally, the ERLC strives to respond quickly to events in the news that are of importance to Southern Baptists so as to help train churches and assist Southern Baptists in thinking through the issues. Beyond this, the ERLC has been intentional in launching events—ranging from area pastor lunches, leadership summits, and large-scale annual conferences—designed to equip men and women to think through these issues from a kingdom-focused, gospel framework. In partnership with LifeWay, these events are uploaded online after the fact so that all Southern Baptists, not just those who were able to attend our national events, are able to benefit from the conference content. In partnership with the National Religious Broadcasters, much of this same content is broadcast on NRB TV, airing on DirecTV to millions of viewers around the country.

As a few examples of church-minded resources created in the past year, the ERLC has produced bulletin inserts for SBC churches for each of the respective emphasis Sundays as well as downloadable “Issue Analysis Briefs” for pastors and church leaders. These give leaders an in-depth analysis on individual issues. The ERLC has provided numerous resources free of charge to SBC churches and state conventions around the country for various events. Additionally, in partnership with LifeWay, the ERLC has developed and is continuing to develop new print and curriculum resources designed to equip Christians and churches on issues of life, adoption, religious liberty, parenting, racial reconciliation, marriage, and many other issues. Our president has led the way in equipping churches through his own writings. At the present time, he is working on a book designed to equip parents to think through the challenges of gospel-focused family life in the twenty-first century that our parents and grandparents never had to deal with. His most recent book, *Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel* similarly sought to equip

churches and lays out a vision for what gospel-focused, cultural engagement ought to look like in the midst of present-day challenges.

The ERLC continued to innovate along several different multimedia initiatives, including *Signposts*, a weekly podcast featuring Dr. Moore addressing pressing issues and difficult ethical questions, interviewing prominent authors and thought leaders, and offering cultural commentary on pressing Christian issues. The ERLC continued the expansion of both Canon and Culture, a long-form policy website featuring leading Southern Baptist and conservative scholars, as well as the ERLC video channel featuring hundreds of hours of interviews, discussions, and video productions on a variety of issues. Beyond this, the ERLC also partnered with LifeWay's Ministry Grid to produce a sexual ethics training track for pastors and church leaders, and with B&H to create a long-term strategy to produce ministry-minded guidebooks on key issues pastors and church leaders face. In addition to this, the ERLC partnered with the Alliance Defending Freedom at a major, annual religious liberty summit, spearheading the pastor-track of this event designed to connect pastors with major resources and thought leaders in the area of religious liberty and equip them on the issues facing their congregations.

II. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.

As the SBC entity charged not only to serve as a moral and ethical voice to Southern Baptist churches, but also to be a gospel witness in the public square, the ERLC engaged the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government on multiple fronts, from meeting with lawmakers and advocacy partners to issuing public comments to the administration to filing amicus briefs in the Supreme Court.

The ERLC labored in the public square on a range of issues, from religious liberty to the sanctity of human life to marriage to human trafficking to racial reconciliation and many areas in between, seeking to apply the gospel to public policy for the sake of religious liberty and human flourishing. Among the many specific policies engaged, the ERLC voiced continued objection to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services mandate on abortifacients and contraceptives in violation of the consciences of millions of Southern Baptists and others, and labored tirelessly through the year to ensure the passage of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act.

Throughout the year, the ERLC focused its legislative attention on issues of life, family, and religious liberty, about which Southern Baptists have been insistent and consistent for decades. Some of the key pieces of legislation the ERLC promoted included:

- Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act (S. 1553/H.R. 36)
- No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015 (S. 582/H.R. 7)
- Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act (S. 51/H.R. 217)
- Bill to Prohibit Federal Funding of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (S. 1881)
- Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (S. 404/H.R. 803)
- Health Care Conscience Rights Act (H.R. 940)
- Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (S. 50)
- Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA) (S. 48/H.R. 4924)
- Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act (S. 2066/H.R. 3504)
- Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015 (S. 1836/H.R. 3134)
- Women's Public Health and Safety Act (S. 2159/H.R. 3495)
- Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act of 2015 (S. 2878/H.R. 1150)

- First Amendment Defense Act (S. 1598/H.R. 2802)
- Conscience Protection Act of 2016 (S. 2927/H.R. 4828)
- State Marriage Defense Act of 2015 (S. 435/H.R. 824)
- Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act (S. 667/H.R. 1299)
- Protecting Adoption Act (S. 1637/H.R. 2818)
- Justice for Human Trafficking Act of 2015 (S. 178/H.R. 296)
- Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2015 (S. 1513/H.R. 3406)
- North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act of 2016 (S. 1747/H.R. 757)

One of the means by which the ERLC engaged the public square was through one-on-one meetings and other communication with elected officials and their staff. Through regular interaction with congressional offices, the ERLC sought to ensure that social and religious liberty issues were neither steamrolled nor relegated to back burner status by lawmakers hostile to a biblical worldview. A second means by which the ERLC engaged the public square was through coalition work. ERLC staff participated in numerous coalitions, both formal and informal, among religious, life, family, and other public policy groups on issues of common agreement in an effort to find unified approaches to advance sound policy in the public square. In every instance, the ERLC brought a decidedly Baptist and gospel-focused perspective to the issue at hand. In many cases, the ERLC helped to reshape thinking and action among coalition partners by consistently voicing its positions through the lens of the gospel, in a winsome manner.

Throughout the year, the ERLC continued to host events in Washington, D.C., designed to promote relationships between Southern Baptists and elected officials. In some cases, this took the form of continuing our Capitol Conversations series, in which the ERLC hosts events for Washington-area pastors, leaders, and Capitol Hill staffers to come and hear ERLC-led forums and discussions addressing timely issues from a Christian perspective. In some cases, this took the form of day-long summits organizing meetings between pastors and their respective representatives and introducing them in small-group meetings with some of the key Washington leaders in the country. One of these day-long summits included meetings with Majority Leader Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.), Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.), Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas), and Rep. Mark Walker (R-N.C.).

Additionally, much work over the course of the last ministry year was devoted to a Religious Freedom Summit, hosted in Washington, D.C., and led by the ERLC, which joined the preeminent legal, legislative, pastoral, and political minds across the country for a two-day summit designed specifically to identify areas of opportunity and agree on strategy for the upcoming year in order to achieve the broadest possible legislative victories when it comes to promoting and advancing religious liberty across the country.

III. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.

Over the course of the ministry year, the ERLC has offered an array of resources designed to assist churches in their moral witness in local churches. The ERLC provides new resources daily—from books, to blog posts, articles, essays, podcasts, videos, bulletin inserts, and sermon outlines—for Christians and churches to help think through moral and ethical issues. Additionally, the ERLC has enhanced a rapid response strategy for news-related items that churches may want to address. The ERLC has worked to develop protocols that allow for rapid production of content that are produced quickly following consequential news.

Throughout the year, ERLC staff and leadership traveled the country speaking at churches and church events throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, in addition to our Southern Baptist seminaries. This ranged from state convention gatherings to Sunday morning worship to church-sponsored events and forums designed to address key cultural issues.

Over the course of our joint Global Hunger Relief (GHR) efforts this ministry year, food was distributed over six million times throughout the last ministry year. From the school children of rural Appalachia to Syrian refugee families living in makeshift camps across Europe, many of the over 970 projects were directly connected to the work of local churches. In North America, GHR projects were associated with 3,053 baptisms and mobilized 151,325 volunteers.

In an effort to further support the work of those on state convention staffs who are assigned the responsibility of addressing moral, ethical, and public policy matters, the ERLC continued to develop gatherings in which experts on selected social and cultural issues speak. Recent years have seen this expanded within the context of the work of the ERLC Research Institute so as to best encourage and support those in leadership positions across Southern Baptist life. In addition, on an ongoing basis, ERLC staff interacts with and supports those on the state level who address moral and ethical issues.

In tandem with our denominational calendar, the ERLC produced bulletin inserts, videos, and content designed to address areas of denominational emphasis within the life of local churches, including the sanctity of human life, racial reconciliation, and important social issues. Throughout the year, the ERLC also partnered with individual churches, associations, and state conventions via video conference to help answer questions and equip churches on the issues alive in their respective congregations.

IV. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.

Beyond the concrete legislative efforts listed in sections above, ERLC staff regularly published articles in Baptist Press and on the ERLC websites. From the latest developments pertaining to religious liberty and persecution around the world, as well as many other important topics including adoption, marriage, human trafficking, race, and others, the ERLC addressed a wide array of concerns. On our website, entire channels are devoted specifically to these important issues as part of our “Issues at a Glance” pages and will be undergoing continued improvements and updates. These pages feature brief explanations of the various topics, informational videos, links to news stories and applicable Scripture references. Additionally, on our “Canon and Culture” channel, members of the ERLC Research Institute and others contribute academic articles and essays designed to engage the culture and promote religious liberty in the academy.

Beyond this, the ERLC labored to promote religious freedom with like-minded groups and organizations and continued the work of its newly-established international office—designed to promote religious liberty for Southern Baptists around the globe, particularly calling attention to persecution of Christian minorities in the Middle East.

The ERLC also named leaders for their distinguished service awards on the basis of their contribution to the cause of promoting religious liberty—with Dr. O. S. Hawkins being awarded the John Leland Religious Liberty Award for his fight on behalf of conscience protections against the Obamacare contraceptive mandate, and Dr. Barrett Duke being given the Distinguished Service Award for his faithfulness in being an advocate for Southern Baptists on issues of religious liberty for twenty years.

In one project designed to serve churches for many years to come, the ERLC partnered with LifeWay to create a state-of-the-art video curriculum on the issue of religious liberty. ERLC and LifeWay worked for over a year in creating and commissioning content for the video curriculum, traveled around the country interviewing the preeminent thought leaders and experts on the issue, and worked tirelessly to create a product that will be compelling for Sunday Schools and small groups to work through together and one that will provide tools to Christians and churches to address religious liberty issues with expertise and confidence.

Beyond these areas, the ERLC continued to participate in a number of regular gatherings with religious leaders and groups on issues of domestic and international religious liberty, along with other issues important to Southern Baptists. The ERLC also worked to continue to cultivate relationships with members of Congress and their staff by speaking at Capitol Hill events and meetings.

Based on the listed Ministry Assignment, what opportunities or challenges do you see on the horizon and beyond that would necessitate changes, or new directions, in how you are accomplishing the above Ministry Assignment?

I. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.

With each new year comes new challenges and questions in our culture that affect the lives of Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist churches. Part of the ERLC's role is being attentive to those questions and applying the gospel to them for the benefit of our churches. One way the ERLC is able to be both attentive to and influential within the life of our churches is through the work of our Leadership Network. Through partnerships with pastors and churches active in the work of the ERLC, and through our active conversation with them about their churches and needs, the Commission is able to think through much more effectively how it can serve the SBC at large. This year, the ERLC will welcome a new cohort of pastors into our Leadership Council, which will also bring new voices and churches into intentional and strategic partnership with the ERLC so as to help equip churches to apply the gospel to the Christian life. More than that, the ERLC has a number of national events and digital strategies in the planning and production stage that we expect to be helpful and consequential to the mission of the ERLC in the 2017 year.

II. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.

A new Congress and a new administration carry with it many new opportunities for the ERLC to continue to make inroads in building coalitions, driving conversations, and being a voice of influence on Capitol Hill to represent Southern Baptists and their concerns well and to speak to issues of religious liberty and Southern Baptist concerns around the country. As one example, recently the ERLC released an entreaty to the incoming Congress and incoming administration to pursue the following pro-life opportunities in 2017, all of which are achievable:

- (1) Codify the Hyde Amendment
- (2) Appoint a pro-life replacement for Antonin Scalia
- (3) Repeal the HHS Mandate
- (4) Eliminate all funding for Planned Parenthood from the federal budget
- (5) Pass the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act
- (6) Pass the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

A continued focus in the 2017 year will be Capitol Conversations, regular ERLC meetings with coalition partners, elected officials, and influencers to keep close contact and influence with those crucial to defending America's first freedom of religious liberty. Beyond this, additional work done over the last year along with key strategic partnerships have poised the ERLC to grow its media presence, and the finalization of our fully equipped television studio in the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville adds to that potential.

III. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.

In the year ahead, the ERLC has unique opportunities to use enhanced digital platforms and organization-led events to cultivate strategic relationships with churches to invest in local communities. Being the smallest SBC entity, it is an organizational challenge to be as involved in all of our states and associations as we aspire to be, but through digital platforms, events, podcasting, and video conferencing, the ERLC has the ability to extend its reach in unique and strategic ways even further into the life of local churches.

IV. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.

With new cultural flashpoints around every turn, increased attention to the issue of religious liberty provides the ERLC a unique opportunity to be a prophetic voice in the public square. Additionally, an increased attention to large-scale events provides the ERLC with the ability to speak to a broad audience on issues of concern to Southern Baptists. This year, several of our key events and publications will focus on what faithful Christian families should look like in the midst of an ever-changing and ever-challenging cultural landscape in which religious liberty is increasingly imperilled. The ERLC works to equip Christian families and at the same time hopes the result will be evangelism—as faithful Christian families point to the gospel, serve and love others, and invite them to repent and trust in Christ. Beyond that, through the work of the Research Institute, the ERLC has an arsenal of strategically-gifted and committed Southern Baptist thinkers that can help drive the conversation in the public square on issues of importance to Southern Baptists and Southern Baptist churches.

Matter Referred by the Convention

During the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in St. Louis, Missouri, June 14–15, 2016, the Convention referred the following motion to The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission for consideration, action, and report.

1. SBC Referral: Requesting SBC entities to examine media policies to give greater openness to media (Items 32 and 105, Proceedings of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-15, 2016, *SBC Annual*, p. 60, 91)

Motion: Lonnie Wilkey, Tennessee

“That messengers to the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention ask trustees of all SBC entities to consider examining their media policies and, if they do not have clearly defined guidelines, to consider establishing a policy that trustee meetings, including committee meetings, be open to news media. I also move that each SBC entity report to messengers at the 2017 annual meeting if such a media policy is in place or is in the process of being developed.”

Response: As trustees of The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission we take very seriously our oversight of the work of the Commission and strive to conduct our work with the utmost transparency. It has been the longstanding policy of the Commission that all plenary sessions of the Board are open meetings, at which news media are welcome and the proceedings and public statements are “on the record.” The meetings of our three standing committees are also open, and press may attend these meetings on a background rules basis. These standing committee meetings are work sessions and subject to the action of the full board, but these meetings are made open on background to allow for more accurate and complete reporting of the Commission’s work and the Board’s actions. In unusual circumstances in which the Board must consider a delicate or confidential matter that could not wisely be carried out in open session, it is understood that the Board has the right to conduct their work in executive session. Staff and trustees of the Commission joyfully make every effort possible to allow for accurate and complete reporting, and this open policy is grounded by the recognition of our responsibility to keep Southern Baptists informed of the work of the ministries it sponsors through its sacrificial giving to the Cooperative Program.

AUXILIARY ORGANIZATION

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION®

P.O. Box 830010, Birmingham, Alabama 35283-0010

LINDA COOPER, President

SANDRA WISDOM-MARTIN, Executive Director/Treasurer

Introduction

WMU® engages Christian believers in missions discipleship through church-based learning opportunities and personal opportunities to serve in hands-on missions experiences. WMU's curriculum continues to focus on the following six objectives to encourage a biblical understanding of missions and provide a holistic approach to missions awareness and participation:

- Pray for missions
- Engage in mission action and witnessing
- Learn about missions
- Support missions
- Develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle
- Participate in the work of the church and denomination

WMU Vision Statement: WMU challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God.

Report of Ministries

MISSIONS DISCIPLESHIP

The main purpose of WMU® is missions discipleship – to educate and involve preschoolers, children, youth, and adults in the cause of Christian missions.

WMU's age-level organizations include:

- Mission Friends® for preschool boys and girls from birth through kindergarten
- Girls in Action® (GA®) for girls in grades 1–6
- Royal Ambassadors® (RA®) for boys in grades 1–6
- Children in ActionSM for boys and girls in grades 1–6
- Acteens® for girls in grades 7–12
- Challengers® for boys in grades 7–12
- Youth on MissionSM for boys and girls in grades 7–12
- myMISSIONSM for collegiate and young women
- Women on Mission® for women
- Adults on MissionSM for men and women

WMU supports these organizations through age-appropriate magazines and other resources. Selected missions materials were produced in Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Develop: WMU Leadership Training

Introduced in 2015, Develop is WMU's online and on-demand leadership training with courses designed to help new and experienced missions leaders alike equip their churches and missions groups to be radically involved in the mission of God.

Both educationally sound and cost-effective, Develop courses provide foundational knowledge of WMU and specific information about leading various age-level organizations and ministries, or serving in a churchwide or associational WMU leadership role. Each Develop course is a self-paced, 30-day course.

All online leadership courses are available on ChristianLeaderLearning.com, WMU's online leadership development site. Seven new Develop courses were added this year, bringing the total to 17 different courses to choose from in the Develop catalog.

Christian Women's Leadership Center Offers Learning and Community

Christian Women's Leadership Center™ (CWLC™), an initiative of WMU®, engages Christian women in discovering and developing their leadership gifts and skills through holistic learning experiences so they may serve effectively as God calls them in life, the marketplace, and the church.

In September, we launched our Leadership Certificate Program at ChristianLeaderLearning.com, for women leaders who want their leadership to be rooted in their relationship with Christ and based on biblical principles. The curriculum in the certificate program focuses on three areas of study – leadership foundations, leadership formation, and leadership skills – in three semesters of coursework.

The certification program provides flexible learning opportunities for women with busy lifestyles and multiple responsibilities. Courses will assist participants in creating or refining their personal leadership style.

In addition to online leadership training, CWLC hosts monthly, topical luncheons at national WMU for women in the Birmingham, Alabama area, and helps provide effective and meaningful learning opportunities through a college internship program.

Children's Ministry Day

Since 2008, thousands of children in grades 1–6 have participated in missions projects through Children's Ministry Day™. This annual, concerted day of missions ties into Focus on WMU® week each February as children in churches all over the country minister in their community. In 2016, WMU also partnered with LifeWay® to encourage children to assemble hygiene kits in LifeWay Christian Stores and share them with someone unchurched in their community. On average, 25–30 children participated in each store nationwide, resulting in around 30–40 kits per store.

Project HELP: PTSD

Project HELPSM is an initiative of WMU which identifies a critical issue and then ties in national projects to help address it. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is the focus of Project HELP for 2014–2018. We continue to increase the number of resources to help churches minister to those affected by PTSD; this year New Hope® Publishers released *The Care Effect: Unleashing the Power of Compassion* by David Crosby, pastor of First Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana.

New Websites, Frequency Changes in Curriculum

This year we launched four new and improved websites: wmu.com, wmustore.com, WorldCrafts.org, and JustMissions.com. These sites now feature a fresh look, streamlined navigation, and a mobile-friendly design for easy access from phones, tablets, and computers.

To streamline delivery of resources to churches, all curriculum subscriptions moved to quarterly in frequency, with the exception of *Missions Mosaic*, which remains a monthly publication.

Subscription items provide the same amount or more of quality missions content for an entire year and the prices remained the same.

WMU Missions Celebration and SBC Annual Meeting

Approximately 550 gathered for the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, June 12–13, to worship and hear inspiring accounts from missionaries and others as they shared how God is at work around the world.

The new 2016–2018 WMU emphasis – *By All Means* – was also the theme for this year's event. The impetus for this theme is found in 1 Corinthians 9:22–23: "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

In addition to five general sessions, 22 different, one-hour conferences were offered. Topics ranged from understanding postmodernism and how to develop disciples in a postmodern culture, to missional leadership, to creative ways to engage others in learning about and doing missions.

During the event, Linda Cooper of Bowling Green, Kentucky, was re-elected to a second term as national president; and Tana Hartsell of Concord, North Carolina, was re-elected to a second term as national recording secretary.

During the SBC Annual Meeting a few days later, messengers approved a resolution of appreciation for Wanda Lee as she retired as executive director of national WMU, expressing "sincere and profound gratitude to God for the extraordinary life, ministry, and contributions" of Lee and her husband, Larry.

In addition to serving as executive director for 16 years, Lee is the only executive director in WMU's history who also served as national president, an office she held from 1996–2000. She also served as president of Georgia WMU from 1993–1996. Lee, a nurse by training, and her husband also served as missionaries with the IMB from 1979–1981 in St. Vincent, Windward Islands.

WMU MISSIONS TRIPS

Missions volunteers ministered across the country this year during FamilyfestSM, designed for missions volunteers ages 6 and up; MissionsfestSM, for volunteers ages 18 and older; and myMISSIONSM missions trips for young women, ages 18–34.

For 10 years, Owen and Ruth Ann Smith prayed a special prayer for the people of Colorado. After serving 14 years on short-term missions trips in various locations across the country, the couple longed for their state to experience a nationwide missions event as well. This year that prayer was answered as the Smiths served at FamilyfestSM in their home city of Aurora, Colorado, from June 25–29, marking their 25th missions trip with national WMU[®].

The Smiths served alongside 110 other volunteers, 50 of whom were children. The volunteers represented nine states and served eight ministry sites in Aurora through construction projects, outreach events, evangelism, acts of kindness, and prayerwalking.

This Familyfest opportunity was a partnership with national WMU, Colorado WMU, and local churches in the Mile High Baptist Association.

Missionsfest in Spartanburg, South Carolina, July 16–20, allowed 85 volunteers, ages 18 and older, to gather from 12 states to spread the gospel throughout Spartanburg through construction, outreach projects, evangelism, acts of kindness, prayerwalking, and much more.

Throughout the week, volunteers found unique ways to approach the community for Christ. Residents of White Oak Manor, a 192-bed nursing home, experienced a VBS – complete with decorations, crafts, music, memory verses, and Bible stories.

National WMU, South Carolina WMU, and Spartanburg County Baptist Network partnered together through Missionsfest to serve those in need and also to support the ongoing ministries in the community.

All these volunteers, in addition to 15 others who served in Nashville, Tennessee, May 27–30, during the myMISSION trip, provided a total of 7,532 hours of service in missions.

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S JOB CORPS/CHRISTIAN MEN’S JOB CORPS

CWJC[®]/CMJCSM, a ministry of WMU[®], offers life skills, job skills, mentoring, and Bible study in a missions context, in which women help women and men help men. In more than 190 registered and certified sites, coordinators lead efforts to help participants gain self-confidence, purpose, direction, and hope for the future. Here is just one of the many examples of how God is changing lives through this ministry:

Sophia Grant-Campbell came to Begin Anew, a CWJC site in Nashville, Tennessee, to pursue her High School Equivalency Degree. She writes, “CWJC made my degree possible and it has been a blessing to study and take the tests free of charge. The loving community of people at CWJC strengthened my belief and love for God. The program is a blessing to many and to me personally. My daughter loves coming to school with me, and we both feel loved and accepted. I am thankful for the program and can’t wait to walk in my cap and gown.”

Grant-Campbell is this year’s recipient of the Sybil Bentley Dove Award, which is presented annually to the CWJC participant who has demonstrated a desire to improve themselves by enhancing their skills through academic development, Bible study, and Christian mentoring.

In 2015,* approximately 4,570 participants were served by 12,152 staff and volunteers at 192 registered and certified CWJC and CMJC sites. CWJC/CMJC trainings were offered in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, New Mexico, and Texas in 2016.

*2016 statistics not available until fall of 2017.

BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP

Since 1983, members of Baptist Nursing FellowshipSM, a fellowship of Christian health-care professionals in partnership with WMU[®], have been using their skills and faith to reach the world for Christ. This year was no exception. BNF[®] members served in their local communities, the U.S., and globally.

National BNF President Marilyn Graves had the privilege of working with Eric Maroney, IMB personnel in Croatia, to provide palliative care training to more than 1,000 Croatian health-care workers.

BNF partnered with the North American Mission Board’s SEND Relief mobile medical and dental clinic at First Baptist Church Ferguson (Missouri), a part of Crossover St. Louis, just prior to the SBC Annual Meeting. Linda Cooper, national WMU president and BNF member, served in the dental clinic while nurses Carmen Halsey, WMU executive director of Illinois, and Marilyn Graves served in the medical clinic.

BNF health-care professionals served during Missionsfest in Spartanburg, South Carolina by providing on-site blood pressure checks at a block party as well as continuing education requirements of the state’s health department for staff at a local residential care facility.

A BNF team served in the Dominican Republic through Orphans Heart. During the week, the team served hundreds of patients in the area clinics.

The 2016 BNF Annual Meeting took place September 16–18 at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. During the meeting, BNF founder, Dr. Ellen Tabor and Dr. Dewey Dunn and his wife, Bobbie, were honored for their vision of BNF and their years of service through health-care ministries. Participants served in a variety of ministries during the missions project portion of the meeting, including providing care packages for nursing students and filling backpacks for children in Appalachia through the backpack project of NAMB's SEND Relief.

PURE WATER, PURE LOVE

Approximately 2,052 water filters and filter replacement parts were provided for missionaries and missions teams serving in 2016. In addition, two grants totaling \$21,000 supported water projects in Indonesia and Haiti this year. Since PWPL expanded in 2005 from only providing water filters to also funding well and water projects and providing assistance with disaster relief, approximately \$633,001 has been granted for well projects all over the world.

MISSIONARY HOUSING

WMU coordinates housing needs for Southern Baptist missionaries while they are on stateside assignment. Currently, there are approximately 545 homes for long-term housing and 130 for short-term housing needs of missionaries made available by churches, associations, and individuals in 31 states. WMU also provides counsel to those who want to learn more about starting a missionary house ministry and facilitates communication between missionaries and those who have houses available for use.

WORLDCRAFTS

WorldCraftsSM works to provide sustainable income for impoverished people around the world. The vision of WorldCrafts is to offer an income with dignity and the hope of everlasting life to every person on earth.

It is the work of God in the world to bring people to Himself. God's love becomes real when impoverished people encounter believers who care about them enough to help meet their most basic human needs and, when possible, explain it is really Christ who satisfies their hunger and thirst. God's mandate to feed the hungry and free the oppressed is why organizations like WorldCrafts exist. WorldCrafts conducts business according to Fair Trade Federation guidelines – in a manner that restores dignity and empowers workers to transform their homes and their communities. Until every person has the opportunity to be free from poverty and hear the message of eternal life, the mission will not be complete.

New Artisan Groups and Products

In 2016, WorldCrafts developed partnerships with two new artisan groups: Sak Saum (Cambodia) and Channapatna Handicrafts (India). We also offered 36 new products from 19 artisan partners in 12 different countries.

Support Freedom Campaign Highlights Groups Working to Free Women from Sex Trafficking

The WorldCrafts Support Freedom campaign actively empowers WorldCrafts customers, buyers, and artisans by supporting those groups working to free women involved in or at risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. There are now 20 artisan groups featured in the campaign. The campaign offers opportunities for people to be involved through praying, hosting a party, learning about the groups, and donating to help support human trafficking victims.

Reaching New Audiences

WorldCrafts continues to partner with WMU of Texas to introduce WorldCrafts products to new audiences. The WMU of Texas' WorldCrafts van makes its way throughout the state, promoting and selling WorldCrafts at numerous events to hundreds of new customers.

WorldCrafts was also represented at the 2016 SBC annual meeting.

NEW HOPE PUBLISHERS

As the trade publishing division of WMU®, New Hope® Publishers released a growing number of missional resources through both print and digital formats in 2016.

Twenty-Three New Releases in 2016

Releases in 2016 included a new, four-week Bible study series for women, FOCUSed 15. *Everyday Faith, Everyday Hope, Everyday Love, and Everyday Peace* by Katie Orr have made a powerful impact on many female readers and offered unique approaches to Bible study. For example, Orr formed an online, digital, discipleship group of 12 women whom she trained to lead their own FOCUSed 15 study groups. Collectively, all 12 women, many of whom had never led a Bible study before, led more than 300 women through the book *Everyday Peace*.

Also, *Bronner: A Journey to Understand* received stellar reviews from *New York Times* best-selling authors such as Max Lucado and Andy Andrews, as well as national media coverage. This year's WMU emphasis book, *Unscripted: Sharing the Gospel as Life Happens* by Jeff Iorg, made a powerful impact on many readers as well, by inspiring new evangelism techniques. New Hope has also continued to increase its series entitled "Gifts of Hope" through four new titles focusing on relevant issues: *30 Days of Hope for Strength in Chronic Illness, 30 Days of Hope for Comfort in Infertility, 30 Days of Hope for Joy Through a Child's Severe Illness, and 30 Days of Hope for Hurting Marriages*.

Transition and New Business Model

This year has been a time of transition for New Hope in a variety of ways. We experienced changes in staffing as Judy Patterson, New Hope publisher, retired in September. Additionally, in light of changes in the book distribution industry, New Hope established itself as an independent distributor under the WMU operations in Birmingham, Alabama, and established direct relationships with the buyers for top retailers, making New Hope content available through multiple channels. With the emergence of a new business model and the tremendous quality of work being provided by the New Hope team, we are poised to engage more people to grow in their discipleship and in missions.

Supportive Operations

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The Executive Board of WMU®, which is comprised of women who serve as WMU presidents in their state or multistate territory, gathered three times in 2016 for committee meetings and to conduct the business of the organization. These meetings took place January 9–11 at national WMU in Birmingham and Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Alabama; June 11–12 at the Marriott St. Louis Grand Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri; and July 29–30 at Hampton Inn in Birmingham, Alabama.

During the called Board meeting, July 29–30, Sandy Wisdom-Martin was unanimously elected executive director/treasurer of national WMU®, and began her new role on October 15.

Wisdom-Martin succeeds Wanda Lee, who had served as executive director of national WMU since 2000. Most recently, Wisdom-Martin served as executive director of WMU of Texas since 2010. She also served as women's missions and ministries director for the Illinois Baptist State

Association, 2001–2010; and as a Cooperative Program missionary with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, 1991–2001.

In addition to more than 25 years of experience in state WMU and church and community ministry, including children's missions education camps, Wisdom-Martin has served with more than 50 missions groups in nine different countries; served as national coordinator for the Mississippi River Ministry; and written extensively for WMU publications and others. In WMU, she has served as an associational GA® director, associational Acteens® director, Campus Baptist Young Women (BYW) president, Mission Friends® leader, GA leader, and Acteens co-leader.

Born and raised in southern Illinois, Wisdom-Martin holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Southern Illinois University and a master's in social work from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She and her husband, Frank, have one daughter, Hannah.

MISSION BOARDS

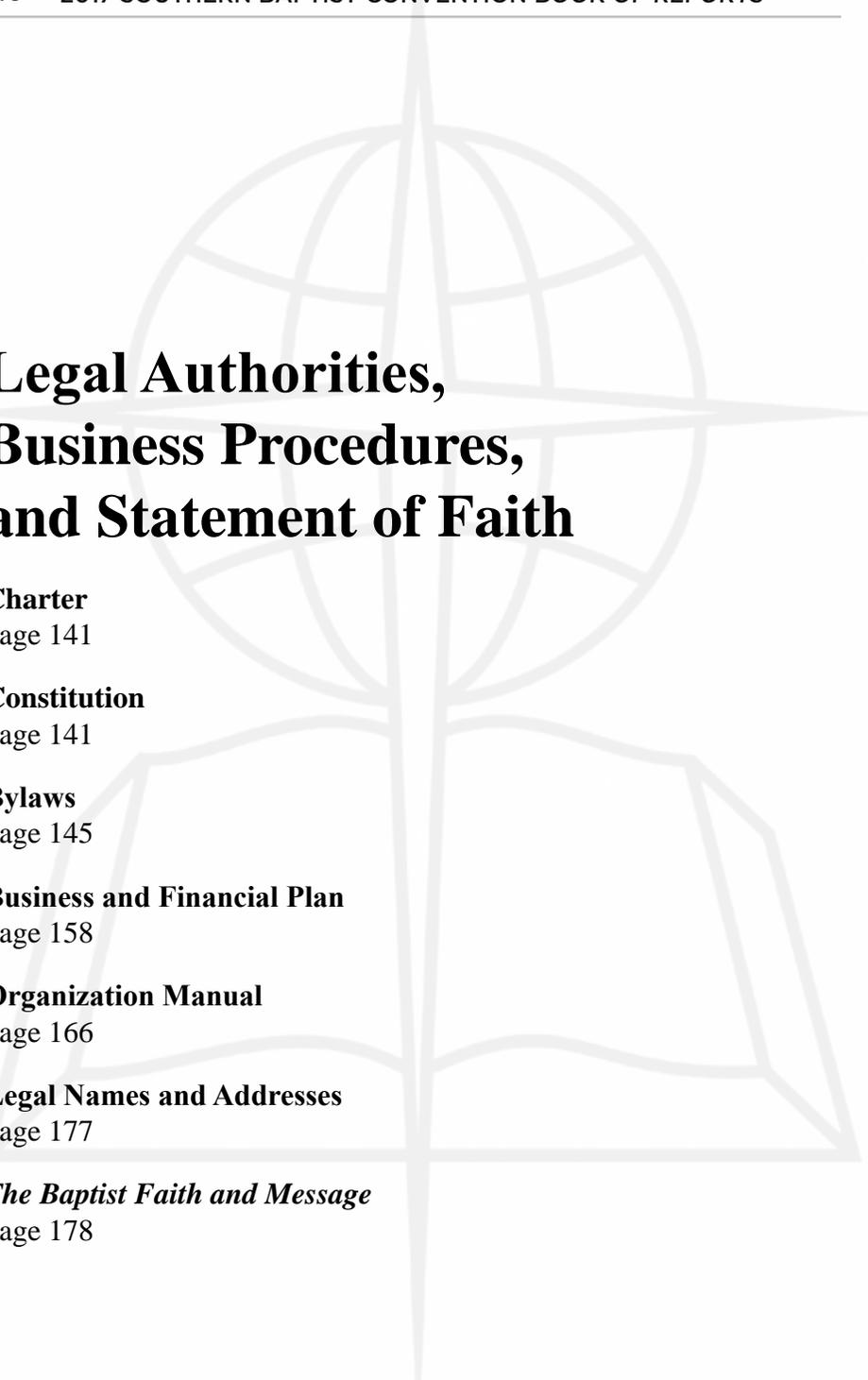
Members of WMU® missions organizations learn about North American and international missionaries and their work and readily support them through prayer and giving to the missions offerings.

In 2015,* WMU helped raise \$165.8 million – the highest total in the offering's 127-year-history – for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for International Missions. Since initiating the first offering in 1888, WMU has helped raise more than \$4.2 billion through this effort. Also in 2015,* WMU helped raise \$58 million for missions work in North America through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®. Since 1907, when official reporting began for the home missions offering started by WMU, receipts totaled more than \$1.6 billion through 2015. All of the funds raised through these two missions offerings go directly to the mission boards to support field personnel as they share the gospel.

Additionally, national WMU awards a variety of scholarships each year to children of Southern Baptist missionaries and continues to actively promote giving through the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.

National WMU is not a part of the Cooperative Program allocation budget and receives no funds from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering or Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. National WMU is supported through the sale of magazines and products, and from investments and charitable contributions.

*Final 2016 totals for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering were not available at time of print



Legal Authorities, Business Procedures, and Statement of Faith

Charter
page 141

Constitution
page 141

Bylaws
page 145

Business and Financial Plan
page 158

Organization Manual
page 166

Legal Names and Addresses
page 177

The Baptist Faith and Message
page 178

CHARTER

An Act

To Incorporate ... the Southern Baptist Convention

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this act ... that William B. Johnson, Wilson Lumpkin, James B. Taylor, A. Docre, R. B. C. Howell and others their associates and successors be and they are hereby Incorporated and made a body politic by the name and style of the Southern Baptist Convention with authority to receive hold possess retain and dispose of property either real or personal to sue and be sued and to make all bye-laws, rules and regulations necessary to the transaction of their business not inconsistent with the laws of this state or of the United States, said corporation being created for the purpose of eliciting combining and directing the energies of the Baptist denomination of Christians for the propagation of the gospel any law usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

[Signed:]

Charles J. Jenkins
Speaker of The House of Representatives

Absalom H. Chappell
President of the Senate

Approved December 27th 1845

Geo. W. Crawford
Governor

(Act 203, Georgia Archives RG 37-01-15 Enrolled Acts & Resolutions, Georgia Laws - 1845, Vol. 2-9838 Acts 98-228 pp. 428-431.)

CONSTITUTION

The messengers from missionary societies, churches, and other religious bodies of the Baptist denomination in various parts of the United States met in Augusta, Georgia, May 8, 1845, for the purpose of carrying into effect the benevolent intention of our constituents by organizing a plan for eliciting, combining, and directing the energies of the denomination for the propagation of the gospel and adopted rules and fundamental principles which, as amended from time to time, are as follows:

Article I. The Name: The name of this body is the “Southern Baptist Convention.”

Article II. Purpose: It is the purpose of the Convention to provide a general organization for Baptists in the United States and its territories for the promotion of Christian missions at home and abroad and any other objects such as Christian education, benevolent enterprises, and social services which it may deem proper and advisable for the furtherance of the Kingdom of God.

Article III. Composition: The Convention shall consist of messengers who are members of Baptist churches in cooperation with the Convention. The following subparagraphs describe the Convention’s current standards and method of determining the maximum number of messengers the Convention will recognize from each cooperating church to attend the Convention’s annual meeting.

1. The Convention will only deem a church to be in friendly cooperation with the Convention, and sympathetic with its purposes and work (i.e., a “cooperating” church as that term is used in the Convention’s governing documents) which:
 - (1) Has a faith and practice which closely identifies with the Convention’s adopted statement of faith. (By way of example, churches which act to affirm, approve, or endorse homosexual behavior would be deemed not to be in cooperation with the Convention.)
 - (2) Has formally approved its intention to cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. (By way of example, the regular filing of the annual report requested by the Convention would be one indication of such cooperation.)
 - (3) Has made undesignated, financial contribution(s) through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention’s Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity during the fiscal year preceding.
2. Under the terms above, the Convention will recognize to participate in its annual meeting two (2) messengers from each cooperating church, and such additional messengers as are permitted below.
3. The Convention will recognize additional messengers from a cooperating church under one of the options described below. Whichever method allows the church the greater number of messengers shall apply:
 - (1) One additional messenger for each full percent of the church’s undesignated receipts which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention’s Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity; or
 - (2) One additional messenger for each \$6,000 which the church contributed during the fiscal year preceding through the Cooperative Program, and/or through the Convention’s Executive Committee for Convention causes, and/or to any Convention entity.
4. The messengers shall be appointed and certified by their church to the Convention, but the Convention will not recognize more than twelve (12) from any cooperating church.
5. Each messenger shall be a member of the church by which he or she is appointed.
6. If a church experiences a natural disaster or calamitous event and, as a result, the church is not qualified to appoint as many messengers as the church could appoint for the Convention’s annual meeting immediately before the event, the church’s pastor or an authorized church representative may, for no more than the three (3) annual meetings after the event, certify the facts to the registration secretary and obtain the same number of messengers it could have certified for the Convention’s annual meeting immediately before the event.

Article IV. Authority: While independent and sovereign in its own sphere, the Convention does not claim and will never attempt to exercise any authority over any other Baptist body, whether church, auxiliary organizations, associations, or convention.

Article V. Officers:

1. The officers of the Convention shall be a president, a first and a second vice president, a recording secretary, a registration secretary, and a treasurer.

2. The officers shall be elected annually and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. The term of office for the president is limited to two (2) years, and a president shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is named. The first vice president shall be voted upon and elected after the election of the president has taken place; and the second vice president shall be voted upon and elected after the election of the first vice president has taken place.
3. The president shall be a member of the several boards and of the Executive Committee.
4. The treasurer of the Executive Committee shall be the treasurer of the Convention.
5. In case of death or disability of the president, the vice presidents shall automatically succeed to the office of president in the order of their election.

Article VI. The Boards, Institutions, and Commissions – Their Constitution and Powers:

1. The general boards of the Convention shall be composed as follows, unless otherwise provided in their charters.
 - (1) Twelve (12) members chosen from the city or vicinity of the state in which the board is located, but not more than three (3) local members elected from the same church.
 - (2) One (1) member chosen from each cooperating state; and one (1) additional member from each state having two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members, and another additional member for each additional two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members in such state.
 - (3) The members shall be divided into four (4) groups as nearly equal as possible, and one (1) group shall be elected each year to serve four (4) years. Board members having served two (2) full terms of four (4) years shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as two (2) years have elapsed. This shall also apply to the Executive Committee.
2. The trustees of institutions and directors shall be composed as follows:
 - (1) The trustees or directors shall be elected in keeping with the requirements of the charter of the entity as printed in the 1948 *Book of Reports* or subsequently amended with the prior approval of the Convention.
 - (2) If the composition of the trustees or directors is not determined by charter requirements, the body of trustees or directors shall be composed of one (1) member chosen from each cooperating state and eight (8) local members from the city or vicinity in which the entity is located, but not more than two (2) local members shall be chosen from the same church.
 - (3) Unless it is contrary to the charter requirements of the entity, the trustees or directors shall be divided into four (4) groups as nearly equal as possible and one (1) group shall be elected each year to serve four (4) years. Members having served two (2) full terms of four (4) years shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as two (2) years have elapsed after one has served two (2) full terms.
 - (4) Regardless of charter provisions, no trustee or director shall be eligible for re-election until as much as two (2) years have elapsed after the trustee or director has served two (2) full terms.

3. Terms of Service: No trustee of a board, institution, or commission, or a member of the Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms. A trustee or member of the Executive Committee who has served more than half a term shall be considered to have served a full term.
4. The governing groups of the entities may elect executive, administrative, finance, investment, and other committees if desired.
5. Each entity shall elect a president, a recording secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be required. The president may be named as treasurer.
6. The compensation of its officers and employees shall be fixed by each entity, but no salaried employee or officer shall be a member of the directors of the entity.
7. Each entity is authorized to adopt its own bylaws.
8. Fifty percent of the members of the governing group shall constitute a quorum of the entity directors for transaction of any business.

Article VII. Duties of Officers of Boards, Institutions, and Commissions: All officers shall be subject to the control and direction of their directors in matters pertaining to the work and obligations of the board, institution, or commission. They shall perform such duties as commonly appertain to such officers.

1. The executive head of each board, institution, and commission shall be responsible to the directors for all the work of the entity and shall carry on the work as the directors may direct.
2. The recording secretary of each entity shall keep a record of all meetings of directors, if not otherwise provided for, and shall keep the records in fireproof safes, vaults, or files.
3. The treasurer of each entity shall follow approved methods of accounting, keep the books, receipt for all monies and securities, deposit all funds with a depository or depositories approved by the directors, and render full statements as required to the directors or to the Convention. The treasurer shall not pay out money except as the directors may order and direct.

Article VIII. Church Membership: Officers of the Convention, all officers and members of all boards, trustees of institutions, directors, all committee members, and all missionaries of the Convention appointed by its boards shall be members of Baptist churches cooperating with this Convention.

Article IX. Missionaries' Qualifications: All missionaries appointed by the Convention's boards must, previous to their appointment, furnish evidence of piety, zeal for the Master's kingdom, conviction of truth as held by Baptists, and talents for missionary service.

Article X. Distribution of Funds: The Convention shall have the right to designate only undesignated funds, the right of contributors to the work of the Convention to designate the objects to which their contributions shall be applied being fully recognized.

Article XI. Meetings:

1. The Convention shall hold its meetings annually at such time and place as it may choose.
2. The president may call special meetings with the concurrence of the other officers of the Convention and of the Executive Committee.

3. The Executive Committee may change the time and place of meeting if the entertaining city withdraws its invitation or is unable to fulfill its commitments.
4. The Convention officers, the Executive Committee, and the executive heads of the Convention's boards and institutions acting in a body may, in case of grave emergency, cancel a regular meeting or change the place of meeting.

Article XII. As to Conflict with State Laws: All incorporated entities of the Convention shall be required to comply with the letter and spirit of this Constitution, the Bylaws, and the Business and Financial Plan insofar as they are not in conflict with the statute law of the state in which an entity is incorporated, and nothing herein contained shall be construed to require any such incorporated entity to act and carry on its affairs in conflict with the law of the state of its incorporation. In case any action of any entity of the Convention is found to be a violation of the law of the state of its incorporation, said action shall be reported by that entity to the Convention for appropriate action.

Article XIII. Definition of a State: The District of Columbia shall be regarded as a state for the purpose of this Constitution, the Bylaws, and all actions of the Convention.

Article XIV. Amendments: Any alterations may be made in these Articles at any annual meeting of the Convention by a vote of two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at the time the vote is taken, provided that an amendment shall be so approved by two (2) consecutive annual meetings of the Convention.

BYLAWS

In order to carry out the provisions of the Constitution, the following Bylaws are adopted for the government of the Convention:

1. Convention Session:

- A. The Convention shall open with the Tuesday morning session and continue through Wednesday, holding such sessions as the Committee on Order of Business finds necessary for the conduct of business, except that sufficient time on Wednesday afternoon shall be reserved for seminary luncheons and other necessary meetings.
- B. The Convention sermon and president's message shall be considered as fixed orders at the time designated by the committee on Order of Business.
- C. A messenger may speak in debate for longer than three minutes only with the permission of the Convention granted by a two-thirds vote.
- D. A messenger may introduce a second motion during a business session only if no other messenger is seeking the floor who has not made a motion during that session.

2. Presentation of Outside Causes: Causes other than those provided for in the regular work of the Convention may be presented to the Convention upon authority of officers of the Convention in conference with the Committee on Order of Business in such ways and at such times as may be dictated by the courtesies of the case and the necessities of the program.

3. Convention Site:

- A. No city shall be considered as a meeting place for the Southern Baptist Convention in which there is a considerable distance between the available hotels and the Convention hall.

- B. No meetings other than the Convention services shall be held in the Convention hall during the sessions of the Convention. Every service held in the Convention auditorium shall be under the direction of the Committee on Order of Business.
4. **Exhibits:** All exhibits of every description shall be rigidly excluded from those parts of the place of meeting where the people visiting the exhibits will disturb the proceedings of the Convention, their locations to be determined by the Executive Committee or its agent. The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have exclusive control of all exhibit space.
5. **Book of Reports:**
- A. Copy for reports and recommendations to the Convention shall be submitted to the recording secretary by March 1, unless circumstances beyond the control of the reporting entity or committee make it impossible.
- B. Recommendations of entities and committees of the Convention may not be voted upon until the recommendations have been printed in the *Book of Reports* or the Convention *Bulletin*. The recording secretary is authorized to provide the Baptist Press and other interested parties, upon their request, copies of recommendations requiring Convention action.
6. **Convention Annual:** The Convention *Annual* containing reports and actions of the Convention and other pertinent material shall be published as soon as possible after the meeting of the Convention and shall be made available without charge to all active pastors and denominational agents.
7. **Bulletin:**
- A. The Executive Committee of the Convention shall have printed each day a sufficient number of brief reports, or bulletins, of the Journal of Proceedings, reporting specifically matters of business proposed and acted upon, including the names of committees appointed, reports of the committees, and such business as may be transacted and carried over to the following day, also including a list of the titles or subjects of the resolutions presented and the names of the persons presenting them.
- B. Such report, or bulletin, shall not include speeches or addresses or any comment thereon, a photograph, or any personal reference to any messenger of the Convention, but shall be only a resume of the business transacted during that day.
8. **Messenger Credentials and Registration:**
- A. Each person elected by a church cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention as a messenger to the Southern Baptist Convention shall be registered as a messenger to the Convention upon presentation of proper credentials. Credentials shall be presented by each messenger, in person, at the Convention registration desk and shall be in the following form:
- (1) A completed, properly authorized, official Southern Baptist Convention registration document, certifying the messenger's election in accordance with Article III. Composition, of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention; but if the messenger does not have the messenger registration document,
 - (2) A letter from the messenger's church, signed by the pastor, clerk or moderator of the church, certifying the messenger's election in accordance with Article III. Composition, of the Constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention; or

- (3) Some other document (which may include a fax, e-mail, or other physical or electronically transmitted document) from the messenger's church which is deemed reliable by the Credentials Committee or qualifies under guidelines approved by the registration secretary and the Credentials Committee.

Messengers registered in accordance with this section shall constitute the Convention.

- B. The president of the Convention, in consultation with the vice presidents, shall appoint, at least thirty (30) days before the annual session, a Credentials Committee to serve at the forthcoming sessions of the Convention. This committee shall review and rule upon any questions which may arise in registration concerning the credentials of messengers. Any such ruling may be appealed to the Convention during business session. Any contention arising on the floor concerning seating of messengers shall be referred to the committee for consideration and the committee shall report back to the Convention.
 - C. The registration secretary shall be at the place of the annual meeting at least one (1) day prior to the convening of the first session of the Southern Baptist Convention for the purpose of opening the registration desk and registering messengers. The registration secretary also shall convene the Credentials Committee at least one day prior to the annual meeting and shall assist the committee in reviewing questions concerning messenger credentials. The registration secretary shall report to the Convention the number of registered messengers.
9. **Address of Welcome:** There may be one (1) address of welcome limited to ten (10) minutes and one (1) response thereto limited to ten (10) minutes.

10. Election of Officers and Voting:

- A. The president, the first and second vice presidents, and the secretaries shall be elected at the Convention, their terms of office to begin at the final adjournment.
- B. Election of officers shall be by ballot, provided however that if there is only one (1) nomination, and no other person desires to nominate, the registration secretary or anyone designated for the purpose may cast the ballot of the Convention. If an officer does not receive a majority of votes cast on the first ballot, subsequent ballots shall carry the names of those who are included in the top 50 percent of the total votes cast in the previous ballot.
- C. Nominating speeches for officers of the Convention shall be limited to one (1) address of not more than three (3) minutes for each nominee.
- D. The president, in consultation with the registration secretary, shall appoint tellers. The tabulation of any vote by the tellers or otherwise (such as by electronic means) shall be under the supervision of the registration secretary. The president or registration secretary shall announce election and voting results to the Convention as soon as practicable.
- E. Any materials, instructions, and/or devices necessary to vote shall be made available to the messengers.
- F. No proxy voting is permitted. All propositions, decisions, and choices shall be by a majority vote of the messengers present and voting in person, except where provisions have been made for a greater than majority vote. Except for officer elections, votes may be taken by ballot, by voice, by rising, by show of hands, by common consent, or by some other acceptable method. "Ballot" shall include electronic voting that protects the integrity of the voting process and provides for messengers' votes to remain confidential.

11. **Parliamentary Authority and Parliamentarians:** The parliamentary authority of the Southern Baptist Convention shall be *Robert's Rules of Order* (latest revised edition). The Convention president, in conference with the vice presidents, shall select a chief parliamentarian and assistant parliamentarians, as necessary, to advise the presiding officers of the Convention on matters of parliamentary procedure. The chief parliamentarian shall be a person of experience and knowledge, sufficient to qualify him or her to serve as parliamentarian to the Southern Baptist Convention, and he or she shall be certified by the American Institute of Parliamentarians and/or the National Association of Parliamentarians. It shall be the responsibility of the president and treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to sign, on behalf of the Executive Committee, any contracts or letters of agreement related to the services of the chief parliamentarian.
12. **Ministry Leaders:** Leaders of Southern Baptist Convention entities shall be admitted to the Convention sessions and shall be authorized to serve as resource persons for discussion of those matters which affect their areas of ministry responsibility.
13. **Memorial Services:** The Committee on Order of Business is instructed to arrange for any memorial service to be held during the Convention.
14. **Entities and Auxiliary of the Convention:**
 - A. The entities of the Convention are as follows:
 - (1) General Boards: The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Richmond, Virginia; The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc., Alpharetta, Georgia; LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee; GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dallas, Texas.
 - (2) Institutions: The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana; Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, Ontario, California; The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc., Wake Forest, North Carolina; Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri.
 - (3) Commission: The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee.
 - B. Auxiliary: Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Alabama, is an auxiliary of the Convention.
15. **Committee on Nominations:**
 - A. The Committee on Nominations shall be composed of two (2) members from each qualified state, who shall be elected by the Convention. Nominations for each position shall be made by the Committee on Committees. The Committee on Committees shall make its recommendation of nominees to the Convention in the form of a single motion to elect all those persons it recommends for the Committee on Nominations. The motion may be amended but no messenger shall be allowed to propose more than one (1) person at a time for election. When adopted by the Convention, the motion of the Committee on Committees, as amended, shall constitute the election of the persons named in the motion to the Committee on Nominations. One (1) person nominated to the Committee on Nominations from each state shall be a person not employed full time by (or retired from) a church or denominational entity. Persons nominated to the Committee on Nominations shall have been resident members for

- at least three (3) years of Southern Baptist churches either geographically within the states or affiliated with the conventions of the states from which they are elected.
- B. The Committee on Nominations thus elected shall prepare its report through the year, carefully following the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention and the documents of the respective Convention entities, and shall recommend to the next Convention the following:
- (1) Members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention
 - (2) Directors/trustees of the boards of the Convention
 - (3) Trustees of the institutions of the Convention
 - (4) Trustees of the commissions of the Convention
 - (5) Members of any standing committees
- C. Excluding the president and recording secretary of the Convention, and the president of Woman's Missionary Union, and unless otherwise specifically permitted or required by these bylaws, no person shall be eligible to be elected or appointed to serve simultaneously on more than one of the boards, institutions, commissions, or committees of the Convention, or as a member of the Executive Committee, and no person shall be elected or appointed to serve on one of these bodies if that person's spouse has been elected or appointed to serve on one of these bodies for a time which would be simultaneous.
- D. The committee shall not recommend a fellow committee member or the member's spouse or a member of the previous year's Committee on Committees or the member's spouse for a first term on an entity.
- E. The committee shall recognize the principle that the persons it recommends shall represent the constituency of the Convention, rather than the staff of the entity.
- F. No person and no person's spouse shall be eligible to serve on the board of any one of the above entities (1) from which the person receives, directly or indirectly, any form of payment or financial benefit except for reimbursements for reasonable and authorized expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of a trustee, or, (2) which provides funds for which he/she has a duty of administration. When such conditions become applicable, that person or that person's spouse shall be considered as having resigned and such vacancy shall be filled in accordance with established Convention procedure.
- G. All of the above entities shall include both church or denominational employees and those who are not church or denominational employees. Not more than two-thirds of the members of any of these entities shall be drawn from either category. Where a person was serving as a church or denominational employee at the time of retirement, he/she should be counted as a church or denominational employee after retirement as far as the work of the Committee on Nominations is concerned.
- H. Any person elected to serve on any of the boards, institutions, commissions, or the Executive Committee, shall at the time of such election have been continuously a resident member for at least the preceding three (3) years of a church or churches which were in those years in friendly cooperation with the Convention and sympathetic with its purposes and work, and, where representation is by qualifying states, which were either geographically within the state or affiliated with the convention of the state from which the person is elected. Any person who is a member of one of these entities shall be considered as having resigned when the person ceases to be a

resident member of a church either geographically within the state or affiliated with the convention of the state from which he/she has been elected as a representative.

- I. No person who has served on the board of an entity or on the Executive Committee shall be eligible to serve on the board of any entity or on the Executive Committee until two years after the conclusion of his or her term of office, except that a person may be re-elected to an authorized successive term or serve by virtue of a separate office.
- J. The report of the Committee on Nominations shall be released to Baptist Press no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention and shall be published in the first day's *Bulletin*. Persons desiring to amend the report of the Committee on Nominations are encouraged to publicize the nature of their amendment sufficiently in advance of the annual meeting of the Convention to allow information concerning the amendment to be made available to Convention messengers.
- K. The Committee on Nominations shall make its recommendation to the Convention in the form of a motion to elect those persons it recommends for specific terms of office. The motion may be amended but no messenger shall be allowed to propose more than one (1) person at a time for election. When adopted by the Convention, the motion of the Committee on Nominations, as amended, shall constitute the election of the persons named in the motion to their respective terms of office.

16. Vacancies on Boards: All entities shall report all vacancies on the entities to the Committee on Nominations immediately on the occurrence of such vacancies. Any entity's board may make interim appointments only when authorized by its charter. Any such appointment shall only be of a person who is eligible and qualified both to be elected by the Convention and to serve according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

17. Fraternal Messengers:

- A. The Convention shall send a fraternal messenger to the annual sessions of the American Baptist Churches and the National Baptist conventions. The expenses of the fraternal messengers incurred while in attendance upon the conventions herein named shall be included in the items of Convention expenses.
- B. The fraternal messenger to the American Baptist Churches shall be the president of the Southern Baptist Convention at the time of the meeting of the American Baptist Churches, and he shall also be the fraternal messenger to the other National Baptist conventions named. If the president is unable to attend, he shall be authorized to name another officer as a substitute.
- C. The fraternal messengers to other Baptist bodies or other religious bodies may be elected by the Convention as occasion may require. The expenses of such messengers shall be borne by the messengers themselves unless specifically provided for by the Convention.

18. The Executive Committee:

- A. The Executive Committee shall consist of the president and the recording secretary of the Convention, the president of the Woman's Missionary Union, and one (1) member from each cooperating state of the Convention subject to the provisions of Section 30 of the Bylaws. When the membership of cooperating Baptist churches in a given state shall have reached two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000), there shall be elected an additional member of the Executive Committee, one (1) of whom shall be a person not employed full time by a church or denominational entity; and, further, there shall

be an additional member for each two hundred and fifty thousand (250,000) members providing that the number of members from each cooperating state shall be limited to five (5); and, further, that not more than two-thirds shall be drawn from either persons employed full time by a church or denominational entity or persons not employed full time by a church or denominational entity. No salaried official of the Convention or of any of its entities or any member of any board or board of trustees or commission of the Convention or any salaried official of any state convention or of any entity of a state convention may be a member of the Executive Committee, but these restrictions shall not apply in case of the president, the president of Woman's Missionary Union, and the recording secretary of the Convention.

- B. Members shall be divided into four (4) groups as nearly equal as possible and shall hold office for four (4) years, one-fourth going out of office each year.
- C. A majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- D. The Executive Committee shall elect a president, who shall also be treasurer, and other officers and staff who may be needed. All the main executive officers and all the office employees who handle funds shall be bonded, and no salaried officer or employee shall be a member of the Executive Committee.
- E. The Executive Committee shall be the fiduciary, the fiscal, and the executive entity of the Convention in all its affairs not specifically committed to some other board or entity.

The Executive Committee is specifically authorized, instructed, and commissioned to perform the following functions:

- (1) To act for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for.
- (2) To be named in transfers of real and personal property for the use and benefit of the Convention either by deed, conveyance, will, or otherwise and to affix the seal of the Convention to all approved transactions; and to take title to and hold or to convey title to all properties, real or personal, and all funds, monies, and securities that are donated or transferred or left by will to or for the use of the Convention. As to such properties, funds, monies, and securities as the Executive Committee shall hold and not convey title to, the Executive Committee shall be custodian of such, holding them in trust for the Convention to be managed, controlled, and administered by the Executive Committee in accordance with the direction, general or specific, of the Convention. Rules governing the handling of securities set out in Article VII, Section 3, of the Constitution shall be observed by the Executive Committee.
- (3) To receive and receipt for all current funds of the Convention including all undesignated cooperative missionary, educational, and benevolent funds and all current special or designated funds for missionary, educational, and benevolent purposes which may be contributed by individuals, churches, societies, corporations, associations, or state conventions; and to disburse all undesignated funds, according to the percentages fixed by the Convention and all the designated funds according to the stipulations of the donors. The Executive Committee shall keep the accounts of all inter-entity groups and shall disburse their funds on requisition of the properly constituted officers of the inter-entity organization.

- (4) To recommend to the Convention a time and place and to have oversight of the arrangements for the meetings of the Convention, with authority to change both the time and place of the meetings in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution.
- (5) To act in an advisory capacity on all questions of cooperation among the different entities of the Convention, and among the entities of the Convention and those of other conventions, whether state or national.
- (6) To present to the Convention each year a consolidated and comprehensive financial statement of the Convention and all its entities, which statement shall show the assets and liabilities of the Convention and all its entities, and all the cash and other receipts of the year.
- (7) To present to the Convention a comprehensive budget for the Convention and for all its entities, which budget shall include the budgets of all the entities of the Convention whether or not they receive Cooperative Program funds, as reviewed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall recommend the amount of Convention funds which may be allocated to each cause. It shall not recommend any direct allocation of funds for any entity or institution for which the Convention does not elect trustees or directors.
- (8) To conduct the general work of promotion and the general work of publicity for the Convention in cooperation with the entities of the Convention. The Executive Committee shall provide a Convention relations service and a Convention news service to interpret and publicize the overall Southern Baptist ministry. These services shall be available to support the work of all Convention entities and ministries.
- (9) To maintain open channels of communication between the Executive Committee and the trustees of the entities of the Convention, to study and make recommendations to entities concerning adjustments required by ministry statements or by established Convention policies and practices, and, whenever deemed advisable, to make recommendations to the Convention. The Executive Committee shall not have authority to control or direct the several boards, entities, and institutions of the Convention. This is the responsibility of trustees elected by the Convention and accountable directly to the Convention.
- (10) To make its own bylaws in keeping with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention in carrying out these instructions to the Executive Committee; to hold meetings whenever deemed necessary; to make reports of all meetings to the Convention; to notify all the boards, entities, and institutions of the actions of the Convention and to advise with them as to the best way of promoting all the interests of the Convention.
- (11) To derive, in accordance with the action of the Convention in Atlanta in 1944, the expenses of the Executive Committee from the Operating Budget of the Convention specifically established for this purpose and formally approved by the Convention.
- (12) To utilize an appropriate report format which will enable the Executive Committee to obtain from the entities adequate and comparable information about ministry plans, accomplishments, and financial data.

- (13) To maintain an official organization manual defining the responsibilities of each entity of the Convention for conducting specific ministries and for performing other functions. The manual shall cite the actions of the Convention that assigned the ministries and other functions to the entity. The Executive Committee shall present to the Convention recommendations required to clarify the responsibilities of the entities for ministries and other functions, to eliminate overlapping assignments of responsibility, and to authorize the assignment of new responsibilities for ministries or functions to entities.
- (14) To send copies of the minutes of the Executive Committee to the heads of all Southern Baptist Convention entities, and copies of the minutes of all entities shall be sent to the office of the Executive Committee.

19. Committee on Committees: A Committee on Committees, composed of two (2) members from each qualified state or defined territory, shall be appointed by the president, in conference with the vice presidents, of whom one (1) shall be designated as chairperson. Persons named to the Committee on Committees shall have been resident members for at least three (3) years of Southern Baptist churches either geographically within the states or affiliated with the conventions of the states from which they are appointed. Members so named shall be notified by the president in writing, at least 45 days before the meeting of the Convention. Their names shall be released by the president to Baptist Press no later than 45 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, and their names shall be published in the first issue of the Convention Bulletin. The president may fill any vacancies on the committee when those originally named do not attend the Convention. This committee shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the Convention not otherwise provided for. All special Convention committees shall transfer, upon their discharge, all official files to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

20. Committee on Resolutions: At least seventy-five (75) days in advance of the Convention, the president, in conference with the vice presidents, shall appoint a Committee on Resolutions to consist of ten (10) members, any two (2) of whom shall have served as Committee on Resolutions members during the prior year, and any three (3) of whom shall be members of the Executive Committee. One of the Committee members shall be designated as chairperson. Members so named shall be notified by the president in writing at least 75 days before the annual meeting of the Convention. The names of the members of the Committee on Resolutions shall be released by the president to Baptist Press no later than 75 days prior to the annual meeting of the Convention, and their names shall be published in the first issue of the Convention Bulletin.

In order to facilitate thorough consideration and to expedite the Committee's work, all proposed resolutions shall:

- 1) Be submitted to the Committee for review and consideration as early as April 15th, but no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the next SBC annual meeting,
- 2) Be addressed to the Committee on Resolutions in care of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention at its registered or e-mail address (electronic copies are preferred),
- 3) Be typewritten, titled, and dated,
- 4) Be accompanied by a letter from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing, and

- 5) Include complete contact information for both the person submitting it, and his or her church.

No person may submit more than three resolutions per year. The Committee on Resolutions shall prepare and submit to each annual meeting of the Convention only such resolutions the Committee recommends for adoption. Such resolutions may be based upon proposals received by the Committee or may originate with the Committee. Only resolutions recommended by the Committee may be considered by the Convention, except the Convention may, by a 2/3 vote, consider any other resolution properly submitted to the Committee.

A list of the titles of all properly submitted proposed resolutions shall be printed in the Convention *Bulletin*. The list shall include the name and city of each person properly submitting a resolution, and the disposition of each proper submission.

- 21. Committee on Order of Business:** The Committee on Order of Business, a standing committee, shall consist of seven (7) members – the president of the Convention and six (6) other members, two (2) of whom shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years and two (2) of whom shall be persons not employed full time by a church or denominational entity. No member of the committee can succeed himself or herself. The committee shall suggest an order of business for the next meeting of the Convention. It shall provide periods of time during the Convention for the introduction of all matters requiring a vote not scheduled on the agenda, and, when introduced (unless the Convention then gives its unanimous consent for its immediate consideration) shall fix times for the consideration of the same. All such matters of business shall be introduced to the Convention by the end of the afternoon session of the first day of the annual meeting of the Convention. When practicable it shall give notice in the Convention *Bulletin* of the substance of the motion or resolution and the time for its consideration. If unable to give notice in the *Bulletin*, it shall cause announcement to be made from the floor of the Convention of the same, action thereon to be taken at the subsequent session of that Convention. The committee shall recommend to the Convention a preacher for the succeeding Convention sermon and the director of music. The director of music shall be elected annually and the term of office is limited to two (2) years. The director of music shall not be eligible for re-election until as much as one (1) year has elapsed from the time a successor is named.
- 22. Notification of Committees:** Within thirty (30) days after the Convention adjourns, the recording secretary shall notify the members of all committees of their appointment and all chairpersons of their position and furnish each one a list of that committee. The recording secretary shall also notify all board members, trustees of institutions, and commission members of their appointment.
- 23. The Great Commission Council:** The Great Commission Council shall serve as the organization through which the various entities and the auxiliary of the Convention will correlate their work. The membership of the Great Commission Council shall be composed of the chief executives of The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, the auxiliary of the Convention, and the entities named in Bylaw 14.
- A. The work of the Council shall be in keeping with its prescribed functions. It will neither launch nor execute ministries; it will formulate no policies, except those which govern its own activities. Its chief purpose is that of consultation, communication, and cooperation. The scope of its work will be that of:
- (1) finding ways of mutual re-enforcement in assigned responsibilities and distinctive ministries;

- (2) considering and seeking to avoid overlapping endeavors and competitive ministries;
 - (3) considering the means for helping the churches fulfill their divine mission in Bible teaching, evangelism, world missions, stewardship, Christian training, education, and Christian social service;
 - (4) finding ways for effective cooperation in promoting the total work of the Southern Baptist Convention;
 - (5) considering the significant factors affecting the work and witness of the denomination; and
 - (6) seeking to find the means through which the power of the Christian gospel may be comprehensively and effectively applied to the ends of the earth.
- B. In the matter of relationships:
- (1) the Council is not, itself, an entity of the Convention;
 - (2) it has no authority over the several entities;
 - (3) its decisions are not binding on the entities, since the boards and commissions must retain the authority to reach the decisions required to carry out their own responsibilities;
 - (4) its relationship to the entities is purely advisory;
 - (5) the Council does not report formally either to the Convention or the Executive Committee, nor does the Convention refer matters directly to the Great Commission Council;
 - (6) it may receive from and refer to the Executive Committee problems for consideration;
 - (7) it is not required to take formal action with regard to matters referred to it by the Executive Committee in serving as a channel of cooperation and correlation relative to the work of the Convention; and
 - (8) the Council sustains no direct relationship with state conventions or local churches, but it will strive to be mindful of the needs of the churches as well as the functions and ministries of the several conventions.
- 24. Ministry Statements:** The ministry statements of the entities as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and published in the 1967 *Annual* and subsequently amended, renamed, or rewritten, and approved by the Convention, express the policy of the Convention with respect to the ministries of the entities of the Convention.
- 25. New Enterprises and Abolishing of Entities:** No new enterprise, involving expenditure of money, shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two (2) succeeding annual meetings; provided, however, that this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of an entity of the Convention concerning its own work. No entity shall be discontinued without a majority vote at two (2) successive annual sessions of the Convention.
- 26. Procedures:**
- A. *Method of Procedure for Entities:* To facilitate consideration and discussion of the interests of the Convention, the following method of procedure is hereby adopted:
- (1) Printed reports of the boards, institutions, commissions, and standing committees shall be consolidated into the *Book of Reports* for distribution to messengers on their enrollment;

- (2) Reports of all special commissions and standing committees, containing recommendations for the Convention's action, shall be included in the *Book of Reports*; and
- (3) All recommendations of each board, institution, commission, special committee, and standing committee shall be printed together at the end of its report before they may be considered by the Convention. In case any entity or committee shall be unable to comply with this requirement, its recommendation shall be printed in the *Convention Bulletin* before consideration and action by the Convention. Recommendations by an entity which are not published in the *Book of Reports* or the *Convention Bulletin* shall, when presented to the Convention, be referred to the Executive Committee or to such other committee as the Convention may direct.

B. *Procedure for Motions of Messengers Concerning Entities:* Motions made by messengers dealing with internal operations or ministries of an entity shall be referred to the elected board of the entity for consideration and report to the constituency and to the next annual meeting of the Convention for action with the exception that the Committee on Order of Business may be instructed by a two-thirds vote to arrange for consideration at a subsequent session of the same Convention, subject to provision of Bylaw 21.

On all matters referred by the Convention, entities shall respond in writing at the close of their report in the *Book of Reports* and *Annual*, giving specific information on:

- (1) how the matter referred was considered;
- (2) how it was reported to the constituency; and
- (3) any actions on the matter taken by the entity or action proposed to the Convention.

C. *Limitations:* The last one-third of the time allotted for consideration of every entity report before the Convention shall be reserved for discussion from the floor.

27. Publicity and Press Representative:

- A. Boards, institutions, and special committees dealing with matters of general importance and interest shall have in the hands of the press representative of the Convention, at least one (1) week in advance, copies of digests of their report to be submitted to the approaching Convention.
- B. The press representative shall cooperate with the representatives of the secular press in furnishing intelligent, accurate, and creditable reports of this Convention while in session.

28. Closing of Books: Entities of the Convention shall close their books and accounts and have them audited as of midnight September 30, or in the case of the seminaries, July 31, or in the case of the International Mission Board and GuideStone Financial Resources, December 31. Supplemental reports for the period between the closing of the books of the entities and the Convention session should be included in the reports to the Convention.

29. Participation in Convention Affairs: To allow participation in the affairs of the Convention, any member of a church who is eligible to be a messenger to the Convention may be appointed teller, a member of the Credentials Committee, a member of the Committee on Resolutions, and/or a member of the Convention's special committees.

30. Representation From Qualified States and Territories:

- A. When the cooperating Baptist churches in a state or defined territory have fifteen thousand (15,000) members, an initial application may be filed for representation on the Executive Committee, the Committee on Committees, and the Committee on Nominations.
- B. When the cooperating Baptist churches have twenty thousand (20,000) members, an updated application may be filed for representation on the International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, and LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, unless otherwise provided in the Board's charter.
- C. When the cooperating Baptist churches have twenty-five thousand (25,000) members, an updated application may be filed for representation on GuideStone Financial Resources, the commissions, and institutions, unless otherwise provided in the commission's or institution's charter, and on the standing committees of the Convention, all as provided by the Bylaws of the Convention.
- D. The application in each instance shall be filed with the Executive Committee, through its president, prior to its February meeting. The application shall contain information as specified by the Executive Committee.
- E. Upon receiving the initial application, the Executive Committee shall investigate all matters pertaining to the request and make a recommendation to the Southern Baptist Convention at its next annual meeting. If the recommendation of the Executive Committee is favorable to the application, a copy of the recommendation shall be forwarded to the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the chairman of the Committee on Committees prior to the next annual meeting of the Convention.
- F. Upon receipt of the favorable recommendation of the Executive Committee on the initial application in (1) above, the president of the Convention, in conference with the vice presidents, shall appoint two (2) persons from the state or territory to serve as members of the Committee on Committees, and the Committee on Committees shall nominate two (2) persons from the state or territory to serve on the Committee on Nominations, all conditional upon the approval of the application by the Southern Baptist Convention.
- G. Those elected by the Convention shall be immediately eligible to begin their appropriate terms of service.

31. Adoption of Reports: The adoption of recommendations contained in reports to the Convention shall not bind the Convention on any other matters in the body of the reports; but the Convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports.

32. As to Violation of State Laws: All incorporated entities of the Convention shall be required to comply with the letter and spirit of the Constitution insofar as it is not in conflict with the statute law of the state in which an entity is incorporated, and nothing herein contained shall be construed to require any such incorporated entity to act and carry on its affairs in conflict with the law of the state of its incorporation. In case any action of any entity of the Convention is found to be a violation of the law of the state of its incorporation, said action shall be reported by that entity to the Convention for appropriate action.

33. Charters of Entities, Subsidiaries, and Ancillary Organizations: The charters of all entities of the Convention shall provide that the trustees or directors of such entities be elected by the Convention, and that the charters may not be further amended without the prior consent of the Convention. The charters of all subsidiaries of any entity of the

Convention shall provide that they may not be further amended without the prior consent of the Convention or its Executive Committee. No entity of the Convention shall establish a subsidiary corporation or any other legal entity or form for conducting its affairs, nor acquire a controlling interest or greater than a 25% interest in any other corporation or business enterprise, until the Convention or its Executive Committee has approved the same and its governing instruments. An entity of the Convention shall not undertake through a subsidiary or by any other means any action which, if undertaken by the entity itself, would violate the Constitution, Bylaws, or Business and Financial Plan of the Convention.

- 34. Quorum:** The quorum for conducting business during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention shall be a minimum of 25 percent of those duly registered and seated messengers.
- 35. Trustee Absenteeism:**
- A. Upon the request of any entity, the Convention may remove from office any trustee/director of that entity who has excessive unexcused absences. Following such removal, the Convention shall elect a successor to complete the term of office of the person removed.
 - B. An entity shall give written notice of any request to remove a trustee/director for absenteeism at least one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the meeting of the Convention which shall consider the removal. The notice shall be given to the president of the Convention, the president/chief executive officer of the Executive Committee, the chairman of the Committee on Nominations, and the individual trustee/director whose removal shall be considered.
 - C. If required by state law, an entity shall incorporate this procedure in its charter or bylaws prior to requesting the Convention to remove any trustee.
- 36. Amendments:** The Bylaws may be amended pursuant to Bylaw 21 by a two-thirds majority vote at any time except during the last session of the Convention. Bylaw 14, which lists the entities and auxiliary of the Convention, may be amended by a majority vote of two (2) successive annual meetings.

BUSINESS AND FINANCIAL PLAN

- I. Convention Budget:** Each entity of the Convention shall submit to the Executive Committee for its review:
- A. an itemized estimate of its receipts for the next fiscal year, and
 - B. an itemized estimate of its expenditures for the next fiscal year according to the rule set forth below (See Section II-C) for making operating budgets.

The Executive Committee shall present to the Convention a budget, which budget shall consist of all the budgets of all the entities which have been submitted to the Executive Committee and reviewed by it, and recommend the amount of Convention funds to be allocated to each cause or entity.

II. Operating Budgets:

- A. *Convention Operating Budget* - The Executive Committee shall recommend to the Convention an operating budget which shall include all expenses of the Convention, committees, and other items included in the Convention Operating Budget. The Executive Committee shall also recommend to the Convention the source of these funds.

B. *Entities Not Sharing in Table of Percentages* - The entities of the Convention not sharing in the table of percentages for distribution of funds shall be provided for as follows:

1. Expenses of Standing Committees – The Executive Committee shall approve or recommend to the Convention, after a personal conference or correspondence with chairpersons of standing committees, a sum of money to be appropriated to each of them for the Convention year.
2. Expenses of Special Committees –
 - a. The expenses incurred by special committees appointed by the Convention to perform duties connected with one or more entities of the Convention shall be borne by the entity or entities concerned on a basis pro rata to receipts unless the expenses are otherwise specifically provided.
 - b. The expenses incurred by special committees which do not directly concern any of the entities of the Convention shall be paid out of the Convention Operating Budget. Unless the amount of expenses is fixed by the Convention, the Executive Committee must agree to the amount to be expended before such expenditure is incurred.
 - c. Itemized accounts of expenses of members of such committees shall be required and approved by the chairperson before the same shall be paid.

C. *Entities Sharing in the Direct Allocation* - The entities of the Convention sharing in the direct allocation for the distribution of funds shall make their operating budgets in the following manner:

1. The current operating budget of the entities of the Convention shall be made on the basis of the current distributable operating allocation, plus any other anticipated receipts which can be substantiated by previous experience, not including wills, bequests, and special gifts for special purposes; and any debt incurred within the current year shall become a preferred item in the budget of the Convention year immediately following.
2. In making the annual appropriations on the basis set forth, a contingent item shall be set up in the budget according to the needs of the entity.
3. It is understood that an entity may borrow money for reasonable needs, provided, however, that such borrowing shall not exceed the amount of its budget allowance remaining at the time of borrowing, and provided further that if an emergency should arise, additional money may be borrowed on the approval of the Executive Committee of the Convention.

III. Convention Year: The financial affairs of the Convention and all its entities, except those of the theological seminaries, GuideStone Financial Resources, and the International Mission Board, shall be operated on the fiscal year beginning October 1 and closing September 30. The seminaries owned and operated under the authority of the Convention shall use the fiscal year beginning August 1 and closing July 31. GuideStone Financial Resources and the International Mission Board shall use the fiscal year beginning January 1 and closing December 31.

IV. The Disbursing Entity: By agreement, all sums collected in the states for the causes fostered by this Convention will be forwarded at least monthly by each state office to the Executive Committee of this Convention, which shall act as the disbursing agent of this Convention. The Executive Committee shall remit at least weekly to each of the entities of the Convention the funds, distributable and designated, belonging to each entity. The

first distribution in each month shall be on the seventh day of the month, or the nearest working day thereafter. The Executive Committee shall make monthly reports of receipts by states, and of disbursements by entities, and shall forward each month copies of these reports to the executives of the entities of the Convention, to the state offices, and to the denominational papers.

V. Distribution of Cooperative Program Receipts: In order that the financial plans and purposes of the Convention may operate successfully, the Convention appeals to its constituents to give to the whole Cooperative Program and to recognize the wisdom and right of the Convention to distribute its receipts from the Cooperative Program, thus assuring an equitable distribution among the entities of the Convention.

VI. Fund Raising Activities:

A. *Approval of Financial Activities* – No entity of the Southern Baptist Convention shall conduct any type of fund raising activity without the advance approval of the Convention, or its Executive Committee. No advance approval shall be required for the two Convention approved special offerings: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

B. *Reporting Fund Raising Activities* – Each Convention entity shall report annually to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention on any type of fund raising activity conducted by the entity. The report shall include a summary of the activity, its title, financial goals, structure, cost, and the results of such fund raising during the past year. No report shall be required for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

C. *Cooperative Program Promotion* – Each Convention entity shall report on its efforts during the year in promoting Cooperative Program missions giving.

D. *No Financial Appeals to Churches* – In no case shall any Convention entity approach a church for inclusion in its church budget or appeal for financial contributions.

VII. Designated Gifts: The Convention binds itself and its entities faithfully to apply and use such gifts as designated by the donor.

VIII. Trust Funds: Each entity of the Convention is hereby instructed and ordered to keep all trust funds and designated gifts (for they are trust funds) sacred to the trust and designation; that they be kept separate from all other funds of such entity; that they are not to be used even temporarily for any other purpose than the purpose specified; and that such funds shall not hereafter be invested in the securities of any denominational body or entity.

IX. Gift Annuity Agreements: All entities of this Convention writing gift annuity agreements in the future, and the Executive Committee when writing gift annuity agreements on behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention, are encouraged to place the annuity portion of each gift annuity on deposit with the Southern Baptist Foundation or GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention and enter into a contractual agreement with the Southern Baptist Foundation or GuideStone Financial Resources to pay the annuity payments required under the gift annuity agreement. This provision shall not apply to gifts of property, real or personal, the income of which is to go to the donor without further or additional obligation on the part of the entity accepting the gift. The Southern Baptist Foundation and GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention shall, when determining the amounts required to fund the annuity portion of any gift annuity agreement, use mortality, interest, and expense rates which are approved

or recommended by any appropriate regulatory authority, if any, or which are based on sound actuarial statistics.

- X. Indebtedness/Liability:** An entity or institution shall not create any liability or indebtedness, except such as can and will be repaid out of its anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three (3) years, without the consent of the Convention or the Executive Committee. In order to obtain such approval, the entity must file a statement showing the source of such anticipated receipts.

Such consent must be likewise obtained for a purchase of properties (directly or indirectly or through ownership of controlling stock in other corporations or otherwise) subject to liens or encumbrances which cannot be repaid out of its anticipated receipts for current operations within a period of three (3) years.

- XI. Capital Fund Allocations:** Capital funds are allocated for the purpose of obtaining, expanding, improving, or maintaining properties owned by entities of the Southern Baptist Convention and essential to implementing entity program assignments.

Capital funds are used in projects which add to the long-range assets of the entity.

In making allocations for capital funds, priority shall be given to those projects which make the greatest contribution to advancing the overall objectives of the Southern Baptist Convention in bringing men to God through Jesus Christ.

Capital funds projects shall cost more than \$5,000 and have a projected life span of more than five (5) years.

Items such as office equipment, furniture replacement, or books shall not be acquired through the capital fund allocation process.

Repairs and maintenance of income-producing property shall be made from earned income. Major repairs to non income-producing property may be considered as being eligible for capital fund allocations.

- XII. Contingent Reserves:** Each entity of this Convention shall set up as soon as possible a reserve for contingencies to provide for deficits that may occur either through decreased receipts or through emergencies or both. The maximum amount of contingent reserve of any entity shall be determined by the entity, subject to the approval of the Convention. Entities shall state on the balance sheets of the annual audits the amounts in Contingent Reserve Funds.

XIII. Financial Report:

- A. Audit Reports** - The entities of the Convention and the Executive Committee shall close their books and accounts as of the close of business on September 30 of each year, or July 31 in the case of the seminaries, or December 31 in the case of the International Mission Board and GuideStone Financial Resources, and have them audited by an independent certified public accountant (the external auditor) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America.

Each entity of the Convention shall forward a copy of its external auditor's audit report (or, if more than one, all such reports) to the Executive Committee, as soon as possible after the close of its fiscal year. Additionally, as a part of this annual submission process, each entity shall also submit a statement signed by its chief executive officer and the chief financial officer which affirms that the books and accounts are accurate and complete to the best of the officer's knowledge, and that the officer believes the corporation's internal controls are adequate.

Each entity and the Executive Committee shall appoint a committee of its own trustees to undertake and accomplish duties pertinent to audit reports. These committees shall be appointed, and the trustees serving on the committees shall operate, independent of influence by their corporation's management, and each such committee shall include at least one trustee who is competent by training and experience in fiscal matters. The duties these committees shall perform for their respective entities shall include:

- 1) recommending the appointment of the external auditor,
- 2) studying the external auditor's audit report upon its completion,
- 3) maintaining the independence of the entity's financial auditors,
- 4) reviewing the entity's critical accounting policies and decisions and the adequacy of its internal control systems,
- 5) preserving the integrity of the financial reporting process implemented by management, and
- 6) assuring that the business procedures listed in Article XVII are followed.

As a part of each external auditor's audit report, the external auditor shall prepare for the entity's audit committee a separate letter on the auditing firm's letterhead (the "management letter") in which the external auditor makes any recommendations concerning the entity's financial and accounting policies, processes, internal controls, or other matters. If the external auditor has no recommendations, he should so state in the management letter to the entity's audit committee. The entity's administration shall forward a copy of the management letter along with any comments that the administration might deem desirable to the Executive Committee simultaneously with the external auditor's audit report, for review and response (if appropriate) by the Executive Committee. The process of submission and review of the external auditors' audit reports and management letters of the several entities by the Executive Committee shall be governed by the assigned responsibilities and limitations upon authority described in SBC Bylaw 18 E and its subparagraphs (6), (7), (9), and (12).

When securities are placed for holding with a trustee (i.e. bank, trust company, foundation, etc.), a certified statement from such trustee should be made to the external auditor and be made a part of the annual external auditor's audit report or submitted as a supplement to the report.

B. *Printing of Reports* - The financial report of each entity and of the Executive Committee shall be printed in the Convention *Book of Reports*, or the Convention *Annual*, and shall contain the following six items, the first five of which come from its latest annual audit report:

1. Statement of Financial Position
2. Statement of Activities (revenues, expenses, and other changes in net assets)
3. Statement of Cash Flows
4. Classified list of investments by fund and type of investment
5. Receipts by states of contributions. These should show:
 - a. Cooperative Program receipts received through the Executive Committee
 - b. Designated receipts received through the Executive Committee
 - c. Gifts not received through the Executive Committee

6. A statement executed by the chair of the entity's board attesting that the board's officers confirm the following fiscal conditions exist:
 - a. The expenses and perquisites of the president are not excessive and are in keeping with biblical stewardship, including every emolument and personal benefit of any kind (and specifically including housing, travel, automobile(s), and personal assistants) all valued at market rates.
 - b. All corporate expenses are reasonable and incurred to accomplish the entity's *Organization Manual* mission statement, *Organization Manual* ministry assignments, and any other responsibilities previously approved by the messengers of the Southern Baptist Convention and still in force.
 - c. All corporate expenses are incurred by the administration in a manner that reflects integrity and avoids appearances of impropriety while upholding a positive Christian witness to the Convention and beyond.

LifeWay Christian Resources shall include in its annual report to the Convention information on the amount of funds transferred to state conventions during the preceding year.

At the end of the presentation of entity financial data in each SBC *Book of Reports*, a statement shall be inserted which discloses that the entities have all supplied (or naming which have and which have not, if some have not) the statement required by Article XIII B 6, above, and setting forth the elements thereof, in order that the messengers and the Convention's affiliated churches may be annually reassured that those fiscal conditions set forth are continuing to be maintained by the Convention's entities.

- XIV. Safeguarding of Funds:** All persons who transfer or safeguard funds or securities of the Convention or any entity of the Convention shall be bonded in an amount sufficient to protect against loss of the funds or securities involved. Such bonds may be reviewed and approved by the Convention or its Executive Committee.

Members of cooperating Southern Baptist churches shall have access to information from the records of Southern Baptist Convention entities regarding income, expenditures, debts, reserves, operating balances, and salary structures.

The securities of all Convention entities shall be held and maintained in a prudent manner, including under such internal controls as may be recommended in the entity's annual audit.

- XV. New Enterprises:** No new enterprise involving expenditure of money shall be authorized by the Convention except upon favorable action by the Convention in two (2) succeeding annual meetings; provided, however, that this restriction shall not apply to a recommendation of any entity of the Convention concerning its own work. In the event any new hospital propositions are made, they must be considered as new enterprises of the Convention, whether money is involved at the time of the acquiring of such property or not, and must be presented to two (2) succeeding annual sessions of the Convention.

- XVI. Appropriations by the Entities:** No entity shall make any appropriation to any cause or for any purpose other than for the promotion of its own work except by the approval or upon the instruction of the Convention or of the Executive Committee.

LifeWay Christian Resources shall be required to transfer funds to the Southern Baptist Convention each year to be used as the Convention determines. LifeWay

Christian Resources shall not be permitted or required to transfer funds to other Southern Baptist Convention entities or committees.

- XVII. Business Procedure:** Entity boards of trustees should oversee the operations of the entity in such a manner as will assure effective and ethical management. Disclosures of the entity's relationship with other entities, its activities, liabilities, commitments, and results of operations should be accurate and complete and include all material information. The entity should not make any loan from funds of the entity to a trustee. The entity should not make any loan from funds of the entity to an officer or employee without having first obtained the approval of its board (or its delegated subcommittee) after disclosure of all relevant details. Employees and trustees should not appropriate for personal advantage any corporate property or business opportunities which should be enjoyed by the entity.

As a normal operating policy, each entity of the Southern Baptist Convention shall refrain from entering any business transaction with a trustee or employee, or a business enterprise in which a trustee or employee has an interest. An exception to this policy may be made, at the discretion of the board of trustees, in any case wherein it appears that a commodity or service is unavailable on a more favorable basis from any other source, or a commodity or service, at the discretion of the board, is found to be in the best interest of the entity. Competitive bids should be taken if possible. In any case being considered for exception, the extent of the trustee's or employee's interest shall be disclosed to the entire board.

- XVIII. Professional Services:** The Executive Committee at its discretion may employ an auditor to study the audited report with the auditors of the entities in the light of Convention instructions.

The Executive Committee at its discretion may employ an engineer or architect to study proposed capital projects or maintenance of present capital assets.

- XIX. Film, Publication, and Merchandising Policy:** All entities of the Convention should utilize the services of LifeWay Christian Resources to the maximum feasible extent for editing, publishing, and distributing printed materials, films, filmstrips, recordings, and other materials that are to be sold.

LifeWay Christian Resources should continue to pay royalties to entities that originate materials, as to other publishers. Entities that originate materials should have the option of having them published by LifeWay Christian Resources or by other publishers. Entities should be authorized to publish in their own names periodicals that promote their own work, books, and manuals dealing with principles and methods of programs for which they are responsible, materials subject to early obsolescence, and other materials for free distribution. Entities other than LifeWay Christian Resources that find it necessary to establish editing services and to contract for printing services should do so only to meet their own requirements unless specifically authorized by the Convention to provide such services to other entities.

- A. All entities should distribute through the book stores of LifeWay Christian Resources the materials that are to be sold, with the exception that periodicals and other materials subject to early and/or frequent obsolescence may be distributed from their own principal offices. No entity other than LifeWay Christian Resources should be authorized to operate book stores or other retail or wholesale outlets at any location other than its principal office.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention should review periodically the financial agreements entered into by LifeWay Christian Resources and other Convention entities and should, whenever appropriate, recommend changes in Convention policies and revisions of existing policies related to such agreements. At the request of any Convention entity, this committee should also suggest to LifeWay Christian Resources and other Convention entities steps that they should take to resolve any disagreements that arise concerning financial agreements.

- B. The North American Mission Board should be designated and recognized as the sole producer and distributor of films for television consistent with its statement of Ministry Relationships. It is understood that the North American Mission Board may use for television other films, at its own discretion, produced by other entities.
 - C. LifeWay Christian Resources should make available any films which it produces for use by the churches to the North American Mission Board for use in television without charge, except print cost, and the North American Mission Board should provide for distribution by LifeWay Christian Resources to the churches any films which it produces for radio and television without charge, except print cost. The North American Mission Board may also use film produced by other entities of the Convention for distribution to the churches without charge, except print cost, if such film is to be used in television.
 - D. Any entity producing films of any type should notify other entities regularly producing films of the content and purpose of the film while in the planning stages in order that duplication may be avoided.
 - E. No entity shall launch a new periodical for general distribution to the churches or to members of the churches without first outlining the purpose of the periodical and obtaining the approval of the Convention or its Executive Committee. This shall not apply to curriculum materials published for use by church program organizations.
 - F. The North American Mission Board shall offer records or tapes it has produced for radio and television use to LifeWay Christian Resources on consignment, or some other basis mutually agreeable to both parties, for sale in the book stores or through record clubs. The North American Mission Board shall be authorized to offer to listeners recordings it has produced for radio and television use and which are not selected by LifeWay Christian Resources. The North American Mission Board shall be authorized to make use of records and tapes returned by LifeWay Christian Resources in audience building.
- XX. Publications:** The plans and methods herein set forth shall be published each year in the Convention *Annual*, following the Bylaws of the Convention.
- XXI. Amendments:** This Business and Financial Plan may be amended by two-thirds of the messengers present and voting at any time except during the last session of the Convention.

ORGANIZATION MANUAL

PREFACE

In 1960 the Southern Baptist Convention adopted the following bylaw. It shall be the function of the Executive Committee:

~To maintain an official organization manual defining the responsibilities of each agency of the Convention for conducting specific programs and for performing other functions. The manual shall cite the actions of the Convention that assigned the programs and other functions to the agency. The Executive Committee shall present to the Convention recommendations required to clarify the responsibilities of the agencies for programs and other functions, to eliminate overlapping assignments of responsibility, and to authorize the assignment of new responsibilities for programs or functions to agencies.

— *SBC Annual 1960*, p. 51

Beginning that same year the Convention approved program statements for all the entities. These were brought into uniform styling and form by another bylaw approved by the Convention in 1967:

14. Program Statements. The program statements of the agencies as approved by the Southern Baptist Convention and published in the *1967 Annual* and subsequently amended express the policy of the Convention with respect to the programs of the agencies of the Convention.

— *SBC Annual 1967*, p. 61

On November 1, 1967 the Executive Committee published its first complete organization manual. Since then the Convention has made numerous changes in the ministries (formerly programs) of the entities which render this first manual out of date.

In the following pages are presented all of the ministries, as approved by the Convention. At the bottom of the last page for each one of them, you will find the dates when these ministries were approved, or when changes were made.

Please find at the end of this manual the procedures adopted by the Executive Committee for changing ministry statements.

On June 20, 1995, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted **Covenant for a New Century** with an introduction to ministry statements as follows:

Ministry statements assigned to each Southern Baptist Convention entity are rooted in and measured by our shared mission. The charge assigned to each entity is founded upon the conviction that the entities of the Convention exist to serve the churches, their ministries, and mission. The statements have been developed in order that each entity will serve the Convention's mission to the greatest standard of faithfulness and the maximum standard of stewardship.

These ministry statements will replace the present program statements as assigned to the entities of the Convention. The ministry statements, a statement of cooperation, a listing of relationships for cooperation, and details of the process of cooperation will be published in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention* as required by SBC Bylaw 20,(5),(m). [Note: This is now Bylaw 18E (13).]

Beginning in the fall of 2006, *The Organization Manual* began being printed in each year's *SBC Annual* and *SBC Book of Reports* among the other governing documents of the Convention to keep Southern Baptists apprised of each entity's charge. (See Item 160, *2006 SBC Annual*, p. 94, and pp. 204-5.)

THE INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD
of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

The International Mission Board exists to assist the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention to be on mission with God in penetrating the unevangelized world outside the United States and Canada with the gospel and making Christ known among all people.

MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches by evangelizing persons, planting Baptist churches, and nurturing church planting movements among all people groups outside the United States and Canada; and, provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the North American Mission Board in assisting churches to reach unreached and underserved people groups within the United States and Canada.**

Develop and maintain a systematic strategy for gospel proclamation and planting churches that will result in the rapid reproduction and multiplication of local indigenous congregations that will make the gospel accessible to all persons among every ethno-linguistic people group; assist national conventions and unions in providing programs of discipleship and leadership training; develop and distribute relevant electronic and print media that support evangelism and church planting, and facilitate the translation and distribution of the Bible, Scripture portions, and other materials in indigenous languages.

2. **Assist churches in sending and supporting Southern Baptist missionaries and volunteers by enlisting, equipping, and enabling them to fulfill their calling.**

Enlist, appoint, equip, and provide support for God-called Southern Baptist missionaries to serve in long-term and short-term channels of service who give evidence of piety, zeal for their Master's kingdom, conviction of truth as held by Southern Baptists, and giftedness for cross-cultural witness; inform, promote, and provide opportunities for Southern Baptist volunteers to assist in the ministries of the International Mission Board through projects of various duration, and provide resources and materials for training and equipping these volunteers.

3. **Assist churches and partners to mobilize Southern Baptists to be involved in international missions through praying, giving, and going.**

Inform, challenge, and work in partnership with local churches, associations, state conventions, and other SBC entities to enable Southern Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission overseas by facilitating involvement in prayer strategies, encouraging generous and sacrificial giving to missions through the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and promoting channels for volunteer and missionary service.

4. **Assist churches in fulfilling their international missions task by developing global strategies, including human needs based ministries, and providing leadership, administrative support, and financial accountability for implementation of these strategies.**

Provide and maintain an organizational structure and support staff with appropriate leadership and financial management that are designed to implement a comprehensive program to reach the whole world with the gospel through direct evangelism and creative access platform ministries; utilize hospitals, clinics, community health, agricultural, and other development programs, hunger relief and disaster response to meet human needs and share the gospel.

RELATIONSHIPS

The International Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 17, 2003. See *SBC Annual 2003*, pp. 50-51.

Amended June 14, 2011. See *SBC Annual 2011*, pp. 62-64.

THE NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

The North American Mission Board exists to work with churches, associations and state conventions in mobilizing Southern Baptists as a missional force to impact North America with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through evangelism and church planting.

MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches in planting healthy, multiplying, evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the United States and Canada; and provide specialized, defined and agreed upon assistance to the International Mission Board in assisting churches to plant churches for specific groups outside the United States and Canada.**

Work in partnership with churches, associations, and state conventions, and the International Mission Board to start new congregations with a priority to reach population centers and underserved people groups; lead a missional movement to encourage Southern Baptist churches to become church planting congregations.

2. **Assist churches in the ministries of evangelism and making disciples.**

Equip Southern Baptists for faithful evangelism; encourage churches in evangelism and discipleship; implement direct evangelism projects; prioritize spiritual awakening; develop an evangelism strategy for reaching North America with the Gospel.

3. **Assist churches by appointing, supporting and assuring accountability for missionaries serving in the United States and Canada.**

Appoint, approve, support and supervise missionaries assigned to accomplish the ministries of NAMB; endorse chaplains; enlist and assist bi-vocational ministers in mission service.

4. **Assist churches by providing missions education and coordinating volunteer missions opportunities for church members.**

Develop organizations, services, and materials for establishing, enlarging, and improving missions and ministry learning and involvement experiences in churches; assist in volunteer mission involvement.

5. **Assist churches by providing leadership development.**

Equip pastors for effective congregational leadership, contextual evangelism, and church planting; connect pastors to pastors through leadership development; encourage pastors as they serve in diverse congregational settings.

6. **Assist churches in relief ministries to victims of disaster and other people in need.**

Provide appropriate assistance and coordination in service to state Baptist conventions, when multi-state and national disaster responses are needed; coordinate with federal government as well as national disaster relief entities to ensure good response coordination on behalf of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief; direct and assist Christian social ministries.

RELATIONSHIPS

The North American Mission Board will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 14, 2011. See *SBC Annual 2011*, pp. 64-68.

Amended June 16, 2015. See *SBC Annual 2015*, pp. 93-95.

LIFEWAY CHRISTIAN RESOURCES
of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

LifeWay Christian Resources exists to assist churches and believers to evangelize the world to Christ, develop believers, and grow churches by being the best provider of relevant, high quality, high value Christian products and services.

MINISTRIES

1. Assist churches in the development of church ministries.

Provide programs, products, and services that help churches grow in the areas of Bible study, discipleship, music, worship, administration, media/library, recreation, fellowship, and family ministry; consult with church leaders regarding total church growth concepts, strategies, and resources.

2. Assist churches in ministries to college and university students.

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a program, products, and services that may be used in establishing, administering, enlarging, and improving ministry with college students, faculty, and administration.

3. Assist churches with Christian schools and home school ministries.

Provide consultation, products, and services needed by churches with Christian schools and members educating through home schools.

4. Assist churches in ministries to men and women.

Contribute to the effectiveness of churches and to individual spiritual growth by developing a program, products, and services that may be used in establishing, administering, and improving ministries to men and women.

5. Assist churches through the operation of conference centers and camps.

Develop, promote, and operate conference and resident camp facilities useful to Southern Baptist Convention entities, state conventions, associations, and churches in establishing, enlarging, and improving their ministries.

6. Assist churches through the publication of books and Bibles.

Produce, publish, and distribute products, including books, of Christian content and purpose and Bibles that contribute to the effectiveness of churches and individuals.

7. Assist churches through the operation of LifeWay Christian Stores.

Serve people and the churches, associations, state conventions, and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention by distributing appropriate products through LifeWay Christian Stores.

8. Assist churches through church architecture consultation and services.

Develop products and services needed by Southern Baptist churches, associations, state conventions, and denominational entities to assist them in planning, financing, furnishing, equipping, and utilizing property.

9. Assist churches in capital fund raising.

Provide leadership to churches in securing funds for capital needs.

10. Assist churches by conducting research and compiling statistics.

Conduct research and compile statistics on matters relating to, and of interest to, Southern Baptists, noting future trends and possible effects on church practice, productivity, witness, and health, and tender reports to the Executive Committee for review and possible report or action in an SBC annual meeting.

RELATIONSHIPS

LifeWay Christian Resources will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

Original program statement approved June 2, 1965. See *SBC Annual 1965*, pp. 61-67.

Finally approved May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 103-117.

New statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 6, 1972. See *SBC Annual 1972*, pp. 60-67.

Amended June 12, 1973. See *SBC Annual 1973*, p. 55.

Amended June 11, 1974. See *SBC Annual 1974*, p. 60.

Amended June 10, 1975. See *SBC Annual 1975*, pp. 59-60.

Amended June 15, 1976. See *SBC Annual 1976*, pp. 36-37.

Amended June 13, 1984. See *SBC Annual 1984*, pp. 49-50.

Revised June 11, 1985. See *SBC Annual 1985*, pp. 38-58.

Amended June 13, 1989. See *SBC Annual 1989*, pp. 36-37.

Amended June 4, 1991. See *SBC Annual 1991*, pp. 46, 48.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 13, 2006. See *SBC Annual 2006*, pp. 62-64.

Amended June 12, 2007. See *SBC Annual 2007*, pp. 68-69.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES
of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

Southern Baptist Theological Seminaries exist to prepare God called men and women for vocational service in Baptist churches and in other Christian ministries throughout the world through programs of spiritual development, theological studies, and practical preparation in ministry.

MINISTRIES

1. Assist churches by programs of prebaccalaureate and baccalaureate theological education for ministers.

Provide for students who have at least the equivalent of high school education biblical, theological, historical, and practical studies designed to develop ministerial competencies; provide extension study opportunities for persons in church vocations who have not completed college or seminary training, persons not in church vocations who desire theological training which is academically oriented, and seminary trained persons desiring opportunities for continuing education.

2. Assist churches by programs of master's level theological education for ministers.

Provide theological education leading to a Master's Degree for those whom the churches recommend as called by God for a lifetime of leadership in the various ministries of the churches and other areas of Christian service.

3. Assist churches by programs of professional doctoral education for ministers.

Provide advanced theological education for persons who have earned a basic theological degree and have given evidence of capacity for effective performance in ministry to the churches.

4. Assist churches by programs of research doctoral education for ministers and theological educators.

Provide graduate theological education for persons who have completed their basic theological studies and have given evidence of academic ability and capacity for research, writing, and teaching.

5. Assist churches through the administration of the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives.

Operate the official Southern Baptist Convention library and archives as a national center for the study of Baptists.

RELATIONSHIPS

Southern Baptist seminaries will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First program statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention May 20, 1964. See *SBC Annual 1964*, pp. 60-62.

Finally approved May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 120-122.

Amended June 12, 1973. See *SBC Annual 1973*, pp. 69-70.

Amended June 11, 1974. See *SBC Annual 1974*, pp. 57-59.

Completely rewritten and approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 12, 1979. See *SBC Annual 1979*, pp. 37-39.

Amended June 15, 1993. See *SBC Annual 1993*, p. 74.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173

THE ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission exists to assist the churches by helping them understand the moral demands of the gospel, apply Christian principles to moral and social problems and questions of public policy, and to promote religious liberty in cooperation with the churches and other Southern Baptist entities.

MINISTRIES

1. Assist churches in applying the moral and ethical teachings of the Bible to the Christian life.

Provide research, information resources, consultation, and counsel to denominational entities, churches, and individuals with regard to the application of Christian principles in everyday living and in the nation's public life.

2. Assist churches through the communication and advocacy of moral and ethical concerns in the public arena.

Represent Southern Baptists in communicating the moral and ethical positions of the Southern Baptist Convention to the public and to public officials.

3. Assist churches in their moral witness in local communities.

Provide information resources that inform and equip churches for active moral witness in their communities.

4. Assist churches and other Southern Baptist entities by promoting religious liberty.

Provide information and counsel to denominational entities, churches, and individuals regarding appropriate responses to religious liberty concerns; represent Southern Baptists in communicating the positions of the Southern Baptist Convention on religious liberty issues to the public and to public officials.

RELATIONSHIPS

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

GUIDESTONE FINANCIAL RESOURCES

of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

GuideStone Financial Resources exists to assist the churches, denominational entities, and other evangelical ministry organizations by making available retirement plan services, life and health coverage, risk management programs, and personal and institutional investment programs.

MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches, denominational entities, and other evangelical ministry organizations by making available retirement plan programs for their ministers and employees.**

Make available retirement plan programs and related services for ministers and denominational employees.

2. **Assist churches, denominational entities, other evangelical ministry organizations, and like-minded individuals, by making available life and health coverage and risk management programs.**

Make available medical, life, and disability programs and other risk management programs to respond to the needs of churches, denominational entities, other evangelical ministry organizations, and like-minded individuals.

3. **Assist churches and denominational entities through relief to Southern Baptist ministers and Southern Baptist denominational employees.**

Make available a channel through which Southern Baptists can extend systematic financial help to Southern Baptist ministers and denominational employees and their widows who are in need and to interpret the channel to Southern Baptists for the purpose of eliciting support.

4. **Assist churches, denominational entities, other evangelical ministry organizations, and like-minded investors, by making available a personal investment program to their ministers and employees and their spouses, and to like-minded investors.**

Make available personal investment program and related services to further enhance the financial security of ministers and other employees and their spouses.

5. **Assist churches and denominational entities by making available institutional investment services through cooperative agreements with state Baptist foundations (or state Baptist conventions where no foundation exists). Assist other evangelical ministry organizations by making available institutional investment services.**

Develop mutually beneficial relationships with the state Baptist conventions and foundations and the Southern Baptist Foundation to assist Southern Baptist institutions in the states and the Southern Baptist Convention entities with their institutional investment needs. Develop relationships with other organizations that will enhance investment opportunities.

RELATIONSHIPS

GuideStone Financial Resources will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First program statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention May 8, 1963. See *SBC Annual 1963*, pp. 55-56.

Amended May 25, 1966. See *SBC Annual 1966*, pp. 56-57.

Finally approved May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 118-119.

Amended June 14, 1988. See *SBC Annual 1988*, pp. 52-53.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 13, 2000. See *SBC Annual 2000*, pp. 66-67.

Amended June 12, 2007. See *SBC Annual 2007*, pp. 74-75.

Amended June 11, 2013. See *SBC Annual 2013*, pp. 64-66.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
of the Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

The Executive Committee exists to minister to the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention by acting for the Convention ad interim in all matters not otherwise provided for in a manner that encourages the cooperation and confidence of the churches, associations, and state conventions and facilitates maximum support for worldwide missions and ministries.

MINISTRIES

1. **Assist churches through conducting and administering the work of the Convention not otherwise assigned.**

Manage according to the Southern Baptist Convention Bylaws, Bylaw 18, The Executive Committee; manage the operation of the Southern Baptist Convention Building according to guidelines adopted by building occupants.

2. **Assist churches by providing a Convention news service.**

Provide regular news releases about Southern Baptists; serve as the Convention's press representative; coordinate news operations for annual meetings of the Southern Baptist Convention.

3. **Assist churches by providing a Convention public relations service.**

Interpret the Southern Baptist Convention to internal and external publics.

4. **Assist churches, Baptist general bodies and their entities, and other evangelical organizations and individuals through estate planning consultation and investment management primarily for funds providing support for Southern Baptist causes.**

Encourage and consult with Baptist general bodies and their entities, and other evangelical organizations and individuals, regarding wills, gifts, trusts, or deeds which benefit Baptist or other evangelical causes; and provide investment management for a balanced portfolio of securities.

5. **Assist churches through the promotion of cooperative giving.**

Consult with state conventions and Southern Baptist Convention entities regarding cooperative giving advancement; interpret the Cooperative Program as the basic channel of support for the ministries of the state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

6. **Assist churches in stewardship education.**

Produce, develop, publish, and distribute products that help Southern Baptists to grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical principles of stewardship.

RELATIONSHIPS

The Executive Committee will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

First program statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention May 31, 1967. See *SBC Annual 1967*, pp. 61, 55-56.

Revised statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 9, 1992. See *SBC Annual 1992*, pp. 43-46.

First ministry statement approved by the Southern Baptist Convention June 20, 1995. See *SBC Annual 1995*, p. 46 and pp. 165-173.

Amended June 13, 2006. See *SBC Annual 2006*, pp. 62-64.

Amended June 15, 2010. See *SBC Annual 2010*, p. 66.

**Southern Baptist Convention Entity
Relationship Guidelines**

1. Entities are to relate to each other cooperatively and voluntarily out of deep convictions of faith in Christ and the urgency to serve Him effectively in assisting churches.
2. Entities are to respect Ministry Statements as both directives and restraints in the same manner as the SBC Bylaws and Business and Financial Plan and honor them in working together to assist churches in their ministries.
3. Entities are to work together through established processes of the Great Commission Council to determine needs of churches and ways to meet these needs, and, wherever appropriate, to coordinate the activities and resources involved in meeting them.
4. Entities are to work together for mutual reinforcement and for promoting the total work of the Convention.
5. Entity administrators are to ensure that their employees understand the need and the processes for working cooperatively with the personnel of all entities in the spirit of Matthew 7:12 (HCSB): *“Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you do also the same for them,”* and are committed to honor them in day-to-day operations.
6. Entities exploring the possibility of launching new programs, projects, or services are to provide information to the Great Commission Council and/or its committees and other entities whose assignment(s) may be closely related to the new venture in order to avoid conflict with another entity’s Ministry Statement and to allow for timely review, feedback, clarification of relationships, and discovery of supportive activities by other entities.
7. Entities are to communicate with state convention, association, and church leadership in keeping with their Ministry Statements and in order to provide churches maximum service with minimum confusion.
8. Entities are to initiate relationships with or respond to initiatives of organizations outside the Southern Baptist Convention according to their respective Ministry Statements and assist, as needed, by directing such organizations to appropriate entities.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention

MISSION

Woman's Missionary Union assists churches in developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy of missions in order that a church can fulfill its total mission in the world. Woman's Missionary Union challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God.

MINISTRIES

1. Assist churches in the development of Woman's Missionary Union organizations.

Provide programs, products and services that help churches and individuals grow in missions awareness and involvement.

2. Assist churches in Christian development for women in missions.

Assist churches by providing plans and materials that contribute to the individual woman's spiritual growth and missions consciousness.

3. Assist churches through the publication and distribution of magazines and products.

Produce, publish, and distribute magazines and products that help churches and individuals grow in commitment to Jesus Christ by applying biblical concepts of missions.

RELATIONSHIPS

Woman's Missionary Union will work within the Southern Baptist Convention entity relationship guidelines approved by the Great Commission Council and the Executive Committee and printed in the *Organization Manual of the Southern Baptist Convention*.

As an auxiliary, Woman's Missionary Union's program statement is at the discretion of the WMU. The Southern Baptist Convention does not assign ministries to Woman's Missionary Union.

PROCEDURE FOR CHANGING MINISTRY STATEMENTS

- A. Amendments to ministry statements may be initiated by any messenger or by the SBC Executive Committee. Amendments may also be initiated by any SBC entity at any time with the approval of the entity's trustees. Conferences with Executive Committee staff on matters of form and relationship are desirable. Where relationships are involved, these are discussed with all parties concerned before submission to the Executive Committee.
- B. Proposed changes in ministry statements are circulated to SBC entity executives, state convention executives, and state Baptist paper editors before presentation to the Executive Committee for approval as recommendations to the SBC.
- C. Amendments are presented to the Cooperative Program Subcommittee of the Executive Committee and all parties have opportunity to express their point of view before that committee makes its final recommendation to the Executive Committee. Ministry statement changes approved by the Executive Committee are recommended to the Southern Baptist Convention at its next meeting.
- D. All ministry changes must be approved by a majority vote of the messengers present in the Southern Baptist Convention in session.

LEGAL NAMES AND ADDRESSES

of CORPORATIONS RELATED to the SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

901 Commerce Street, Nashville, TN 37203-3699

The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention

P. O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230-0767
3806 Monument Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230

The North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Inc.

4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, GA 30022

LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

One LifeWay Plaza, Nashville, TN 37234

GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention

2401 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, TX 75201

The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280

The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

P. O. Box 22000, Fort Worth, TX 76122
2001 W. Seminary Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76115

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126

Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention

3210 E. Guasti Rd. Ontario, CA 91761-8642

The Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc.

P. O. Box 1889, Wake Forest, NC 27587
120 South Wingate Street, Wake Forest, NC 27587

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Inc.

5001 North Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64118

The Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

901 Commerce Street, Suite 550, Nashville, TN 37203-3696

Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention

P. O. Box 830010, Birmingham, AL 35283-0010
100 Missionary Ridge, Birmingham, AL 35242

THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE



adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention
June 14, 2000, Orlando, Florida

Baptists are a people of deep beliefs and cherished doctrines. Throughout our history we have been a confessional people, adopting statements of faith as a witness to our beliefs and a pledge of our faithfulness to the doctrines revealed in Holy Scripture.

Our confessions of faith are rooted in historical precedent, as the church in every age has been called upon to define and defend its beliefs. Each generation of Christians bears the responsibility of guarding the treasury of truth that has been entrusted to us [2 Timothy 1:14]. Facing a new century, Southern Baptists must meet the demands and duties of the present hour.

New challenges to faith appear in every age. A pervasive anti-supernaturalism in the culture was answered by Southern Baptists in 1925, when the *Baptist Faith and Message* was first adopted by this Convention. In 1963, Southern Baptists responded to assaults upon the authority and truthfulness of the Bible by adopting revisions to the *Baptist Faith and Message*. The Convention added an article on “The Family” in 1998, thus answering cultural confusion with the clear teachings of Scripture. Now, faced with a culture hostile to the very notion of truth, this generation of Baptists must claim anew the eternal truths of the Christian faith.

Your committee respects and celebrates the heritage of the *Baptist Faith and Message*, and affirms the decision of the Convention in 1925 to adopt the *New Hampshire Confession of Faith*, “revised at certain points and with some additional articles growing out of certain needs . . .” We also respect the important contributions of the 1925 and 1963 editions of the *Baptist Faith and Message*.

With the 1963 committee, we have been guided in our work by the 1925 “statement of the historic Baptist conception of the nature and function of confessions of faith in our religious and denominational life . . .” It is, therefore, quoted in full as a part of this report to the Convention:

- (1) That they constitute a consensus of opinion of some Baptist body, large or small, for the general instruction and guidance of our own people and others concerning those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us. They are not intended to add anything to the simple conditions of salvation revealed in the New Testament, viz., repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.
- (2) That we do not regard them as complete statements of our faith, having any quality of finality or infallibility. As in the past so in the future, Baptists should hold themselves free to revise their statements of faith as may seem to them wise and expedient at any time.
- (3) That any group of Baptists, large or small, have the inherent right to draw up for themselves and publish to the world a confession of their faith whenever they may think it advisable to do so.
- (4) That the sole authority for faith and practice among Baptists is the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Confessions are only guides in interpretation, having no authority over the conscience.
- (5) That they are statements of religious convictions, drawn from the Scriptures, and are not to be used to hamper freedom of thought or investigation in other realms of life.

Baptists cherish and defend religious liberty, and deny the right of any secular or religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches. We honor the principles of soul competency and the priesthood of believers, affirming together both our liberty in Christ and our accountability to each other under the Word of God.

Baptist churches, associations, and general bodies have adopted confessions of faith as a witness to the world, and as instruments of doctrinal accountability. We are not embarrassed to state before the world that these are doctrines we hold precious and as essential to the Baptist tradition of faith and practice.

As a committee, we have been charged to address the “certain needs” of our own generation. In an age increasingly hostile to Christian truth, our challenge is to express the truth as revealed in Scripture, and to bear witness to Jesus Christ, who is “*the Way, the Truth, and the Life.*”

The 1963 committee rightly sought to identify and affirm “certain definite doctrines that Baptists believe, cherish, and with which they have been and are now closely identified.” Our living faith is established upon eternal truths. “Thus this generation of Southern Baptists is in historic succession of intent and purpose as it endeavors to state for its time and theological climate those articles of the Christian faith which are most surely held among us.”

It is the purpose of this statement of faith and message to set forth certain teachings which we believe.

Baptist Faith and Message

I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

A. God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

B. God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3;

4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherit a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Therefore, as soon as they are capable of moral action, they become transgressors and are under condemnation. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

IV. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

A. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace.

Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Saviour.

B. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of His righteousness of all sinners who repent and believe in Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

C. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

D. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39;

10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12,8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

V. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6, 12, 17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

VI. The Church

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3.

VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

VIII. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 12:1-12; 28:1ff.; Mark 2:27-28; 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3,33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1,19-28; Acts 20:7; Romans 14:5-10; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2:16; 3:16; Revelation 1:10.

IX. The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

X. Last Things

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

Isaiah 2:4; 11:9; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 17:31; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1ff.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7ff.; 2; 1 Timothy 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1,8; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 9:27-28; James 5:8; 2 Peter 3:7ff.; 1 John 2:28; 3:2; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13.

XI. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

XII. Education

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XIII. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XIV. Cooperation

Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

Exodus 17:12; 18:17ff.; Judges 7:21; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; 5:14-15; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 20:1-16; 22:1-10; 28:19-20; Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1ff.; Acts 1:13-14; 2:1ff.; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18.

XV. The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

XVI. Peace and War

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XVII. Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

XVIII. The Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee: Max Barnett (OK), Steve Gaines (AL), Susie Hawkins (TX), Rudy A. Hernandez (TX), Charles S. Kelley, Jr. (LA), Heather King (IN), Richard D. Land (TN), Fred Luter (LA), R. Albert Mohler, Jr. (KY), T.C. Pinckney (VA), Nelson Price (GA), Adrian Rogers (TN), Roger Spradlin (CA), Simon Tsoi (AZ), Jerry Vines (FL). Adrian Rogers (TN) was appointed chairman.

