
A S S O C I A T E D B A P T I S T P R E S S

Phone: (904) 396-0396 Fax: (904) 396-4441 CServe: 70420,73

March 12, 1992

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * New Orleans Seminary to begin offering bachelor's degrees
- * Dean leaves New Orleans in dispute over new degree
- * Quayles, Chapmans visit Shreveport church
- * Richmond seminary to hire Ballenger
- * Texas Baptists affirm Ruschlikon, deny funds
- * Belgian deacon denies Baptist interference
- * Time to 'broaden tent,' Lewis tells HMB trustees
- * Official asserts administration has axed church-reporting plan
- * Supreme Court rejects nude dancing dispute
- * Homosexual movement threatens religious freedom, LaHaye charges
- * Southeastern OKs purpose statement, faculty selection procedure

New Orleans Seminary to begin offering bachelor's degrees

By Lacy Thompson

NEW ORLEANS (ABP) -- In an unprecedented move, trustees of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary voted to launch an undergraduate baccalaureate program for older students.

The action makes New Orleans the only Southern Baptist seminary to offer bachelor-level degrees. Leaders insist the new program is designed for a yet-unreached market, offering bachelor of arts and bachelor of general studies degrees to students 25 years or older who have not completed college-level degrees.

"This will be designed primarily for those people already in the pastorate who want to further their education but do not have a baccalaureate degree," Seminary President Landrum Leavell said, noting a sizeable number of individuals fall into that category.

Trustees also learned of the sudden and unexpected resignation of Academic Dean Joe Cothen, who left in a dispute with Leavell over the new degree programs. (see separate article)

In other action, trustees approved a new PhD degree program in psychology and counseling. They concluded their March 10-11 meeting with unanimous approval of a motion citing the "total support and cooperation" shared by the seminary board and president. That working relationship was evident as trustees discussed and approved almost every matter presented without objection.

Unanimous approval of the baccalaureate program came after some discussion. Leaders presented the proposal as a means of meeting needs of students and providing an opportunity for "significant growth" for the seminary.

"What we're trying to do is fill a void," said Jimmy Dukes, director of the seminary's School of Christian Training, which will offer the new degrees.

The School of Christian Training was launched by the seminary to provide associate degrees for students who have not completed college degree programs and thus are not eligible for graduate-level study at the seminary.

Dukes explained that the baccalaureate program takes the next logical step for the seminary. Students currently involved in the School of Christian Training are older (the average age is 30), have a family and usually have been involved in other careers.

"It is not practical for them to invest the time or money to earn a bachelor's degree at some other institution and then earn a master's degree at the seminary because of their age, family and economic situation," said a written proposal distributed to trustees.

In addition, state Baptist colleges "in the main are not reaching these older students," the proposal noted.

In the past an older student who had no baccalaureate degree but wished to continue his theological education beyond the associate level had move to another institution to complete the appropriate degree program.

The New Orleans baccalaureate program will fill that "obvious gap" by allowing students to complete all of their training at one school, noted Dukes, who said some 100 students already have expressed strong interest in such an option.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of the seminary's accrediting agencies, must approve the new school, but Dukes said the seminary expects to have approval in time to launch the 126-credit-hour program in the fall of 1992.

During brief discussion, trustees also asked about the role of the seminary's other accrediting agency in the matter. The Association of Theological Schools has told the seminary it must dismantle its School of Christian Training by 1996.

However, the seminary has received recent indication that ATS leaders may have changed their minds about that directive. Dukes insisted ATS has no concern with the School of Christian Training as long as it remains separate from the seminary's graduate-level operation.

Dukes told trustees that faculty response to the baccalaureate proposal has been "generally good" but there has been "some concern" voiced. Dukes attributed that to the fact that the program has not been fully explained to faculty.

"The need is there," Dukes told trustees, citing the sizable percentage of Baptist ministers who do not have college degrees.

Dukes also assured trustees that the School of Christian Training would continue to offer associate-level degrees as well.

Following the meeting, Dukes said the new program is not in competition with Baptist colleges. "Nobody is reaching this market."

Trustees voted without opposition to launch the program, contingent on the approval of the curriculum by the academic affairs committee and seminary faculty.

Trustees also voted without opposition to approve master of divinity and doctor of philosophy programs in psychology and counseling. The doctoral degree in this field previously was a doctorate in education.

In his report to trustees, Leavell addressed several areas, including calls by some for an independent accrediting agency for Southern Baptist schools.

Leavell cited several "down sides" to such a move, including the fact that it may preclude current fund-raising programs in which some companies

match employee contributions to the school. "I warn you this issue has not been laid to rest," he said. "But I'm hopeful we'll maintain our relationships (with existing agencies)."

Leavell also told trustees plans are underway for the seminary's 75th anniversary celebration, which will begin this summer and continue for one year.

In other action, trustees:

-- Elected Keith Huffman of Ironton, Mo., as their new chairman; Roy McComb of Columbia Miss., as vice chairman; and Glynn Rinehart of Kenner as secretary-treasurer.

-- Approved a \$7.45 million budget for 1992-93. The budget is an increase of about 3 percent from the current year.

-- Agreed to move to two full board meetings per year, with the second to be held each September. The board experimented with that move last year.

-- Granted the title of professor emeritus in Old Testament and Hebrew to George Harrison; promoted Dennis Cole to associate professor of archaeology and Bob Simmons to professor of missions; and granted tenure to seminary professors Wayne VanHorn and Paul Robertson.

-- Voted without opposition to allow seminary representatives to attend the meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in April, and future Fellowship meetings, in order to staff the seminary display booth. Trustees said the meeting offered an opportunity for recruiting students and visiting with seminary graduates. Leavell noted other convention agencies and seminaries also have responded to the Fellowship invitation to send representatives.

-- Received a report on seminary enrollment, which noted that the school is ahead of last year in continuing education and degree enrollment. The biggest area of increase has come in the School of Christian Training, leaders said.

-30-

Dean leaves New Orleans
in dispute over new degree

By Lacy Thompson

NEW ORLEANS (ABP) -- Joe Cothen, vice president for academic affairs at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, has suddenly resigned his position at the school effective immediately.

Although Cothen, 65, will leave his teaching and other duties immediately, he will receive full pay and benefits until July 31, when his resignation becomes official.

Seminary President Landrum Leavell cited Cothen's departure as "a great loss of a very brilliant academician." Trustees of the school also adopted a resolution last week affirming Cothen for his distinguished service at the seminary.

Trustees also affirmed Leavell's choice of Billy Smith, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, as the new academic dean.

Cothen's unexpected resignation left seminary faculty in shock and both Cothen and Leavell expressing regret over the way the situation developed.

From Cothen's standpoint, the precipitating event was a disagreement with Leavell over the launch of a baccalaureate program at the school. Trustees approved the program during their March 10-11 meeting.

"The president wanted me to give approval on short notice to the baccalaureate degree," Cothen said in an interview with the Louisiana

Baptist Message. "I felt I could not do it."

However, Leavell noted last week that the school was following proper procedure for implementing the new program. Trustees approved the baccalaureate program contingent on approval of curriculum by the faculty. Leavell said administrators emphasized to trustees that the idea would not be pursued without faculty support.

Cothen responded to the disagreement by delivering a handwritten letter to Leavell's office while the president was out.

In the letter, Cothen cited health and seminary interests in resigning his duties as academic dean. He also offered the president three options for his teaching responsibilities. Two options involved sabbatical leaves for Cothen before he would return to teaching duties. The third option was for Cothen to retire on July 31.

Leavell pointed out the seminary has no mechanism for granting sabbatical leaves to administrators. Thus, the only option left was the third one, Leavell said. However, he told Cothen he could complete his teaching responsibilities with the end of the quarter that same week and have four months of pay and benefits before his retirement date.

"I love the seminary," Cothen said. "I'm sorry it ended like this."

In explaining the events to faculty and trustees, Leavell expressed some of the same sentiments. He cited his long-time friendship with Cothen. "He leaves here with the love and admiration of all of us," Leavell said.

Trustees responded by affirming Leavell's leadership in the matter. Trustees noted that the dean is employed at the school by the president.

Later, trustees also adopted a resolution of appreciation for Cothen. Following approval of the resolution, Leavell asked if he could be allowed to sign it as well. Trustees agreed.

Cothen leaves New Orleans Seminary after 18 years of services, the last 10 of which were spent as vice president for academic affairs.

Cothen received two degrees from New Orleans Seminary before joining the faculty in 1968. He left in 1971 for the full-time pastorate, returning in 1977 to serve as professor of communications. He assumed his vice presidential post in 1982.

Smith succeeds Cothen at the request of Leavell. Smith will have the option of returning to a teaching role when Leavell retires, the president explained.

Smith is a Louisiana native and a graduate of Louisiana Tech in Ruston. He also has received two degrees from New Orleans Seminary.

-30-

Quayles, Chapmans visit
Shreveport church

By Lynn Clayton

SHREVEPORT, La. (ABP) -- Visitors' cards filled out and dropped into the offering plates at Baptist churches are always prized by the host congregations, but two such cards dropped into the offering plate at First Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., may become collectors' items.

Vice President and Mrs. Dan Quayle worshiped with First Baptist Church Sunday, March 8. Accompanying the Quayles were Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and president-elect of the SBC Executive Committee, and his wife Jodie, along with White House staff members and local political leaders.

According to pastor Jon Stubblefield, the congregation simply tried to

provide "an atmosphere so they could worship."

The Quayles' visit came as a response to an invitation issued by Stubblefield.

"Word came to me through Mike Woods, a deacon at the church, who is head of the Republican Party in the Shreveport area," Stubblefield recounted. "After I learned there was a possibility he (Quayle) would come to Shreveport, and was looking for a place to worship that Sunday, I extended them an invitation to worship with us.

"A member of his staff, Paula Franklin, grew up in First Baptist Church and maintains ties here. I called her and she recommended our church to them, and they accepted.

"I told them we were having a Family Revival Week and we would just go on with our activities if they came," Stubblefield recalled. "On Thursday before that Sunday, we received word they would come."

Stubblefield said the vice president's advance party and Secret Service agents arrived Friday morning and began making arrangements for the visit.

"On Saturday, we learned that Morris Chapman and his wife would be traveling with the Quayles," Stubblefield said.

The myriad of cameras were restricted to the outside front of the church, although reporters came into the auditorium to cover the message and activities.

Stubblefield escorted the visiting party to reserved pews, about one third back from the front. Later in the service, he welcomed the Quayles and at the close of the service, he invited the vice president, who had sent the church two large floral arrangements, to share a word of greeting.

"He thanked the church for letting them worship with us," Stubblefield recounted. "He also mentioned the prayer life of his grandmother and the influence she had on him as she prayed daily for each of her grandchildren."

Reflecting on the event, Stubblefield said Quayle was "obviously campaigning in Shreveport" before the Super Tuesday primary balloting.

"We did not want First Baptist Church to be used as a place for a political forum," Stubblefield said. "But, just like everyone else, they (the Quayles) deserve a place to worship. According to what he told the congregation, he and Mrs. Quayle experienced worship."

"I would invite any elected official to come to our church. I would not let them use the church for as a platform for their politics, but they are more than welcome to come and worship."

Stubblefield said that the vice president's office called and asked if the church wanted the Chapmans to sit on the platform. Stubblefield said, "No, just let them sit with the Quayles and we will go on as usual."

The Chapmans were welcomed to First Baptist at the close of worship.

Chapman said he received the invitation to accompany the Quayle on that Friday while he and his wife were house hunting in Nashville, Tenn., in preparation for his move there this summer to assume duties with the SBC Executive Committee.

"I didn't consider it to be political whatsoever," Chapman said.

Chapman continues as pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas, until just before the Southern Baptist Convention in June when he completes his term as SBC president and begins his duties as executive committee president.

"I had supposed that there would be other guests on the plane," Chapman said. "We discovered we were the only guests of the vice president on that flight.

"We were honored that he thought about us," Chapman said. "We were grateful for the invitation. I do not consider it to be unusual. This is

not the first visit we have had with him.

"I'm always conscious that I represent all Southern Baptists," Chapman said. "I felt it would be an opportunity to get to know the vice president better, to commend him for their strong, very open Christian witness, to commend them for having a strong commitment to strong family values."

-30-

Richmond seminary
to hire Ballenger

By Greg Warner

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) -- Isam Ballenger, who left the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in protest earlier this year, is expected to become a professor at the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

The 56-year-old former FMB vice president announced in January he would take early retirement rather than continue working with FMB trustees, whom he said were using the missions agency to advance the "global agenda" of Southern Baptist fundamental-conservatives.

Ballenger has been asked to teach missions and world religions at the independent Richmond seminary, which was opened last fall in response to fundamental-conservative influence at the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

The hiring of Ballenger will be voted April 6-7 by trustees of the Richmond seminary, who also will be asked to elect former Southern Baptist seminary professor Glenn Hinson as professor of spirituality and church history.

Both Ballenger and Hinson came into conflict with FMB trustees in recent months over their involvement with the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

When trustees learned that Hinson, a controversial church history professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., had been hired to teach one semester at the Swiss seminary while on sabbatic leave from Southern, they cut all FMB funding for the European Baptist school.

The decision sparked angry protests from Baptists on both continents and the resignations of the FMB's top two administrators for the region -- Ballenger, vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Keith Parker, area director for Europe. Ballenger and Parker, who earlier defended the Ruschlikon seminary and then sharply criticized trustees in resigning, were forced by trustees to leave their posts earlier than planned.

Ballenger, who joined the FMB as a missionary in 1965, said he welcomed the chance to teach at the Richmond seminary because of its commitment to education over "indoctrination."

"I very much believe in what Dr. Graves calls the inclusiveness of the seminary, which is quite a contrast from the present leadership of the Southern Baptist Convention," Ballenger told the Richmond News Leader. "The seminary is not liberal. It is Baptist in the best sense of being Baptist."

The Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, founded by the moderate Alliance of Baptists, has 41 students, four full-time professors and seven adjunct professors.

Seminary President Thomas Graves, in a prepared statement, described Ballenger as "an ideal person to teach on our faculty and help us establish our practical global mission experience for students. He has that rare combination of scholarly knowledge and practical experience that reflects

the style of education we offer...."

Ballenger said he will be expected to develop the seminary's missions curriculum, which likely will require all students to take at least one missions course and to be involved in a practical missions experience either "here or overseas."

Ballenger said he spoke casually with Graves about the Richmond faculty even before leaving the FMB but "not with a definite offer."

He said he also considered returning to the pastorate and was asked about returning to teach at the Ruschlikon seminary, which he previously served as president.

Ballenger confirmed he also talked informally with leaders of the moderate-conservative Cooperative Baptist Fellowship about joining their new mission effort in Europe. He said he would gladly advise the Fellowship, or the FMB, about missions strategy "if I am asked."

The Fellowship has offered to employ some Southern Baptist missionaries in Europe who are disenchanted with the FMB's current direction.

"I would be pleased to be a part of finding ways for missionaries like these to continue in service," he said, but he added, "I don't think the Fellowship is going to be able to support large numbers of missionaries."

He said he would not try to "lure" missionaries away from the FMB if they are satisfied with their circumstances. "And I hope the trustees will not interfere with the work the missionaries are doing in Europe."

Ballenger was skeptical of recent denials from FMB trustees that they are pursuing a "global agenda" on the mission field.

"I was very surprised and aggravated," he said, "that in February, during the board meeting, the trustees seemed to want to nullify or at least avoid some of the statements they made in December," when they refused to restore money to Ruschlikon.

"They did say in December that the staff has to be sensitive to the conservative resurgence (in the SBC) and I think I understood that correctly -- that we should serve their interests. And I understood that to be a new agenda.

"But in February they backed away from that," he continued. "I found that to be quite surprising, although I understand they were trying to appease some of the constituency.

Ballenger was skeptical of ongoing attempts to resolve similar disagreements between trustees and FMB President Keith Parks, who also accused trustees of abandoning traditional Southern Baptist mission priorities.

"I do not see that the trustees are going to change their way of thinking," Ballenger said. "In December they made it so clear they represent what they thought was 88 percent of our convention that wants to move in this narrow direction. They have pursued their course in other (SBC) institutions and agencies of the convention. They paused in February, but I think that was a political pause because they realize that a lot of people out there are unhappy."

Ballenger said he does not expect trustees to force Parks to resign because of the potential fallout from Southern Baptists.

"Politically, they (trustees) are going to want Parks to stay and they are going to do anything they can to get Parks to stay. He is much more beloved than any other leader in our convention. So they need him. But whether they will allow him to carry out missions the way he thinks it should be carried out, inclusive of all Southern Baptists, moderates and conservatives, that's where I have a question. I can't see them giving him the freedom."

Ballenger's 28-year FMB career included stints as a missionary in

Germany, Switzerland and Nigeria and as associate area director and area director for Europe and the Middle East before being named vice president five years ago. He holds degrees from Clemson University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Vanderbilt University.

-30-

Texas Baptists affirm
Ruschlikon, deny funds

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (ABP)--Texas Baptists' 193-member Executive Board approved a recommendation by its administrative committee to affirm the embattled Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, without allocating "additional funds at this time."

The committee's recommendation was in response to a motion passed by the board last December. That earlier action expressed "concern" to trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board "regarding their decision to break their commitment to support" the seminary "and urging them to restore the \$365,000 allocated to that seminary."

The December motion also asked the administrative committee "to explore the possibility" of funding the seminary.

But Houston pastor George Gaston, chairman of the administrative committee, told the Executive Board March 9 that contributions to the seminary since December have surpassed the \$365,000 cut by trustees. Possible sources of Texas Baptist support have been designated for other priorities, Gaston added.

The board adopted the committee's recommendation expressing "appreciation and affirmation" for the seminary but recommending that the state convention "allocate no additional funds at this time."

-30-

Belgian deacon denies
Baptist interference

By Thomas Mullen

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) -- A Belgian Baptist church leader denied that two trustees of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board encouraged his congregation to cut its support of the European Baptist Convention to protest the convention's support of the Ruschlikon seminary.

Nick Hine, a deacon of the International Baptist Church in Brussels, wrote in a letter to FMB chairman William Hancock that neither Hancock nor fellow trustee Paige Patterson influenced the decision by Hine's church.

"We categorically state that neither you or Dr. Patterson played a part in our decision other than encourage IBC (International Baptist Church) to remain in the EBC (European Baptist Convention) and to continue financial support," said Hine, chairman of the congregation's board of deacons.

A transcript of a business meeting, however, quotes Hine as telling church members: "We've spoken with Paige Patterson and Bill Hancock, chairman of the Foreign Mission Board.... "We do have the wholehearted support in this motion from the Southern Baptist Convention and the Foreign

Mission Board. They are supporting what we're proposing."

In his letter to Hancock, Hine noted Hancock and Patterson did not approach the church to offer advice but rather were sought out by another church deacon.

Hancock, a pastor in Louisville, Ky., and Patterson, president of Criswell College in Dallas, were said to have supported the church's move to cut its contribution to the European Baptist Convention as a protest against EBC support of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The seminary's funds were cut by the Richmond-based mission board, which accused the school of liberalism. The board of trustees is dominated by fundamental-conservatives.

The EBC is an association of 58 English-speaking congregations in Europe, many of which are staffed by FMB missionaries.

Information about Hancock and Patterson's alleged involvement came from one of several copies of transcripts from the business meeting. The content of the transcripts were confirmed by a European Baptist leader familiar with the situation.

When an article about the church's move was published last month, Hancock strongly denied playing a role in the church's decision.

At the time, Hancock charged that reports of his alleged interference in the church came from members of the moderate-conservative Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and "disgruntled staff people" of the FMB.

Hancock said March 11 the letter from Hines, which also strongly criticized press coverage of the church dealings, speaks for itself.

-30-

-- Reprinted with permission from the Richmond News Leader.

Time to 'broaden tent,'
Lewis tells HMB trustees

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (ABP) -- Saying it is time to turn "rhetoric" into "reality," Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis said Southern Baptist leaders should made good on their promise to "broaden the tent" of denominational leadership.

Leaders of the fundamental-conservative movement, in endorsing the candidacy of current Southern Baptist Convention president Morris Chapman two years ago, promised to "broaden the tent" by appointing moderate-conservatives who believe in inerrancy to denominational leadership roles.

"Much has been said about broadening the tent," Lewis told HMB trustees during their spring meeting. "It is time to make that rhetoric reality."

Lewis said fundamental-conservatives need to dispel the perception that they have created a "closed shop" where only people who voted for a particular political agenda are welcome.

The issue of inerrancy has been settled in the SBC, he said, and now is the time for healing and reconciliation.

"Southern Baptists have made it abundantly clear. We do believe the Bible is a trustworthy book -- inspired, infallible, inerrant," Lewis said. "And we want our agencies and institutions to reflect that position."

Lewis noted some people argue that when moderate-conservatives were in control of the convention, fundamental-conservatives were not elected to

SBC positions.

"That may or may not be so, but one thing is certainly true -- two wrongs don't make a right," Lewis said. "If the shoe fit badly on one foot, it will fit just as badly on the other."

Ron Phillips of Hixson, Tenn., newly elected HMB trustee chairman, said he wholeheartedly supports Lewis' call for reconciliation. He noted Lewis was not asking Southern Baptists to compromise their beliefs.

During their meeting, HMB trustees referred back to the Southern Baptist Convention a proposal to compare the teachings of Freemasonry to Christian doctrine and elected fundamental-conservative pastor Ken Hemphill from Norfolk, Va., as director of church growth.

Trustees declined the request from the SBC to study the teachings of the Masonic Lodge, saying it is not the board's responsibility to issue statements concerning a fraternal order.

"It would be such a divisive issue," said trustee Wade Armstrong of Credo, W.V. "Either way you go, you lose."

Instead, the HMB asked that the matter be submitted to the SBC when it meets in Indianapolis, Ind., June 9-11 and requested that the convention messengers to address the issue.

The action is similar to the position the board took in 1985 when the convention referred a resolution condemning the teachings of the Masonic Lodge to the HMB. In that instance, the board responded saying the issue was not within its assigned program.

Some conservative Southern Baptists have argued that Masonic teachings are contrary to sound Christian doctrine and that the secret society is a religious organization. Several board members said there are many Southern Baptists who are members of Masonic Lodges, and that it would be divisive for the HMB to deal with the issue.

A recent survey conducted by the SBC Sunday School Board revealed that 71 percent of pastors said their churches had never dealt with the issue of Freemasonry and it has never caused a problem in their churches.

The Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department issues position papers on religions, sects and cults. But that department's job is to study established religions, not fraternal organizations, said department head Gary Leazer.

Leazer said that some Masons treat Masonic teachings as a religion, but the organization itself is not a religion. "It really is a place where grown-up men can play like boys," he said. "It's certainly not anything we want to divide the convention over."

The election of Hemphill, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va., to a new position as director of church growth, effective July 16, is contingent upon approval by the SBC Sunday School Board in April.

Hemphill will coordinate church growth efforts by both the HMB and Sunday School Board, reporting directly to HMB President Larry Lewis and SSB President Jimmy Draper. His position will be jointly funded by the two agencies.

Both Lewis and Draper strongly supported the appointment of Hemphill, a fundamental-conservative who in 1990 publicly endorsed Chapman's nomination.

In a statement released in Nashville, Draper said Hemphill "is the most uniquely qualified man in the SBC for this job. Other church-growth experts are researchers and observers. Ken has been a participant in growing churches."

Since both the HMB and SSB have major program assignments in the area of church growth, Lewis said he and Draper felt it would be best if one director could serve both agencies, correlating and coordinating a total

program across agency lines and working directly with the presidents.

Draper said Hemphill "will be the quarterback, working to avoid duplication and overlap" at the two agencies. He added Hemphill has both the respect and academic credentials to establish credibility for Southern Baptists in the field of church growth.

Hemphill has earned doctorates from both Cambridge University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and an undergraduate degree from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C.

He has been pastor of First Baptist Norfolk for the past 11 years. Previously he was pastor of churches in Galax, Virginia; Louisville and Battletown, Ky.; Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Little Stukeley, England.

Trustees also elected a director of the board's human resources division, an associate in the new church extension division, and a national manager for Mega Focus Cities, the HMB's coordinated strategy planning process for missions work in 44 major cities.

Daniel Garcia, a human resource management consultant from Atlanta with 15 years experience in the field, was elected director of the human resources division. Gerald Raynor, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Flagstaff, Ariz., was named associate director of field servicing for the new church extension division. Eugene Wilson, director of missions for Calvary-Arrowhead Baptist Association, Riverside, Calif., was elected national manager of Mega Focus Cities.

HMB directors also voted to expand the plans previously approved to construct a 150,000-square-foot headquarters building in Alpharetta, Ga., a suburb in northeast Atlanta, to include a 30,000-square-foot warehouse and video production studio. The additional cost, estimated at about \$2 million, will be funded from working capital.

Trustees appointed 19 new missionaries, voted to increase the 1992 HMB budget by \$963,349 to an adjusted total of \$85.7 million, and restructured the HMB language church extension division by combining the language church development and ethnic resource correlation departments.

-30-

- Also contributing to this story were David Winfrey and Sarah Zimmerman.

Official asserts administration
has axed church-reporting plan

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- A top Treasury Department official says the Bush administration has abandoned its proposal to require churches to report to the Internal Revenue Service donors who give more than \$500 annually.

Desiree Tucker-Sorini, assistant secretary for public affairs for the private sector, told Associated Baptist Press the department is continuing to consider ways to improve tax compliance among taxpayers who claim charitable gift deductions but is looking at alternatives to the reporting requirement. If the administration pursues a plan requiring charitable organizations to report donors, churches would be excluded, she said.

Treasury officials said the reporting requirement, part of the administration's 1993 budget package, was proposed to help IRS catch taxpayers who overstate the amount of their charitable gifts. Administration officials believe taxpayers overstate such gifts by as much as \$5 billion annually. Treasury officials said the reporting requirement would help IRS distinguish between payments to charities for services and

consumer goods and actual gifts to charities.

Tucker-Sorini's comments came after the administration sent confusing signals about the proposal. The confusion arose when Fred Goldberg, assistant secretary for tax policy, assured representatives of religious and other non-profit organizations that the church-reporting proposal was off the table on the same day (March 5) that White House Chief of Staff Samuel Skinner told The New York Times it remained under consideration.

In response to the confusion created by Skinner's remarks, Goldberg drafted a letter clearly stating that the administration would not pursue the reporting requirement for churches, according to Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Oliver Thomas. He said Goldberg read the letter to him, and Thomas described it as a "good, strong letter that makes it clear any reporting requirement for non-profits would not apply to churches, synagogues and other religious institutions.

"While the administration has not yet fulfilled its promise to release the letter, I am convinced the issue is dead for now," Thomas said.

Churches are exempt from existing reporting requirements that apply to other non-profit charitable organizations. Church representatives opposed the new reporting proposal because of concerns that it would create an enormous bookkeeping burden for churches and would put churches in the position of acting as agents for the IRS.

-30-

-- By Larry Chesser

Supreme Court rejects
nude dancing dispute

WASHINGTON (ABP) -- The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to review lower court rulings that affirmed a Florida county's adult-entertainment zoning ordinances.

The Broward County zoning ordinances were challenged by operators of Thee Dollhouse III, a nightclub whose primary form of entertainment is non-obscene nude dancing, according to both parties in the lawsuit. The ordinances prohibit adult nightclubs within 500 feet of a residential district and within 1,000 feet of a church and require such clubs to be located within special zoning districts.

Court records show that the nightclub is within 500 feet of residential properties and about 885 feet from a church.

In affirming a federal district court decision siding with Broward County, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the ordinances served the "substantial" government interest of protecting the quality of urban life from the secondary effects of adult businesses; were narrowly tailored to serve that interest; and that alternative locations for the adult business were available within the county.

Without comment, the high court declined to hear the nightclub's appeal. The case is International Eateries of America, Inc., vs. Broward County.

-30-

-- By Larry Chesser

Homosexual movement poses threat

to religious freedom, LaHaye charges

By Ron Chaney

WASHINGTON, D.C. (ABP) -- Laws against hate crimes may prevent churches from speaking against homosexuality, said Beverly LaHaye, founder and president of Concerned Women for America.

LaHaye, a member of Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., spoke at the Christian Life Commission seminar in Washington, D.C., March 2-4.

"I can see the road signs that...hate-crime laws will one day affect the freedom of speech that we have in churches to teach what the Bible says about homosexuality," she predicted. "We dare not let that happen. We dare not let them silence us from speaking the truth."

Hate-crime laws, which are supported by homosexual-rights groups, are intended to protect Jews, gays and others from hate-inspired criminal activity. LaHaye suggested such laws could be used to keep Christians from condemning homosexuality as immoral.

The Baptist laywoman expressed her resolve in fighting the homosexual agenda during a panel discussion. "Some people don't like to talk about it," she said. "We are losing our nation to the homosexual movement."

She said Christians, who have become desensitized to the moral breakdown that the homosexual agenda represents, need to speak out in order to protect their children from the homosexual lifestyle.

"We are to stand up for biblical principles," she admonished. "If we do not do it, who in the world is going to do it? It's our responsibility."

LaHaye cited areas where she said the homosexual agenda has crept in:

-- Schools. In Seattle, Wash., homosexuals were allowed to pass out packages in the schools which graphically explained homosexual practices, she said.

-- Government. A homosexual-rights bill was passed in Seattle, Wash., which will give homosexuals opportunities to "aggressively move in to recruit your young people," she said. In Washington, D.C., the city council approved health benefits for couples living together, including same sex couples, she said.

-- Political parties. Homosexuals have moved into the democratic and Republican parties, she asserted. "There will come a day when we're going to look back and say 'Look how they've taken over the parties, the government.'"

In another seminar address, LaHaye said Christians can make a difference in government. The key is to become involved in the political process, she said.

LaHaye said the birth of the United States was rooted in Christianity but that the nation is straying from its founding principles. "It's up to us to restore Christian values," she said.

She stressed that Christians can turn the country around by getting church members to vote. She also advocated writing letters to legislators, volunteering for campaigns, running for office and praying for officials as ways of influencing the political process.

.....

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is an update of the story released March 10.

Southeastern OKs purpose statement,
faculty selection procedure

By Todd Deaton

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP) -- Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary approved a revised retirement package for President Lewis Drummond, a purpose statement, a faculty-selection profile and a public relations campaign announcing the "Dawning of a New Day" at the Wake Forest, N.C., institution.

The trustees also adopted a statement expressing their concerns regarding the recent actions of two North Carolina churches on homosexuality.

After deliberating for two hours in executive session without Drummond, the school's 26 trustees voted at their March 9-10 regular meeting to award Drummond:

- a "gift of gratitude" of \$100,000;
- a one-time payment of a tenth of his annual salary, or \$7,250;
- his seminary car, which has an estimated value of \$8,000; and
- up to \$27,000 of furnishing from the president's house to compensate for his contributions toward remodeling expenditures.

Drummond, whose retirement is effective June 30, will also receive benefits normally awarded to 10-year seminary employees, including a Medicare supplement, a \$20,000 life-insurance policy and 22 days of paid vacation.

However, trustees stopped short of approving the full retirement package as distributed by the board's executive committee in January. Scratched from the earlier version was Drummond's request for seven months of sabbatical pay and the title of chancellor.

Drummond's retirement package was made public in a written statement, issued following an hour-long consultation between Drummond and four trustees delegated by the full board -- Adrian Rogers, Hal Boone, William Delahoyde and Arthur Madill.

The statement commended the president for "guiding the seminary through troubled waters" and showing "Christian charity in dealing with detractors and resiliency in pressing forward to bring about a change in the direction of the school" during his four-year tenure.

Trustee chairman Roger Ellsworth of Illinois asserted in the statement: "Dr. Drummond has rendered an invaluable service to the seminary and to Southern Baptists. Under his leadership we have seen this institution turn around, and a firm foundation laid for the future."

In a statement signed by Robert Culpepper, professor of theology, faculty opposition was expressed toward Drummond being named chancellor. The faculty charged that the seminary has functioned without such an officer throughout its history and that it seems "inappropriate" since Drummond has served a shorter term than any of the school's other three presidents, two of whom are still living.

The faculty also underscored a potential conflict of interest if Drummond should accept a position with another seminary or divinity school that serves Southern Baptists. Although Drummond would not comment on whether he is being considered by Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., he did confirm in an interview with the Biblical Recorder of North Carolina his desire to return to the classroom as an evangelism professor.

Responding to criticism from some trustees that the retirement package was "excessive," Drummond retorted that it was due compensation. "I feel that these last four years I've made a lot of sacrifices and the trustees

want to express gratitude and appreciation for what has transpired," he told reporters.

Drummond stated that his major contribution has been "to turn the seminary to a more conservative direction." With that accomplished, he said, "the next president can do the rebuilding" of the faculty.

In countering criticism that the retirement benefits awarded to him were usually granted to persons who served the institution for 10 years, Drummond, who served four, quipped, "It's been an unusual four years."

Trustee Calvin Partain of New Mexico, consented that the \$100,000 gift seems like "a lot of money, but I'm not sure that I'd go through what he's been through for \$100,000."

Partain acknowledged that trustees rejected the sabbatical request because they felt "it wasn't fitting" and "did not meet the criteria."

In a document anonymously mailed recently to the Wake Weekly of Wake Forest, a prospective retirement package for Drummond was outlined.

Drummond admitted to reporters that the document "was on my computer" and was "something I was working on...but was given to no one."

The document states that an "adequate package" would also include "an agreement to view any and all alleged irregularities as mistakes and to avoid publicity of these errors;" a recognition of Betty Drummond's important contributions to the seminary community, and the "right to be consulted about the election of a new president, including the right to nominate persons or a person for the position."

The document also included a provision that retirement benefits would not depend on whether Drummond would accept employment as an evangelist, pastor, denominational post, or as a teacher of evangelism.

None of these items was specified in the retirement package that was approved and made public by Southeastern trustees.

Before concluding the meeting, trustees bestowed an additional honor on Drummond, moving to name the Center for Great Commission Studies after him. Trustees decided, however, to delay the appointment of Phil Roberts as director until their October meeting to allow time for him to be elected as a faculty member.

When asked if Criswell College President Paige Patterson was being considered for the presidential post, trustee Ned Matthews of Gastonia, N. C., told the Biblical Recorder, "Patterson or a person of that caliber" will definitely be considered. Matthews also termed Drummond as a "transitional man."

Trustee Dade Sherman Jr. of Monroe, N. C., expressed optimism toward the possibility of Patterson being offered Southeastern's helm. "I hope so, I definitely do.... I'd vote yes."

Although new trustee Adrian Rogers, of Memphis, Tenn., acknowledged that "anybody with eyes and ears knows that he (Patterson) is one of those being talked about," Rogers added that it would be "highly inappropriate" for him to speculate.

An administration-proposed statement of purpose for Southeastern Seminary was adopted with one dissenting vote. After nearly two years of discussion between faculty and trustees, trustees said it was time to "make a decision."

The statement includes the affirmation: "The seminary is committed to the complete veracity, inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible as an essential foundation for effective Christian ministry and service."

In seeking to build the faculty of Southeastern seminary, trustees also adopted a "faculty profile" in order to define general characteristics sought in all elected faculty members.

The profile specifies that in addition to subscribing to the seminary's doctrinal "Articles of Faith" and being guided by the Baptist

Faith and Message of 1963, future faculty members will "teach the Bible as the inspired and infallible Word of God, a perfect treasure of divine instruction, with God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter...."

Urging Southeastern trustees to adopt a statement of purpose, Russ Bush, vice president of academic affairs and dean of faculty, said: "The constant shifting of emphases, the inability to settle on the wording of critical documents, the failure to follow the president's leadership either within the faculty or within the trustees is a major point of concern to our accrediting agencies because they see us as not being focused and constantly fiddling with everything."

Southeastern Seminary was placed on probation in December by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Meanwhile, the seminary's other accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools, is expected to make a formal announcement concerning its February visit to Southeastern in June.

Bush advocated that trustees set aside a lengthy statement of purpose written by the executive committee. After much discussion, a shorter administration-proposed purpose statement with a lengthy mission statement was adopted.

"The statement of purpose (proposed by the executive committee) as it now reads is false," Bush stated. "This seminary, in my opinion, if it publishes the statement of purpose...will mislead prospective students because it says that this seminary is committed to the inerrancy of Scripture.

"Now what we are committed to is that (inerrancy) is our future," Bush noted. "But I can't say to you that the current faculty is committed to that document. They are not."

He added that when all of the current faculty changes are made the school would have only 13 faculty members, not all of whom would be comfortable with making a public affirmation of inerrancy. There would probably be only three who would make that affirmation -- the three elected by the current trustees, Bush said. That does not mean the others are liberal, he added, but they are very conservative theologians who do not want to use the language of inerrancy.

Bush asserted that the executive committee's version contains a "hoped for" rather than actual identity. "We are going to be hiring (faculty) for the future," Bush stated. "The future is going to be what we would more generally call conservative evangelical Baptists."

The most spirited discussion during an open session erupted as trustees were deciding what to do with a proposed faculty selection process.

Southeastern trustees approved a faculty selection process that essentially designates the president as being responsible for approaching a potential faculty member. Following interviews with the president and the vice president for academic affairs, the candidate will be invited to a dialogue with faculty members.

After hearing the faculty's assessments, the president may then choose to proceed with the recommendation to the trustees and invite the candidate to a dialogue with the board's committee on instruction, which would make its report through the executive committee.

Robert Crowley of Maryland offered two amendments to the faculty selection process which he said were designed to solve the problem of trustee input and bring faculty into the consultation process at a very early stage.

The new procedure was first adopted without a dissenting vote, but after some trustees noted that the faculty had not given their input

concerning the new version, and that it might constitute a violation of "shared governance," trustees later rescinded their action. The trustees elected instead to approve the document, receive faculty input, and then act on the selection process at the next meeting of the full board.

Crowley commented: "I don't like it (shared governance). It's been weary. It's been tedious. But after all this time of shared governance, if we come to this point and precipitously say (to the faculty), 'Forget it, boys,' then I think we have really blown it."

If Southeastern is going to have the accreditation of SACS and ATS, the trustees would have to accept "shared governance" with the faculty, Crowley emphasized.

"I am one short step away from making a motion that we get out of SACS," he added. "I seriously question whether God wants us to let an institution like SACS tell us what we need to do to train preachers."

Pointing out what he labeled as a contradiction between the terms "shared governance" and the trustee's defined responsibilities as a "governing board," Rogers asserted, "Somebody has to finally vote. The Southern Baptist Convention elected this group, not that one (the faculty)."

"If it is shared governance (that we have)," Rogers observed, "how come they (the faculty) are not here voting.... There must be unanimity of spirit before anything passes; therefore, we are in perpetuity held hostage to the whims of a faculty group."

"If they have the ability to negate whatever this group has done, in my estimation, we ought to give them the job and go home," Rogers said.

Bush, however, warned trustees that they were about to fall into the "trap" that resulted in the seminary's citation by its accrediting agencies in 1987.

"The trap is: pass it, don't consult (the faculty)...then we'll be cited and lose accreditation," Bush underscored. "Then they will say conservatives took over the school, destroyed it (and) lost accreditation."

Rogers then moved that since the faculty had not been consulted about the new version of the faculty selection procedure, trustees should reconsider their previous action adopting it.

Trustee William Delahoyde of Raleigh, N.C. moved that the selection process be approved by the trustees but also sent to the faculty for input.

Southeastern trustees also endorsed without opposition a "Statement of Concern" addressing the decision of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Raleigh, to perform a ceremony for a homosexual union and the consideration which Binkley Memorial Baptist Church, Chapel Hill, is giving to licensing a homosexual to the ministry.

In other action, trustees set in motion a publicity campaign promoting the "Dawning of a New Day" at the seminary and called for an increase in funds for the school's communications department. Paul Brock, director, revealed that the department will request around \$150,000 for the promotion effort.

"This is the dawning of a new day," Rogers said. "It has not arrived, but we're going there. Before we have high noon, there has to be a sunrise."

Rogers added, "Out there in the heartland of Baptist Zion, hundreds and thousands of men and women will rally around a school that says this is who we are and where we are going."

Fellowship Coordinating Council as soon as possible but at least by Monday,
March 16.
