

Associated Baptist Press

Editor: Greg Warner
Associate Editor: Bob Allen
Phone: (904) 262-6626
Fax: (904) 262-7745

October 20, 1994

In this issue:

- Southwestern Seminary trustees hail new era, elect woman to faculty
- Midwestern trustees delay tenure vote, begin search for new president
- Baptist disaster-relief volunteers respond to southeast Texas floods
- Baptist youth below norm for at-risk behavior, survey says
- Texas pastor offers compromise for controversial CP proposal

Texas pastor offers compromise for controversial CP proposal

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) -- A Fort Worth pastor is offering a compromise for a controversial proposal that has divided Texas Baptists over whether gifts to the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should be counted as "Cooperative Program" gifts.

Michael Dean, pastor of Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, informed the Baptist Standard of Texas that he will offer the amendment when the proposal is presented Oct. 31 at the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A study committee has been examining Texas Baptists' handling of the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' centralized budget for state, national and international causes. The committee's recommendation would recognize as "Texas Cooperative Program" those contributions given in any of three ways:

- Gifts to the BGCT budget and the Southern Baptist Convention budget,
- Gifts to the BGCT budget only, or
- Gifts to the BGCT budget and "other worldwide Baptist causes," which includes the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, SBC agencies, Baptist World Alliance and others.

Dean's amendment would eliminate the third option. A separate proposal would allow gifts to other Baptist causes but would not label them "Texas Cooperative Program."

Dean's amendment reads: "That the BGCT will recognize and distribute as Cooperative Missions Giving those gifts to any other causes associated with Southern Baptists according to the instructions of the local church."

Dean said the amendment would cover gifts to such groups as the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Baptist World Alliance or any agencies of the SBC.

"What I am proposing is a form of compromise, because we are not going to be able to please everybody," said Dean. "But with this amendment I think we can adopt the committee report."

Dean said his idea for the recommendation came out of the discussions that he and two other pastors, Darrel Rains of Pampa and John Hatch of Lake Jackson, had Oct. 13 in Dallas with study committee chairman Cecil Ray of Georgetown and committee members Dean Dickens of Dallas and Mary Humphries of San Marcos.

Ray, apprised of Dean's proposal, said as he understood it the amendment would provide Texas Baptists with the same provisions as the committee report but with alternative titles.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

"I think there is greater strength in maintaining cooperative giving under one general heading of 'Texas Cooperative Program,'" Ray said. "I personally prefer keeping it under the title of 'Cooperative Program' and believe in the long run it will better serve Texas Baptists."

Dean's wife was a member of Ray's study committee and joined with four other members in drafting a minority report, which would provide that only gifts to the BGCT and/or SBC budgets be considered "Cooperative Program."

Hatch, who drafted the minority report, was unavailable for comment on Dean's proposal.

David Currie, coordinator of Texas Baptists Committed, which has pushed approval of the committee report, said Dean's proposal "is still an effort to leave a wedge in how we respect the gifts of local churches."

"I think of the committee report as the 'Texas Baptist Freedom and Respect Act,'" he said. "In it we are saying to local churches that they have the freedom to give as they choose and we, as a state convention, are going to respect those gifts equally."

"This proposed amendment does not respect gifts equally. It creates a separate but equal doctrine, which in America we consider unconstitutional. And I would consider un-Baptistic."

"It is saying that a gift sent directly to the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board, the Baptist Joint Committee, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or Truett Seminary is not going to be counted equally as if it were given to the Executive Committee of the SBC. And that is not good Baptist polity."

-30-

-- By Toby Druin

Southwestern Seminary trustees hail new era, elect woman to faculty

By Toby Druin

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP) -- Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary heralded the beginning of the Ken Hemphill era, hailing a spirit of prayer and revival on campus and hearing their new president say his first three months on the job had been the "most challenging and invigorating" of his life.

In an Oct. 17-18 meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, their first regular meeting since they fired president Russell Dilday last March, the trustees heard upbeat reports from various areas of campus life, elected the seminary's first full-time female faculty member and scheduled the new president's inauguration for May 1, 1995.

Before the board meeting, Hemphill, the trustees and faculty members met in a hotel, Oct. 15-17, where Hemphill shared his view of the state of the seminary, his goals and seven "vision statements."

In the board meeting he said his coming to the presidency was a "supernatural event" and something he had not sought. His first concern as president, he said, is to "anchor everything in prayer. ... One of our tendencies is to try to do supernatural work in natural power."

Hemphill noted that a "prayerlink" program is being established to bring seminary prayer concerns before churches and said he believes the seminary can become a center of global prayer strategy.

Karen O'Dell Bullock became the first woman elected to the faculty when the trustees approved her as assistant professor of church history. She is currently teaching on the adjunct faculty as have other women, but is the first female to be elected to the faculty.

Bullock, 41, is a graduate of the University of North Texas with master's and doctor's degrees from Southwestern. She and her husband, who heads security for a Fort Worth firm, are members of Southcliff Baptist Church.

Her election, along with that of Stephen Stookey, who also has been an adjunct faculty member and was elected an instructor in church history, were recommended to the trustees for election last March but action was

deferred until the fall meeting. Hemphill was also elected to the faculty as professor of evangelism and church growth. The elections were recorded as unanimous. Bullock's and Stookey's appointments are effective Aug. 1, 1995.

Hemphill said some trustees raised concerns about electing a woman to the faculty, but he noted she would teach church history, not theology. Bullock assured Hemphill that she is under the authority of the seminary president as a faculty member and her husband in her home, he said.

In other business, the trustees:

-- Responded to two motions from the 1994 Southern Baptist Convention, agreeing to decline funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and doubling tuition for students belonging to churches that do not support the Cooperative Program, the SBC's unified budget.

-- Heard reports that the seminary, despite losing about \$200,000 that would have come from the Fellowship, finished its 1993-94 fiscal year \$401,000 in the black and expects to receive another \$435,000 windfall -- \$100,000 for program and \$335,000 for capital needs -- because Southern Baptists surpassed their the Cooperative Program budget.

-- Voted to establish three new endowed professorial chairs: the W.A. Criswell Chair of Expository Preaching, named for the senior pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas; the James T. Draper Jr. Chair of Pastoral Ministries, named for the president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; and the Rebekah Naylor Chair of Missions, named for the Southern Baptist missionary physician in India and daughter of retired seminary president Robert Naylor.

The three new endowed chairs will be funded with \$1 million each, rather than the \$500,000 required in the past, because of lower interest rates. The chairs operate off of interest income from the funds given to establish them.

-- Voted to give B. H. Carroll Awards to Ralph Smith, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, and his wife, Bess, and John and Cynthia Thomas of Dallas for "outstanding contributions to the life of the seminary." Smith, an alumnus and former trustee, was cited as instrumental in acquiring a \$6 million estate for the seminary. The Thomases, members of First Baptist Church of Rockwall, have been active on the Southwestern Council, a group of the seminary's leading donors. He is founder of International Data Systems Inc., and has made gifts of computer equipment and technological advice to the seminary. The awards will be presented on Founder's Day, March 24, 1995.

-- Affirmed the board's bylaws requiring academic freedom in the classroom.

In other matters deferred from their March meeting, the trustees voted to drop a proposed administrative realignment suggested by Dilday. They also approved tenure for Robert Ellis, professor of Old Testament; and for Michael Cox and David Music in the School of Church Music. The trustees declined to consider the tenure vote in their March meeting, which was beset by tensions with Dilday that led to his resignation before the meeting ended.

They also granted tenure to James Spivey, along with a promotion to assistant professor of church history. The four will become tenured as positions become available in a mix that ensures tenure to a minimum of 70 percent of faculty.

-30-

Midwestern trustees delay tenure vote, begin search for new president

By Bob Allen and Brenda Sanders

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP) -- Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary kicked off a search for a new president and delayed a tenure vote on two faculty members until spring at their semi-annual meeting Oct. 17-18.

They also voted to proceed with plans for an \$850,000 family life center to be built on the campus in Kansas

City, Mo., and endorsed a severance agreement with former theology professor Bill Stancil, whom the board denied tenure in 1993.

The trustees adopted a presidential search process and named a seven-member committee to seek a replacement for Milton Ferguson, president of the Kansas City-based seminary since 1973, who plans to retire in July 1996.

The search committee will be chaired by the board's chairman, Lewis Adkinson, senior pastor of Circle Drive Baptist Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. Other members of the committee are Tim Harvey of Byron, Ga.; Tony Mattia of Wamego, Kan.; Richard Proctor of Wynne, Ark.; Ronnie Rogers of Hot Springs, Ark.; Stoney Shaw of St. Louis, Mo., and Dennis Wood of Tempe, Ariz.

The process for the presidential search, only the third in the seminary's 37-year history, calls for the search committee to immediately develop a timetable for its work and to make a public announcement seeking nominations for the post.

In another matter, following a two-hour executive session on Oct. 18, the trustees voted unanimously to extend teaching contracts through the academic year for Larry McKinney, assistant professor of biblical studies, and James Hines, assistant professor of religious education and church administration, and to consider recommending them for tenure at the trustees' semi-annual meeting next April. Both teachers were eligible to be recommended for tenure this year.

Trustee chairman Lewis Adkinson said the board members voted to postpone the tenure vote because they wanted more information on the two professors. In past tenure votes, trustees were given writing samples and the opportunity to interview faculty members. While "this is not required" by tenure guidelines, Adkinson said, "the trustees felt we didn't know the men well enough to vote on them at this meeting."

The chairman of the seminary's faculty, Thom Meigs, professor of pastoral care, responded during the meeting to the action, saying faculty "hurt deeply for our colleagues who were called here by the will of God, but perhaps are being denied a place of service."

"How do we know when we've done enough to have our place here?" Meigs asked.

The motion, which passed unanimously, was offered by Tim Harvey, a pastor in Byron, Ga., as a substitute for a recommendation from the board's instruction committee that consideration of tenure for any professor be deferred three years while tenure guidelines are redeveloped and allowing the seminary's next president to "get to know" current faculty on a tenure track.

Adkinson said trustees rejected the committee's motion because "we didn't want to put everything off on the new president." "We need to consider these matters before that so he's not facing those matters as he comes in," he said.

The new building, a multi-purpose facility which will include a full-size gymnasium, will be financed with resources of the Seminary Housing Corporation, a subsidiary of the seminary which maintains and collects rent for campus residence halls and apartments. The building, first proposed in 1990, represents "the opportunity to do something positive for our student," said James Dobbs, an attorney from Dublin, Ohio, who chairs the board's finance committee.

Discussion of a severance agreement between the trustees' executive committee and former faculty member Stancil went on for two hours behind closed doors in an executive session Oct. 17. Afterward, the board members adopted a motion by trustee Reagan Bradford of Oklahoma City, Okla., endorsing the severance but stipulating that it "is being provided solely on the basis of compassionate needs associated with family medical problems."

In other business, the board of trustees:

-- Adopted a motion, referred to the seminary by the Southern Baptist Convention, to decline to accept funds channeled through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Since 1990, Midwestern Seminary has received \$180,954 from the Fellowship, a moderate organization offering alternative mission programs to those of the conservative-dominated SBC.

-- Received a report that, although Midwestern's 1993-94 budget reflected a 6 percent decrease from the previous year, the seminary finished the fiscal year "in the black."

Approved a resolution of appreciation honoring Vernon Davis, vice president of academic affairs and dean of the faculty. Davis recently announced his resignation, effective Dec. 31, to accept a position with Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas.

-30-

Baptist disaster-relief volunteers respond to southeast Texas floods

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (ABP) -- Texas Baptist disaster-relief volunteers from around the state are working at strategic locations in several of the 26 flooded southeast Texas counties declared a federal disaster area by President Clinton.

Floods in the region -- from metropolitan Houston to remote areas in East Texas -- have claimed at least eight lives and forced thousands of families from their homes.

Texas Baptists traveled to the region flooded by the rain-swollen Trinity River on Oct. 18. Six volunteers left Dallas on-board the Texas Baptists' disaster-relief mobile unit -- an 18-wheel, tractor-trailer with a self-contained field kitchen -- and command post -- an RV equipped with ham radios and other equipment to coordinate communication from remote disaster sites.

Other volunteers staffed smaller regional disaster relief units from Fort Worth, Tyler and Beaumont.

Volunteers can prepare up to 35,000 meals per day at a disaster site working from the large mobile unit's field kitchen.

About 600 Houston residents spent Tuesday night at an emergency shelter in the hall of the Astrodome. Ten Baptists from the area coordinated food service.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Baptists planned to provide free temporary emergency child care, allowing children to get hot, balanced noon meals and providing parents time to file claims and clean up their homes or businesses. Trained volunteers use instructional modules to help children cope with the trauma of disaster.

-30-

Baptist youth below norm for at-risk behavior, survey says

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (ABP) -- Baptist youth are considerably less likely than their friends to engage in at-risk behavior, according to a recent survey.

The survey, conducted during the summer of 1994, was designed to provide a "snapshot" of youth active in Baptist churches in Texas, according to Chris Liebrum, youth consultant with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Of youth responding to the survey, 96 percent said they attend church at least once a week, and 90 percent profess a faith commitment to Jesus Christ.

Many Baptist young people who have said "no" to drugs, alcohol and premarital sex have close friends who are involved in those activities, the survey showed.

While 72 percent of the Baptist youth said they do not drink alcohol, half said their closest friends drink.

Although 85 percent of the Baptist young people said they had not had sexual intercourse, nearly half said some of their friends are sexually active.

And though 95 percent of the Baptist youth said they do not use illegal drugs, about 18 percent said that some of their close friends are drug users.

"Overall, youth who are actively involved in our churches are overcomers. Even though their close friends are at risk, most of our kids are behaving counter-culturally -- in a positive sense," Liebrum said.

The survey by the Texas Baptist Sunday school/discipleship division was sent to 80 randomly selected churches.

Out of 1,400 potential respondents, 546 young people ages 12 to 19 completed the survey. The youth represented 21 regional associations of varying sizes throughout the state.

Suicide is a major issue to Baptist youth, the survey demonstrated. Four in 10 said they had either thought about (27 percent), planned how to (6 percent) or tried (7 percent) taking their own lives, and 62 percent said they know someone who has attempted or committed suicide.

Of those who had thought about suicide, 39 percent said problems at home led them to consider it, and 22 percent cited loneliness as the reason.

Among the 15 percent of the youth who indicated that they had sexual intercourse, more than half had their first sexual encounter at age 14 or 15, and about one-fourth lost their virginity by age 13.

Twenty percent of those who had sexual intercourse said they had been forced to do so -- half by a friend or acquaintance, 19 percent by a stranger, 13 percent by a father or stepfather, and 19 percent by another relative.

About three-fourths of the surveyed youth said they consider premarital sex a sin, including 10 percent of those who indicated they are sexually active.

One-fourth of the surveyed youth said they drink alcohol occasionally, and about 3 percent drink on at least a weekly basis.

A teenager is more likely to drink if alcohol is present in the home, the survey showed. In homes where there is alcohol, 38 percent of the youth drink, as opposed to 23 percent of the youth from homes without alcohol.

More than half of those who have used alcohol did so for the first time before they were 13 years old, and 20 percent tried alcohol at age 8 or younger.

More than 80 percent of the Baptist youth said they do not smoke. Among those who have used tobacco, nearly half tried it for the first time before age 13.

"One thing the survey reveals is that most problems start before the high school years," Liebrum noted.

"We see the results of at-risk behaviors during the high school years, but the patterns form before middle school. We need to work with elementary school kids in prevention."

Half of the surveyed youth said their parents maintain a good balance between strict discipline and permissiveness, and three-fourths characterized their relationship with their parents as "good" or "excellent."

Half of the young people said they always feel loved and affirmed by their parents, and another 37 percent said they feel that way most of the time.

The survey also revealed that among respondents:

-- More than one-fourth said there are gangs in their schools, but fewer than 4 percent of the Baptist youth participate in them.

-- Half believe abortion is unacceptable under any circumstance.

-- More Texas Baptist teens listen to country music than to Christian and top 40 music combined.

-- More believe it is "not OK" to use tobacco (61 percent) than believe it is "not OK" to drink alcohol (54 percent).

-- The movies they attend most frequently are PG-13 (57 percent) or R-rated (21 percent).

-- Nearly 60 percent consider AIDS an issue that affects them, and about three-fourths said they would welcome more information about AIDS from their churches.

-30-

END