

# Associated Baptist Press

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## **Richmond Seminary trustees OK offer to buy building, land**

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) -- Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond trustees voted Oct. 16-17 to offer \$1.9 million to the Presbyterian School of Christian Education to purchase the Baptist school's first permanent facility.

The proposal will be considered by trustees of the Presbyterian school when they meet Nov. 8-10.

The proposal calls for BTRSR to purchase Watts Hall, a 33,000 square-foot dormitory, and about three acres of property on the Presbyterian school campus. The building would be renovated for use as offices, classrooms and dorm rooms.

The offer includes \$500,000 that would be deferred for renovation of another building, with matching funds provided by the Presbyterian school.

The proposed sale has divided supporters of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. Supporters say it would help the Presbyterian school pay for needed renovation of other buildings. Opponents, however, are reluctant to sell off buildings, arguing the move could hinder the Christian education school's future.

Both sides say they desire success for BTRSR, which has rented space on the campus since 1989. With 164 students, the Baptist seminary currently occupies two rented buildings plus shared classroom space.

Approval of the agreement by BTRSR trustees "signals our firm commitment to doing Baptist theological education in a new way -- as a distinctively Baptist institution operating in an ecumenical environment," said President Tom Graves.

The seminary is a member of the Richmond Theological Consortium, which also includes the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Union Theological Seminary in Virginia and the school of theology at Virginia Union University.

## Editor/campus ministry job cut in New York staff restructuring

EAST SYRACUSE, New York (ABP) -- The Baptist Convention of New York is eliminating its office of communications and campus ministry in a reorganization aimed at cutting costs.

Chip Lockwood, editor of the New York Baptist and state student director, will lose his job by Dec. 31, the state convention's monthly newspaper reported in its September issue.

Lockwood has worked at the convention 19 years. In an editorial, Lockwood said he endorses the plan approved by the convention's executive board Sept. 9.

"I have not been forced out or coerced but have been confronted by my own observations regarding the future of the Baptist Convention of New York and my personal future," Lockwood wrote.

Lockwood said more than a year-and-a-half ago, he "sensed the need to be open to whatever God might want to do in my life, including significant changes."

He said he talked with Quinn Pugh, the state executive director, both about his personal plans and about the organization's increasing economic struggle. Certain areas of the small state convention's work are heavily funded by agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, leaving few options for cutting programs supported entirely by gifts from New York Baptist churches, he explained.

Responsibility for the paper will be transferred to the executive director's office. The campus ministry portion of Lockwood's assignment will go to the missions division.

An audit revealed an \$111,000 deficit for the New York convention in 1994. Leaders blamed the shortfall on inadequate giving by churches, overspending in several line items and slow accounting. The executive board adopted a number of steps aimed at erasing the deficit by the year 2000.

Lockwood said he has not found another job but is looking for work in the Syracuse area, at least until his youngest son, now a sophomore, finishes high school. Lockwood is a single parent. His wife, Patricia, died of cancer in 1993.

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-- By ABP staff

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CORRECTION: In yesterday's ABP story, "Southern Baptists offer praise, concern about Million Man March," please correct a reference in the fourth paragraph from the bottom. The corrected paragraph should read:

"Christians must hold firm to their belief in a triune God who created and loves all mankind and is in Christ reconciling the world unto himself," Williams said.

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**END**