



President's Letter

As President and CEO, which I define as Chief Encouragement Officer, of the Executive Committee of the SBC, it is my pleasure to give you an update on the ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

Most Southern Baptists are unaware of the work done by the Executive Committee. The committee is comprised of a cross-section of Southern Baptists who serve their denomination in the form of a board of directors or, as some have referred to it, a Southern Baptist “House of Representatives.” There are eighty-three members. They come from cooperating Southern Baptist churches scattered across the United States. Its mix of laymen, and denominational workers or pastors is limited so that no more than two-thirds of the Executive Committee can be from either category.

The men and women of the Executive Committee are nominated by the SBC Committee on Nominations and elected by the messengers at the SBC in its annual meeting. The Executive Committee members meet three times each year to assure that the EC staff, which I head, has been carrying out the EC’s responsibilities with professionalism, class and dignity.

What are those responsibilities? They are listed in SBC Bylaw 18 and in the SBC Organization Manual. You may refer to them on SBC.net, but they can be summed up as being assignments that one might expect from the fiduciary, the fiscal, or the executive arm of any corporation. As you will see if you look, the SBC Bylaws describes its Executive Committee as performing all those functions.

Simply put, the Executive Committee staff, including myself, acts under the oversight of our board (the Executive Committee members who are sometimes referred to as “trustees” to assist our SBC entities, cooperating churches, state conventions, and associations in our cooperative efforts to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

The staff I supervise is distributed among five divisions. They are:

- The Cooperative Program and Stewardship division
- The Convention Policy and Operations division
- The Convention Communications and Relations division
- The Convention Advancement division, and
- The Convention Finance division.

Each division is headed by a vice president, who serves as a member of my Executive Leadership Team. It is my privilege to work alongside the good and godly men and women in each of these areas of ministry.

I want to say a word about an underlying and foundational component of the Executive Committee's work. At the Executive Committee, the trustees and the staff are keenly aware that it is the Cooperative Program that best fuels and advances SBC missions and ministries. Through the Executive Committee Ministry Report, I hope that you will see the Cooperative Program as an opportunity for every Southern Baptist to diversify their missions involvement. A robust Cooperative Program means every Southern Baptist can be connected to the entire Southern Baptist missions community - local missions, state missions, national missions, international missions, theological education, church planting, disaster relief and more.

At the Executive Committee, we understand it is our primary work assignment to advance SBC missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program. With that said, I would like to ask you to take a look at the Goals and Accomplishments section of this report. You will see each of our six ministry assignments listed with a brief description and explanation of the Executive Committee's work in each of these important assignments.

This coming June at the Southern Baptist convention meeting in Baltimore, I will be launching a new missions emphasis that I am calling Great Commission Advance. I will be asking every Southern Baptist and every Southern Baptist Church to simply DO MORE. I will be asking individuals and families to ENGAGE in missions by signing up this year to go on mission, either through a local missions project, get involved in statewide missions, or go on mission somewhere in North America, or perhaps find an international mission project where God can use you to point lost people to faith in Christ.

I will also ask each of you to INVEST in missions. How do I invest in missions, you ask? I am asking every Southern Baptist, every individual and every family to settle the Lordship issue in their life, once and for all, and live up to the Biblical standard of tithing, giving at least 10% of your earnings to the Lord through your local church.

I am also asking every Southern Baptist CHURCH to DO MORE! I will be asking churches to invest more in Southern Baptist missions and ministries than they have ever done before, through the Cooperative Program. If churches will increase their support across all Southern Baptist missions and ministries, it will mean significantly more support for international missions, more for North American missions and church planting, more for theological education, more for church revitalization, disaster relief, collegiate ministry and more for our efforts to make a difference in the marketplace through consistent moral advocacy. All of these are long held Southern Baptist values, and friends, there has never been a more strategic time than now to embrace and advance the Great Commission! I hope you will join me in the coming days to reach our world with the gospel of Christ!



Frank S. Page