

THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Executive Committee MEDIA RELATIONS POLICY

The sessions of the full Executive Committee are open and "on the record." Persons attending the meetings give consent to their images being captured through photographic or videographic means in accordance with the SBC annual meeting photography and videography policy.

It is understood by this that the actions and recommendations of the body may be reported by both the denominational and secular media.

It is understood also that public statements made in the full meeting of the Executive Committee are likewise "on the record." Unless a speaker specifically requests that, for good and sufficient reasons, certain of his statements (specifically and publicly identified) are "off the record," all public statements are subject to news reporting.

Though Committees and Workgroups of the Executive Committee are open to the media, editors, reporters, and photojournalists may attend these meetings on a "background rules" basis: (1) No direct quotation of any matter. (2) No implied or direct attribution to any person. This applies not only to members of traditional media, but to anyone who uses social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram, Periscope, and all other technologies as they emerge.

It is to be understood that Committee and Workgroup discussions and recommendations are tentative and subject to the action of the full Executive Committee. These meetings are open to the media, however, to provide the necessary background for accurate, complete, and well-balanced reporting of the sessions of the full Executive Committee.

It is further understood that the Executive Committee, its Committees, and Workgroups have the right and responsibility to conduct executive sessions in unusual circumstances, such as the consideration of certain delicate personality and personnel matters which could not be handled wisely in open session without unnecessarily embarrassing individuals or disclosing privileged information.

The staff and members of the Executive Committee will provide every assistance possible to members of the media to enable them to do accurate, complete, and well-balanced reporting.

This open policy of full cooperation with news media representatives is a recognition by the Executive Committee of its responsibility to keep Southern Baptists fully informed about the work they sponsor and support through the Southern Baptist Convention and its entities.

Adopted, February 25, 1965; Revised, September 17, 2013; Revised September 20, 2016