



Executive Committee Southern Baptist Convention

FRANK S. PAGE, PhD
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Friends,

If you are like most Southern Baptists, you may be unaware of the work of the Executive Committee. You may think of the Executive Committee as a sprawling denominational organization or as a small group of insiders who make decisions. In reality, the Executive Committee is neither. It is composed 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.”

The Executive Committee is comprised of eighty-six members. They come from cooperating Southern Baptist churches scattered across the United States. The make-up of the Executive Committee is a careful balance between laypeople and denominational workers or pastors, and is limited, so that no more than two-third of the Executive Committee body can be from either category.

These men and women are nominated by the SBC Committee on Nominations and elected by the messengers at the SBC annual meeting each year. In order to accomplish the work assigned to the Executive Committee by the Convention, the EC members meet three times a year. Their responsibilities are listed on the “Ministry Statement” tab of the 2018 Ministry Report. The Executive Committee staff, of which I am the head, assists the Executive Committee in fulfilling these responsibilities. They act under the oversight of the Executive Committee, also referred to as “trustees.” In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Executive Committee, with the help of the EC staff, support our SBC entities, cooperating churches, state conventions, and associations through our cooperative efforts in carrying out the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me say a word about an underlying and foundational component of the Executive Committee’s work. The trustees and the staff are keenly aware that it is the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM that best fuels and advances SBC missions and ministries. It is our desire, through this 2018 Ministry Report, that you will see the Cooperative Program as an opportunity for every Southern Baptist and every Southern Baptist church to broaden their mission’s involvement. The Cooperative Program connects Southern Baptists with a worldwide network of ministries and affords every Southern Baptist church an opportunity to have a balanced Acts 1:8 strategy. I must share a word of heartfelt thanks to every cooperating SBC church for their sacrificial and generous investment in Southern Baptist missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program. I can speak for every one of our national entities and state conventions when I say God bless you for your investment in missions.

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There is a time-proven and time-tested guiding principle that is at the heart of our cooperative work through the Cooperative Program: *WE CAN DO MORE TOGETHER THAN WE CAN DO ALONE*. Again, thank you Southern Baptists!

May I mention one more thing to you, especially to those who might be pastors or church leaders? In the past two years, I have talked about Southern Baptists engaging in A GREAT COMMISSION ADVANCE. This is a simultaneous and sustained strategy every one of us can follow in order to advance the Great Commission. I am asking individuals, families, and churches to be intentional and actively engage these four areas: ACTIVE DISCIPLEMAKING, MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM, BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP, and INTERCESSORY PRAYER. Each of these disciplines are important in our life and each area unlocks important doors of opportunity for us to reach our world for Christ.

Let me say an additional word about the area of BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP. Acknowledging the lordship of Christ over everything in our lives is what fuels a Great Commission Advance. Biblical Stewardship is more than getting out of debt, although this is an important step. Biblical Stewardship is more about having a godly and proper standard for life, and learning how to honor the Lord through managing our money, time, and talents. Imagine for a moment how the Great Commission could be fulfilled in our lifetime if each Christ-follower acted in biblical obedience as a good steward of his or her resources.

When we gather for the SBC annual meeting in Dallas, you will hear from our SBC President, Dr. Steve Gaines, and me a message about Biblical Stewardship. This will be a common theme across our Convention, and I assure you President Gaines and I will do our best to elevate stewardship in all of our churches. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Dallas.

God bless you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank S. Page". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "God bless you!".

Frank S. Page