



FRANK S. PAGE, Ph.D.
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Executive Committee Southern Baptist Convention

Dear friends,

If you are like most Southern Baptists, you are probably unaware of the work of the Executive Committee. You may think of the Executive Committee, as I did for many years, either 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-three members. They come from cooperating Southern Baptist churches scattered across the United States. The make-up of the Executive Committee members is a careful balance between laymen and denominational workers or pastors, and is limited, so that no more than 2/3 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, in-between the SBC annual meetings. Their responsibilities are listed on the “Ministry Statement” tab of this 2017 Ministry Report.

The Executive Committee staff, of which I am the head, assists the Executive Committee in fulfilling these responsibilities and acts under the oversight of the Executive Committee, also referred to as “trustees.” In fulfilling these responsibilities, the Executive Committee, with the help of the Executive Committee staff, support our SBC entities, cooperating churches, state conventions, and associations through our cooperative efforts in carrying out the Great Commission of 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, that through this 2017 Ministry Report of our SBC entities, you will see the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM as an opportunity for every Southern Baptist, and every Southern Baptist church, to diversify and broaden their missions 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. And while on the subject of the COOPERATIVE PROGRAM, I would be remiss if I did not say 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 every one of our state conventions when I say thank you and God bless you for your investment in missions. 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". So 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 what I am calling, 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 things...1) ACTIVE DISCIPLEMAKING...2) MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM...3) BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP AND...4) INTERCESSORY PRAYER.

Let me give you a heads up. When we gather for the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix in June of this year, you will hear from our SBC President, Dr Steve Gaines, and you will hear from me a message about Biblical Stewardship. This will be a common theme in the next two years and I can assure you, Dr Gaines and I will do our best to elevate stewardship in all of our churches. Friends, acknowledging the lordship of Christ over everything in our lives is what fuels a Great Commission Advance. Biblical Stewardship is about 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 money, managing time and managing our talents. Imagine how the Great Commission could be fulfilled in our lifetime if each Christ-follower acted in biblical obedience as a good steward of his/her resources. I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Phoenix and having this conversation with you about STEWARDSHIP.

God Bless You.



Frank S. Page