

## **Southeastern Remains on Academic Probation**

December 8, 1992

Wake Forest, NC -- The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, while recognizing Southeastern Seminary's rapid progress, has elected to allow Southeastern to remain on probation for one more year in order to observe the completion of one entire cycle of the self-assessment and long-range planning processes which have been set in place by the seminary.

President Paige Patterson indicated his "profound disappointment" in the decision but said he was not surprised. "I regret the necessity of the additional year of probation because of the monumental efforts and sacrifices of the entire seminary family to realize this goal as quickly as possible," said Patterson. "But I am encouraged by the Association's recognition of our significant progress and their offer of further assistance."

Patterson said he could understand the desire of SACS to observe one full year of testing the new evaluative procedures. He said, "The seminary will redouble its efforts to demonstrate the adequacy and effectiveness of our long and short term planning and evaluation programs.

Asked if he believed the probationary status would impede student recruitment, Patterson said that while the status "will not prevent the continuing growth of the student body, it will possibly prevent that growth from proceeding at the rate I had hoped. This, in turn, has a negative impact on the financial abilities of the school to develop new programs, unless benefactors who love and believe in this school will come to its aid."

When pressed about possible discouragement, Patterson resorted to his customary down-home analogies, saying, "Look, when you're in a rodeo, trying to stay on the bucking back of several hundred pounds of irritated bull, which sports a healthy disdain for all human fellowship, and the pick-up men don't arrive on time, you don't just fall off and then shoot then animal. You hang on for dear life, pray God's intervention, and ride the critter until he becomes your personal buddy! That's what we'll do here."

