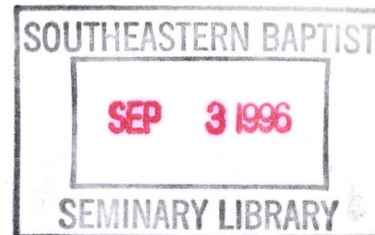


Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

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News & Information

Southeastern trustees vote to provide relief for stretched housing facilities

WAKE FOREST, N.C.--Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary moved to head off a looming housing shortage prompted by burgeoning enrollment, during their fall meeting Oct. 9-10.

Southeastern's president Paige Patterson said the Lord has been very good to us in providing such rapid growth, "but this growth has created an enormous number of good problems that we had not anticipated to occur so quickly."

The Wake Forest, N.C., school's Board of Trustees voted to proceed with the renovation of Bostwick Hall, which sits on the seminary's main campus, to become housing for married students without children.

"This building is probably the most beautiful on campus," Patterson said. "Bostwick is long overdue for renovation." The building, built in 1924, served as a men's dormitory until it was closed in 1988 due to its aging electrical system.

Faced with a fall enrollment of 1,098 students, trustees approved the administration's request to explore the possible acquisition of land off campus for the development of additional student housing.

The board also called for a feasibility study to be completed concerning the renovation of the basement level of Lolley Dormitory, housing for single women, so that additional rooms could be made available for women students.

Trustees participated in the dedication of the Manor House on the seminary campus. The home was used as a boarding house for women students until the 1960s; the house has since been used by the seminary as lodging for prospective students visiting the campus.

"There is no where in this country where prospective students go and stay in a nicer place while they're on a campus," Patterson said of the totally renovated structure.

He told the trustees, rooms in the building, also called "The House of Prophets," are dedicated to the ministry of individual pastors, evangelists and laypersons within the Southern Baptist Convention, saying, "It will be an education just to stay there."

Trustees heard that academic degree programs they had approved at recent meetings were up and running, including the upper level baccalaureate degree program which now has 100 students enrolled.

"Our standards in the Ph.D. program are high; only 10 were admitted," said

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Patterson, indicating the number of applicants to the degree program approved last spring by the trustees were much higher than those accepted." We are not going to make the same mistakes some other institutions have made in Ph.D. programs and admit more than we can actually handle properly," he continued.

In updating the group on foreign mission opportunities for the trustees at Southeastern, Patterson said the school "is planning a trip you won't want to miss." Inviting the trustees to accompany the students and others in traveling overseas next June, he said the group will be heading to Southeast Asia next year to visit a country that is "ripe for the Gospel right now."

Patterson called on the trustees for their continued support in Southeastern's work with the Hebrew University in the archeological dig at Hazor, Israel. Hazor was, in effect, the capital city of Canaan and was the city Joshua took and "burned with fire" when he came into the land, Patterson said.

"This is the largest archeological excavation in Israel and perhaps in all of the Middle East," Patterson said, "and probably the most promising." He said cuneiform tablets uncovered elsewhere in the region indicate Hazor as the site of an ancient archive whose discovery would be tantamount to the recovery of the Dead Sea scrolls.

"This is a fabulous training experience for students and a wonderful witnessing opportunity," Patterson said. Officials at Hebrew University have been responsive to Southeastern students on the digs, Patterson said, "even though they know they are going to receive a witness about Jesus."

In other business:

David Beck was elected to the faculty as assistant professor of New Testament, James Porowski as assistant professor of pastoral care, and Alvin Reid as associate professor of evangelism. The three had been teaching on the faculty under presidential appointments.

Danny Akin, professor of theology and dean of students at the school, elected to a newly created position, vice president for student services.

Trustees approved the addition of 14 new members to Southeastern's Board of Visitors, a group whose purpose is "to provide a means by which a broad range of friends of the seminary can assist in fulfilling our purpose of preparing God-called men and women for service."

The board of visitors not only supports the school in financial development, but is committed to praying for the students, faculty and administration, said Bart Neal, Southeastern's vice president for institutional advancement.

By Dwayne Hastings

