

MINUTES OF THE SPRING MEETING OF THE HOME MISSION BOARD
April 13, 1994

The Spring Meeting of the directors of the Home Mission Board was called to order by the chairman of the Board, Brad Allen, at 8:30 a.m., April 13, 1994.

MEMBERS PRESENT: ALABAMA, H. Kenneth Cheek, Ann W. Cushing, Randy P. Evers; ALASKA, Marlin L. Starnes; ARKANSAS, G. Wyndham Cook, Ronnie L. Mayes; CALIFORNIA, June Tate; DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, Jo Ann S. Britton; FLORIDA, Joyce M. Boatwright, Harold C. Epperson, Wayne B. Goff, Olan K. Wills; GEORGIA, Osal J. Evans, Mike Everson, Cloma D. Odom, Dwight Reighard, John B. Thompson; ILLINOIS, Ron C. Meyer; INDIANA, Rose A. Bear; KANSAS-NEBRASKA, N.N. Antonson; KENTUCKY, J. Mark Bond, Linda S. Principe, Gary L. Southard; LOUISIANA, Jerry N. Barlow, Everett Geis Sr., Shirley Russell; MARYLAND, D. Walter Collett; MICHIGAN, Damon Patterson; MISSISSIPPI, J. Greg Martin, Liston L. Morris, Louie W. Odom; MISSOURI, Bob F. Curtis, Gerald Davidson, Marti Hefley; NEVADA, Jaffus L. Haley Jr.; NEW ENGLAND, Jay S. Smith; NEW MEXICO, Marvin L. Capehart; NEW YORK, James M. Guenther; NORTH CAROLINA, Foyd Bennett, Carol R. Cearley, K. Wayne Pollard, Alfred R. Wright; NORTHWEST, Tina R. Brewer; OHIO, Charles Rhodes; OKLAHOMA, Brad Allen, Billy R. Bissell, Keith Russell, David M. Stone; PENNSYLVANIA, James E. Ward; SOUTH CAROLINA, Wendell R. Estep, Troy M. Gregg, M. Randall Jones; TENNESSEE, Edward R. Futrell, Tom Madden, Guy M. Milam, Ronald E. Stewart; TEXAS, John P. Avant Jr., J. Walter Carpenter, John E. Culwell, Karl K. Dietz, Manuel A. Galindo, Elton Ikels, Danny Souder, William G. Streich, Stephen Swofford, Llwyn Walker; UTAH-IDAHO, David L. Carver; VIRGINIA, Charles G. Fuller, Roger Gorby, Jean Thompson; WEST VIRGINIA, D. Wade Armstrong; LOCAL MEMBERS, Floyd L. Battles, Betty Haynes, Ronald B. Long, William O. Priester, W. Ray Sarratt.

MEMBERS ABSENT: ALABAMA, Edwin J. Hayes; ARKANSAS, Rex Holt Jr.; CALIFORNIA, Willie T. Gaines; COLORADO, Michael R. Grebenik; GEORGIA, Stewart B. Simms Jr.; KENTUCKY, Emma P. Day; MICHIGAN, Damon Patterson; NORTH CAROLINA, Ronald L. Tucker; TENNESSEE, Ray Newcomb; TEXAS, Bass Redd; LOCAL, Gene T. Bowman, Ronald Gaynor.

Visitors were welcomed by Chairman Allen.

Chairman Allen led in the devotion.

The minutes of the February 8, 1994, meeting were approved as received.

Dr. Lewis brought the annual report (attached).

The statement of income and expense was presented by Ernest J. Kelley. As of March 31, 1994, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering totaled \$1,897,842.63. Income for the period is over the budgeted amount by \$354,522. Expenses for the same period are \$4,670,312

under budgeted amount.

The following officers were elected for the 1994-95 year:

Chairman	Bob F. Curtis
First Vice Chairman	D. Wade Armstrong
Second Vice Chairman	Marvin L. Capehart
Secretary	Cloma D. Odom
Assistant Secretary	Marti Hefley

Brad Allen advised that the Administrative Committee voted to issue a statement of clarification to address three issues:

1. There are no more copies of the Freemasonry Study available at the Home Mission Board, and it will not be reprinted.
2. Issue of universalism.
3. Issue that the recommendation taken to the Southern Baptist Convention left the matter of Freemasonry to the personal conscience of Baptist people. That was not the intent of the HMB.

Dr. Allen read the following statement:

That there be no misinterpretation, the Administrative Committee wishes to reiterate the long standing position of the HMB on the subject of universalism: whether it be the teaching of a religious body, a fraternal order, or an individual, the universalist plan for human redemption is unbiblical and heretical, and we oppose the embrace or perpetuation of any such teaching.

It has never been the intention of the HMB to suggest that individual Southern Baptists may feel justified in affiliating with such teaching on the basis of personal conscience. Rather, we would call upon fellow Southern Baptists to never embrace or perpetuate such heresy.

In the spirit of the above, and in light of the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the Lordship of Christ, the teachings of Scripture, and the findings of the report, then personal conscience may be used.

Motion was made by Wade Armstrong, and seconded, that this be the official statement of the Board of Directors.

Motion was made by William Streich and seconded that this statement be amended by prefacing the motion with the following:

In light of all questions that have arisen and confusion concerning Freemasonry and

the recommendation that was made to the Southern Baptist Convention by the Home Mission Board.

With approval of Wade Armstrong, the original motion as amended, was adopted unanimously and now reads as follows:

In light of all questions that have arisen and confusion concerning Freemasonry and the recommendation that was made to the Southern Baptist Convention by the Home Mission Board and in order that there be no misinterpretation, the Board of Directors wish to reiterate the long standing position of the HMB on the subject of universalism: whether it be the teaching of a religious body, a fraternal order, or an individual, the universalist plan for human redemption is unbiblical and heretical, and we oppose the embrace or perpetuation of any such teaching.

It has never been the intention of the HMB to suggest that individual Southern Baptists may feel justified in affiliating with such teaching on the basis of personal conscience. Rather, we would call upon fellow Southern Baptists to never embrace or perpetuate such heresy.

In the spirit of the above, and in light of the leadership of the Holy Spirit, the Lordship of Christ, the teachings of Scripture, and the findings of the report, then personal conscience may be used.

The following motion was made by Jim Guenther, and seconded:

That the Administrative Committee be instructed to draft for implementation as soon as possible a policy related to the matter of appointment of anyone involved with Freemasonry to mission service by this Board.

The ruling of the chair was that this motion would involve a change of policy and as stated was out of order. The motion could be stated to ask the Administrative Committee to study this matter.

Motion was restated by Jim Guenther as follows:

That the Administrative Committee consider the matter of appointment of missionaries as to their involvement with Freemasonry or any organization that teaches universalism.

The vote was a tie of 30-30. The chairman voted to break the tie 31-30. The motion failed.

Walter Collett called for a roll call vote. The chairman asked for a vote as to whether the roll call vote should be taken. The vote was 35-29 in opposition. The call for a roll call vote was defeated.

The following actions were approved by the Board of Directors and other actions approved

by the committees/commission were received as information:

Staff Personnel Committee

Administrative Committee

Audit Committee

Evangelism Committee

Extension Committee

Church Loans Committee

Ministry Committee

Chaplains Commission--as information

Missionary Personnel Committee--as information

Services Committee

Utah Missions--as information

Miscellaneous/New Business

Appreciation was expressed to Brad Allen for his service to the Board as Chairman.

Tribute was paid to those missionaries deceased in 1993.

Directors rotating off the Board in June 1994 were recognized.

Adjournment at 12:15 p.m.