



To: Pastor Rolland Slade
Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention

This is to inform you of my resignation as the Chief Financial Officer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention as of February 15, 2022. When I arrived in October 2020, my desire and intention was to serve the Executive Committee until my retirement. However, over the past months the landscape at the Executive Committee has changed and I see I have no choice but to submit my resignation.

Important point of clarification:

It is critically important to me that it is crystal clear, I have always been and I remain fully in favor of the current investigation of the Executive Committee. I am committed to fully cooperate and have instructed our staff and those assisting the Executive Committee with this investigation to fully cooperate. To my knowledge and everything I have witnessed indicates everyone associated with the Executive Committee staff and those assisting the Executive Committee have fully complied these instructions. We at the Executive Committee, like the messengers of the 2021 annual meeting, want the truth to be revealed so the Southern Baptist Convention can move forward with recovery, reconciliation and healing.

Advice and counsel:

This resignation comes after my receiving advice and counsel from multiple attorneys, none of which have ever served the Executive Committee in any professional capacity. One is an expert in non-profit law serving at a major international non-profit organization and one is a life-long member of Southern Baptist churches who is deeply committed and passionate about the Cooperative Program.

My commitment in September:

It's my conviction a CFO with professional ethics and integrity should not leave an organization at the end of a fiscal year but before the external audit is complete. In October, I committed to certain Executive Committee members I would stay through the completion of the audit but could not promise anything beyond that.

As of January 25, 2022, a draft of the annual, external audit of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention is complete. The staff work is done and the auditors are determining the nature of the opinion and any notes related to the investigation and the waiver of attorney client privilege.

I was also committed to ensuring the Guidepost review was initiated in a cooperative and efficient manner. All of the requested documents have been given to Guidepost and the interviews of the Executive Committee staff have occurred or have been scheduled.

Conclusion:

My prayer is the Southern Baptist Convention will find a way forward producing recovery, reconciliation and healing so we can once again turn our full focus to the work of the Great Commission.

Jeff Pearson
Numbers 6:24-26