

# Baptist Briefs

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**Benefactors pledge \$16 million to seminary.** Harold and Dottie Riley of Austin have [pledged \\$16 million](#) for a campaign to build a 3,500-seat chapel on the [Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) campus. Presently, the largest auditorium on campus at the 3,000-student school is the 1,100-seat Truett Auditorium. Since coming to Southwestern as president in 2003, Paige Patterson has made building a new chapel one of his priorities. Two years ago, trustees authorized architects to draw up plans, and a site west of the Smith Center for Leadership Development was selected. Patterson has said no ground will be broken until all funds for the chapel have been committed.

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**National WMU re-elects Texan as officer.** Kathy Hillman of Waco and Kaye Miller of Little Rock, Ark., were elected to serve another year as national officers of [Woman's Missionary Union](#) recently at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina. About 750 members were present at WMU's 118th annual meeting to re-elect Miller to a second term as president and Hillman to a third term as recording secretary, both by unanimous vote.

**Southeastern breaks ground for Patterson building.** Trustees at

[Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary](#) in their recent annual meeting broke ground for a \$6.2 million building named for former seminary President [Paige Patterson](#) and his wife, Dorothy. Completion of Patterson Hall—which will house classrooms, faculty offices and a center for faith and culture—is expected in 2008.

**Southwestern trustees tie tongues.** In a closed-door meeting, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees reportedly [adopted a statement](#) insisting the seminary will neither endorse charismatic practices—such as a private prayer language—nor hire professors who advocate such practices. Only one trustee was known to have voted against the measure—[Dwight McKissic](#), pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Arlington. Earlier this semester, McKissic preached a chapel sermon at the seminary in which he took issue with the Southern Baptist International Missionary Board policy barring missionary candidates who engage in charismatic practices. The seminary removed the video of McKissic's sermon from its website.

**American Baptists nominate missions leader.** Reid Trulson has been nominated to become the next executive director of [American Baptist International Ministries](#), the global missions and ministry arm of American Baptist Churches, USA. Trulson has served more than 20 years in local church ministry and 11 years in international missions—five years as a missionary in Europe and six years as a member of the stateside staff. He served two terms as president of the board of international missions. Trulson's nomination goes to the American Baptist General Board and International Ministries Board for election Nov. 15.

**Baptists in Alaska support the troops.** Messengers to the [Alaska Baptist Convention](#) approved a \$1.9 million budget for 2007 and a resolution offering continued prayer and support for military personnel and their families. The resolution of support will be sent to commanders and chaplains with the 172nd Striker Brigade Combat Team, based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska. Messengers elected as president Gary Cox, pastor of University Baptist Church in Fairbanks; first vice president Charles Worthy, pastor of First Baptist Church in Willow; second vice president Ed Gregory, pastor of First Baptist Church in Anchorage; and recording secretary Colleen Cannon from First Baptist Church in Anchorage.

**American Baptists may sell 'Holy Doughnut.'** Leaders of the [American Baptist Churches USA](#) will consider selling the facility jokingly known to some of the denomination's faithful as the "Holy Doughnut"—the denominational office building near Philadelphia. In its Nov. 14-15 meeting, the denomination's General Board will take up a recommendation from its own executive committee to begin offering the ABC-USA Mission Center in Valley Forge, Pa., for sale. Last month, the committee unanimously approved a recommendation from an ad hoc panel to sell the center—built in 1962 and known by its humorous nickname because of its circular, modernist design. Cheryl Wade, the denomination's associate general secretary and treasurer, said the mission center is too large for the denomination's current needs. The building currently houses the General Board staff, as well as the central staffs for the denomination's Board of International Ministries and Board of National Ministries. It also houses a satellite office for the denomination's Missionaries and Ministers Benefit Board and offices for several affiliated ministry organizations.

News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention ( SBC ) and around the world.