

# Midwestern Seminary board meeting ends without action against Roberts

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## Midwestern Seminary board meeting ends without action against Roberts

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP) — Despite a public conflict with the chairman of his trustees, the president of a Southern Baptist seminary survived a board meeting Oct. 16.

According to a press release from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, trustees agreed, during the two-day meeting, to “affirm” both president Phil Roberts and board chairman Gene Downing as well as “the overall direction and mission of the seminary.”

Phil Roberts
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# Theology keeps Mormons from entering Christian mainstream

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## Theology keeps Mormons from entering Christian mainstream

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—While a Mormon presidential candidate continues to occupy a prominent place in the race for the White House, a recent study has found most Americans say they know little about the practices of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and large majorities say their own faith is very different from the Mormon religion.

The survey, conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the [Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life](#), found 51 percent of Americans have little or no awareness of the precepts and practices of Mormonism, and 53 percent say they have a favorable opinion of Mormons.

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More than  
50,000  
Mormon  
missionaries,  
like the men  
shown here,  
serve the  
Church of  
Jesus Christ  
of Latter-day  
Saints for two  
years  
spreading  
their faith.  
(RNS  
photo/Kevin  
Horan/Time  
Life  
Pictures/Getty  
Images)

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## On the Move

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## On the Move

- **Brian Avery** to Lake Shore Drive Church in Weatherford as youth minister from First Church in Palo Pinto.
  - **Lee Bates** to First Church in Longview as minister of music and worship from First Church in Palmetto, Fla.
  - **Jeff Berger** to Westbury Church in Houston as pastor.
  - **Justin Bindel** to First Church in Wichita Falls as interim junior high minister, where he was assistant youth minister.
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## Young people see Christians as judgmental, study shows

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## Young people see Christians as judgmental, study shows

**By Adelle Banks**

*Religion News Service*

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Young people have graded Christianity, and so far, the report card doesn't look good.

Majorities of American young people describe modern-day Christianity as judgmental, hypocritical and anti-homosexual. What's more, many Christians don't even want to call themselves "Christian" because of the baggage that accompanies the label.

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## **Church gives away 24,000 books in one day inside S.C. prisons**

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## **Church gives away 24,000 books in one day inside S.C. prisons**

**By Hannah Elliott**

*Associated Baptist Press*

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP)—Giving Rick Warren's best-selling *The Purpose Driven Life* to prisoners is nothing new for church volunteers.

But St. Andrews Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., is distributing the book on a much broader scale than most groups. Church members gave a copy to every prisoner in the South Carolina Department of Corrections, distributing 24,000 copies in one day.

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# Churches use podcasts as portable outreach tool

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## Churches use podcasts as portable outreach tool

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

ONTGOMERY, Ala.—Little white headphones that began, about five years ago, revolutionizing the way Americans listen to music may also revolutionize the way they learn about God.

Hundreds of churches and other Christian institutions are using podcasts or other easily downloadable audio and video files to spread the good word around the globe—literally—with the simple click of a mouse.

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# Churches of all sizes can use technology

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## Churches of all sizes can use technology

**By Vicki Brown**

*Missouri Word & Way*

A *Christianity Today* survey, published in the summer issue of its *Leadership* journal, points out communication has taken a decidedly visual turn, and churches must take steps in that direction.

Does a church have to have at least 1,000 members, media experts on staff and a multi-million-dollar budget to take advantage of today's technology?

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## Same story, new language

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New  
technology  
helps  
churches  
tell the  
gospel  
story.

## Same story, new language

**By Jennfier Harris**

*Missouri Word & Way*

Many scholars believe the church must bridge a divide before it can minister effectively in today's world.

In a rapidly changing environment, they insist the church still speaks the language of pen and paper while the culture around it communicates using technological advances.

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## Texas Tidbits

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# Texas Tidbits

**Wade retirement reception set.** A reception honoring Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Director Charles Wade will be held Oct. 29 following the second general session of the BGCT annual meeting that day. BGCT-affiliated institutions are hosting the event. Wade is set to retire at the end of January.

**Missions banquet planned.** “Catching the Winds of Missions” is the theme of a missions celebration banquet at 5 p.m., Oct. 29 in the Regency B Ballroom of the Amarillo Civic Center. The event, scheduled in conjunction with the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting, will honor Cecil Deadman and Nelda Gerbine for their leadership in LifeCall and Mission Service Corps. There is no cost, but a donation to the [Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions](#) is requested. To make a reservation, e-mail [stacey.rice@bgct.org](mailto:stacey.rice@bgct.org).

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## **TOGETHER: Staff reduction better sooner than later**

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# **TOGETHER: Staff reduction better sooner than later**

The question has been raised with me as to why I decided to reduce the size of our BGCT staff before messengers at the annual meeting have a chance to vote on the 2008 budget. They understand personnel decisions are the responsibility of the executive director, not the messengers, but the timing bothers them. Let me try to explain my reasons.

- If we had not dealt with the personnel positions until after the convention, then we would have had a month in which all of the staff would have been in limbo regarding their futures, and rumors would have been out of control, and morale would be worse, not better.



Executive Director  
BGCT Executive  
Board

- Messengers would have felt they were determining the fate of 25 to 30 employees without sufficient information to make a good decision. They would have felt emotionally undone to have to make a decision affecting the lives and families of so many.

- If we had waited, we simply would have been prolonging worry and frustration on the part of the staff and messengers.
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## **UMHB student makes service part of daily life**

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UMHB  
student  
Felicia  
Cano  
makes a  
new  
friend at  
an  
orphanage  
in Haiti.

## **UMHB student makes service part of daily life**

The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor recognized senior Felicia Cano for her service both locally and internationally, presenting her the Gary and Diane Heavin Servant Leadership Award.

Cano began as a freshman working with children in low-income housing projects through the Belton nonprofit group [Hope for the Hungry](#). She later made trips to Haiti with that organization, and she has worked at orphanages in Russia with Go Now Missions and in South Africa with Do Missions.

During the school year, she has volunteered at the Belton food bank and has served as co-president of UMHB's Ministry Leadership Council.

Cano is a member of Hope Community Church, a Belton congregation affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

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# Women in ministry describe journey together

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Hardin-Simmons University student Megan Donohoue plays the guitar during the conference on women in ministry.
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# Women in ministry describe journey together

**By John Hall**

*Texas Baptist Communications*

ABILENE—Dorisanne Cooper’s story isn’t simply her own. It’s the story of a Sunday school teacher, a mentor, classmates and church members, as well.

And it’s much like that for the more than 220 people—including students from Baylor University, Hardin-Simmons University, Baptist University of the Americas, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, Wayland Baptist University, Howard Payne University and Dallas Baptist University—who participated in the Baptist General Convention of Texas’ first conference specifically for women in ministry. The gathering was a cooperative effort with [Logsdon Seminary](#).

Participants said multiple people helped them identify and clarify God’s calling upon their respective lives. For Cooper, those people included a Sunday school teacher, seminary classmates, a pastor who served as a mentor and the church members she currently serves as pastor of Lakeshore Baptist Church in Waco.