

# **Tenn. Supreme Court seeks clarity about church autonomy**

January 9, 2026

Tenn. Supreme Court sought clarity, Jan. 8, on the church autonomy doctrine in a case focused on the SBC's protocols to address sexual abuse claims.

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# **Judge cancels Sills jury trial and calls for new trial date**

January 9, 2026

Federal Judge William Campbell has canceled the jury trial between David and Mary Sills and the Southern Baptist Convention set for Feb. 10, 2026, calling for it to be rescheduled.

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# **Wisdom-Martin announces WMU retirement plans**

January 9, 2026

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer of national Woman's

Missionary Union, announced Dec. 10 she will retire in January 2027, marking 36 years of ministry service.

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## **District Court issues decisions for seminary and Patterson**

January 9, 2026

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary remains dismissed from claims of defamation in a case involving the school and its former president, Paige Patterson, with the latter being allowed to file again for summary judgment, a U.S District Court decided.

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## **Motions to unseat Arlington church ruled out of order**

January 9, 2026

Three motions at the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention annual meeting to disallow messengers from Fielder Church in Arlington because of the church's stance on women in pastoral roles were ruled out of order.

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# **Florida pastor Willy Rice nominee for SBC president**

January 9, 2026

Florida pastor Willy Rice announced his intentions to be nominated for Southern Baptist Convention president at the 2026 SBC annual meeting in Orlando.

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# **Morris Chapman, longtime SBC leader, dead at 84**

January 9, 2026

Morris H. Chapman, former pastor, former Southern Baptist Convention president, former SBC Executive Committee president and champion of the Cooperative Program, died Oct. 20, at age 84.

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# **Akin announces retirement from Southeastern Seminary**

January 9, 2026

Daniel Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, announced to students gathered for a chapel service on Oct. 14 his plans to retire next summer.

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# **Voddie Baucham Jr. dies at 56**

January 9, 2026

Voddie Baucham Jr., a conservative Black pastor, author and seminary leader heroic to some and controversial to others, has died at 56.

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# **SBC Executive Committee takes up messenger motions**

January 9, 2026

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee members addressed referrals from messengers to the 2025 SBC annual meeting at their Sept. 22-23 meeting.

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# **Executive Committee declines to sue Johnny Hunt**

January 9, 2026

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee at their Sept.23 meeting weighed the potential merits and risks of filing countersuits in cases involving what it considers fraudulent claims of responsibility.

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# **Sills drops lawsuit against Jennifer Lyell estate**

January 9, 2026

Michael David Sills and his wife Mary no longer are seeking damages against the estate of the late Jennifer Lyell in a lawsuit stemming from Lyell's accusation of sexual abuse against Sills.