

# SBC Executive Committee trustees request called meeting

October 20, 2021

NASHVILLE (BP)—Officers of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee are planning for a special called meeting of the members.

A letter from 25 Executive Committee trustees calling for the meeting was sent to Chairman Rolland Slade on Oct. 13.



Rolland Slade, pastor of Meridian Baptist Church in El Cajon, Calif., is chair of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. (BP Photo)

In the letter trustee David Sons sent to Slade, a group of 25 trustees explained their reasoning for the meeting:

“The purpose of this special called meeting shall be (1) the election of new officer(s) to fill one or more vacancies that have come as a result of resignations, and (2) discussion and any necessary action related to issues of leadership and trust among the committee, officers, and executive staff.”

Sons, pastor of Lake Murray Baptist in Lake Murray, S.C., said the resignation of Ronnie Floyd as Executive Committee president and CEO does not change the need for the meeting.

“I think that Dr. Floyd’s resignation only increases the need for the entire committee to meet,” Sons said. “It is important that the trustees remain informed about the current situation and that we are able to take any action deemed necessary to ensure that Southern Baptists continue to be well-served by the Executive Committee and staff during this time.”

According to Executive Committee bylaws, the chair has 30 days to call the special meeting once it has been requested.

“It’s going to happen,” Slade said. “I believe Nov. 11 is the 30th day since I received the letter, so it’s going to happen within the timeframe.”

He added the meeting agenda will be altered because of Floyd’s resignation.

“I believe the folks who signed the letter realize that we might not be discussing the exact same things that they were talking about,” he said. “Some of those things will still be there, but not all of them.”

## **Twelve resignations in the past month**

The current number of Executive Committee trustees stands at 73. There have been 12 resignations since the group’s Sept. 20-21 meeting: Robyn Hari, Ron Hale and Chuck Williams of Tennessee; Mark Elliott of Nebraska; Chad Garrison of Arizona; Melissa Golden, Paul Hicks and Phyllis Ingraham of Alabama; Kim Grueser of Pennsylvania; Paul McPherson of Arkansas; Barbara Norris and Steve Swofford of Texas.

The full number of trustees should be 86, according to the group’s bylaws. Modena Henson from North Carolina resigned before the Sept. 20 meeting

because of a personal relocation.

According to Slade, Hari is the only officer to resign so far. Hari was the chair of the committee on convention finances and stewardship development.

“Archie Mason was the vice chair of the committee, and he was up to speed. So, we brought him up to the chair,” Slade said.

Since there are no guidelines in place for replacing committee leadership roles, officers followed the same guidelines that are in place for replacing the Executive Committee chair, Slade said. Mason is the pastor of Central Baptist in Jonesboro, Ark.

Slade said a decision on an interim president to succeed Floyd “will not be made until at least after Nov. 1.”

“We’re working with [Floyd] to make sure there’s a smooth transition on Nov. 1,” Slade said.

The Executive Committee bylaws give the officers the responsibility of appointing an interim president from the existing vice presidents should the office of the president be vacated. They state:

“The Officers of the Board may, pending action by the board of trustees, designate a vice president to act as interim president or as president pro-tem, subject to any restrictions which might be imposed, in the event of the death or resignation of the president, or in the event the president is unable to perform the duties of the office because of physical or mental impairment.”

The current vice presidents are Greg Addison, executive vice president; Jeff Pearson, chief financial officer; Jonathan Howe, vice president for communications; and Willie McLaurin, vice president for Great Commission

relations and mobilization.

Slade believes the special called meeting will be held virtually. Executive Committee bylaws mandate a two-day notice be given.