

Baptist Foundation president sets retirement date

July 25, 2012

DALLAS—After 36 years as president and chief executive officer of the Baptist Foundation of Texas, Lynn Craft will retire from his role Dec. 31.

Craft joined the foundation staff in 1968, serving under his mentor James Cantrell, and was named president in 1976.

His 36 years in the top leadership role at the foundation ranks him among the longest-tenured Texas Baptist agency heads in history, second only to R.C. Buckner, who served 40 years as founding president of what is now Buckner International.

During his time as president and CEO, the foundation's assets under management grew from \$123 million to \$1.5 billion. He was instrumental in the formation of the foundation's subsidiary, Concord Trust Company, to enable the foundation to serve Baptist and other charitable ministries throughout Texas and beyond.

Craft will continue in a consulting role, working with staff and Baptist institutions on real estate, oil and gas, and financing matters.

The foundation supports and manages endowments for more than 200 Baptist institutions and churches in Texas and across the United States.

John Minton, chair of the foundation's board and a Tyler attorney, expressed appreciation for the many contributions Craft made to the foundation's mission.