

Eric Black named Baptist Standard executive director/publisher

May 11, 2018

DALLAS—The Baptist Standard Publishing board elected pastor and professor Eric Black as executive director and publisher, effective June 11.

At its May 10 meeting in Dallas, the board approved Black to succeed Marv Knox, who served the *Baptist Standard* 22 years, including about 19 as editor and publisher.

Varied ministerial experience

Black, 43, has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Covington since 2010. During his time at the church, he supervised construction of a new campus and relocation of the congregation.

Previously, he was associate pastor for youth ministries at First Baptist Church in Galax, Va., and associate director of GraceLife Baptist Student Union at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Since 2008, he also has been a resident fellow at the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute, teaching philosophy of Christian education.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University, where he graduated *magna cum laude*. He holds a Master of Arts in Christian Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Doctor of Philosophy degree from the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute.

He was licensed to the gospel ministry by Hoffmantown Baptist Church in

Albuquerque and ordained by Acton Baptist Church in Granbury.

‘Experience, education and equipping’

“Eric’s experience, education and equipping combine to uniquely qualify him for this position at this time,” said Jay Abernathy of Lubbock, chair of the Baptist Standard Publishing board and its search committee.

“His sincere and humble acknowledgement of his salvation and earnest devotion to his faith are evident in his considered, compassionate approach to ministry.”

Black has served on the Baptist Standard Publishing board since 2015, and he also served on the governing board for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Texas.

Recognizes challenges, excited about the future

Black acknowledged he approaches his new responsibility both with excitement and trepidation.

“Being the face of the *Standard*, given its long history, tradition, reach and influence is daunting, and I take the responsibility with the utmost seriousness,” he said. “I spent countless hours seeking the Lord’s guidance about holding this privilege.”

“Getting to steward the Baptist story as part of the greater story of Christ and his kingdom is thrilling,” Black said, adding he hopes to spark excitement among loyal readers and supporters, “encouraging them to secure our continuing ability to communicate the Baptist story well into the future.”

“At the same time, I look forward to igniting new interest in the Baptist story among Millennials and younger generations, exhorting them to live the Baptist story and thereby carry it with them into the future,” he said.

“And what is the Baptist story? First and foremost, the Baptist story is making disciples of all people, teaching them to follow all Jesus commanded us. Then there are the particular ways Baptists live out this larger story through our commitment to common Christian beliefs and historic Baptist principles.”

Black and his wife, Dalese, have two children, Allen, 11, and Caroline, 7.