

Updated: BGCT staff, Southwestern Seminary support Chick-fil-A

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The Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board staff and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary both are encouraging people to heed the Chick-fil-A fast-food chain's familiar advertising slogan—"Eat Mor Chikin"—by making treats available on Aug. 1.



Dan Cathy

The Baptist Building in Dallas will provide breakfast chicken biscuits for about 80 staff and visitors beginning at 9 a.m., prior to regularly scheduled 10 a.m. chapel service.

Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth will buy 200 sandwiches for an Aug. 1 campus picnic.

At the Baptist Building, the BGCT employee engagement advisory council will serve breakfast in support of the stance Dan Cathy, Chick-fil-A

president, has taken concerning the definition of family, said Council Chair Nathaniel Sullivan.

"We agree with Dan Cathy that the Bible is the supreme authority by which we define such a term as family, and we want Dan and our friends at Chick-fil-A to know we support them," Sullivan said.

Likewise, Southwestern Seminary announced its plans as a show of support for the "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day" campaign organized by former Ark. Gov. Mike Huckabee.

"Southwestern Seminary wants to encourage Chick-fil-A's support of the traditional family and the First Amendment right of Dan Cathy to live out his religious beliefs," said Thomas White, vice president for student services and communications.

Cathy, son of Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy and current president of the restaurant chain, ignited controversy when he answered "guilty as charged" to a question about the company's support of traditional family values.

"We are very much supportive of the family—the biblical definition of the family unit," Cathy told the *Biblical Recorder*.

"We intend to stay the course," Cathy said. "We know that it might not be popular with everyone, but thank the Lord, we live in a country where we can share our values and operate on biblical principles."

Cathy sounded a similar theme June 16 on the syndicated radio program Ken Coleman Show in response to a question about the problem of fatherlessness in American families.

"I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a

marriage,'" Cathy said.

"And I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to try to redefine what marriage is all about."

The comments set off a media firestorm and sparked an announcement by the Jim Henson Company it no longer would partner with Chick-fil-A by producing toys for its children's meals.

Mayors in Boston and Chicago also initially said that the company's restaurants are not welcome in their cities but later backed off somewhat on their comments.

Chick-fil-A attempted to quell the controversy with a posting on the Atlanta-based company's Facebook page saying the restaurant's policy is "to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect—regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender" and that its intent "is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena."

Compiled from Associated Baptist Press, Baptist Press and Texas Baptist Communications reports

This article was updated at 4:30 p.m. on July 30. The first four paragraphs were revised to include new information from the BGCT staff.