



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Office of the President

February 20, 2014

To My Fellow Southern Baptists:

At this crucial time in the history of our denomination -- a time that calls once again for a unifying and visionary leader -- I intend to nominate Dr. Ronnie Floyd as the next President of the Southern Baptist Convention. He has unparalleled experience as a leader among us, an unquestioned commitment to the Great Commission, and he has demonstrated an unstinting urgency to unite Southern Baptists around our shared beliefs, mission, and programs.

Ronnie Floyd is one of our most respected Southern Baptist leaders and pastors. For 27 years he has led Cross Church in Northwest Arkansas, and in those years that church has become one of the most evangelistic, visible and innovative congregations in our convention. To visit the church is to know why. Ronnie Floyd is a gifted pastor and leader, filled with passion and driven by a vision for ministry in the name of Christ. He is a leader who raises up other leaders, and the ministry of Cross Church is a model of generous leadership that is a gift to our entire convention.

Ronnie Floyd's experience in Southern Baptist leadership is without peer among pastors within the Convention. He served on the Program and Structure Task Force in the 1990s and was a key leader in the Covenant for a New Century. He served as chairman of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and as chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. He has served on boards and committees and task forces too numerous to list. The point is simple -- when Southern Baptists have asked Ronnie Floyd to serve, he has always answered that call with visionary leadership and an eagerness to serve the denomination he so clearly loves.

Ronnie Floyd is a visionary and a unifier. He will lead all Southern Baptists, and he will help keep us united and focused on our shared task -- to mobilize a denomination of churches in service to the Great Commission. He will maintain a constant vision of Southern Baptists going, sending, and giving so that the nations will rejoice in Christ.

Over the last several years, Ronnie Floyd has led his church to become one of the convention's leading contributors toward the Cooperative Program. Last year, Cross Church contributed over \$700,000 to the Cooperative Program. What makes that giving even more remarkable is that Cross Church increased its giving during a time of economic stress in the nation. Ronnie Floyd led the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force for our denomination, and when that task force called for Southern Baptists to demonstrate a bold commitment to increasing giving

through the Cooperative Program -- Ronnie Floyd took that vision home to his church, and the church has responded with great generosity and a vision for missions at home and around the world. That is leadership, and that is the quality of leadership we need in the next president of our Convention.

More than anything else, I am announcing my intention to nominate Ronnie Floyd because I know him as a friend and fellow servant of the Southern Baptist Convention. I have seen his ministry up close, and I have seen God bless him and his church. I have seen his influence expand and his vision increase. I have watched his heart for Southern Baptists grow and I know of his affection for our churches and pastors.

I served with Ronnie Floyd on the Program and Structure Committee of the SBC and the Great Resurgence Task Force, among other shared responsibilities. I can tell Southern Baptists that Ronnie Floyd is without question one of the great strategic thinkers and visionary leaders of our times. He is also my friend, and he will be a friend to all Southern Baptists.

Ronnie's leadership begins at home. He has been married to Jeana for 37 years, and I have seen them raise their family together with such love and commitment and joy. They have two married sons and six grandchildren. To know them is to know a family that loves Christ together and serves the church together.

This is a crucial moment for Southern Baptists. We face mounting challenges within our own nation, matched to great opportunities for the Gospel at home and around the world. Southern Baptists are engaged in a healthy theological conversation, but we need leadership that can help that conversation to be directed toward energizing us to a great common for reaching the world and reaching our nation -- together. Fred Luter has led us so well as he has unified and inspired us. Our next president needs to unify and inspire us for our next steps together. I believe that Ronnie Floyd is the leader Southern Baptists need. I gladly announce my intention to nominate Ronnie Floyd as the next president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Albert Mohler, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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