General Correspondence and Information

Southern Baptist Convention

This following letter was sent by certified mail to Ronnie Floyd president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and copies sent to all the members of the Executive board except one, and the leaders of the Ashley River Baptist Church with proof of mailing.

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|  October 27, 2014  Edward H. Sebesta  edwardsebesta@gmail.comDr. Ronnie FloydPresident The Executive Committee, Southern Baptist Convention901 Commerce StreetNashville, TN 37203-3699Dear Dr. Floyd:I regret to report that the Ashley River Baptist Church, a member of the Southern Baptist Convention, hosted an event for the 2014 National Reunion of the Sons of Confederate Veterans (SCV). It is reported in the July 30, 2014 issue of the Times Examiner. I enclose a copy, and the article can be read online at <http://www.timesexaminer.com/historical/1914-2014-national-reunion-of-sons-of-confederate-veterans>. The SCV is a group which promotes what I believe and I think any rational person would believe are extremist and racist beliefs as documented in an article by myself at *Black Commentator*, <http://www.blackcommentator.com/526/526_confederacy_sebesta_guest_share.html>. I enclose a copy. I do investigative research regarding the neo-Confederate movement. My research has been published by university presses, peer reviewed academic journals, as well as by *Black Commentator*. My resume is online at www.templeofdemocracy.com/resume.htm. I enclose a copy. When churches lend neo-Confederate groups the use of their facilities they not only give them support through the use of their facilities but additionally they lend the prestige and credibility of their individual church and denomination to that group. The church is also party to the enabling the agenda of the neo-Confederates. I am disappointed in the Ashley River Baptist Church actions. The Southern Baptist churches have had a record of not hosting the national conventions of neo-Confederate groups. For national conventions from 1990 to 2014 only one Southern Baptist church had hosted the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which was First Baptist Church of Columbia in South Carolina. For 1990 to 2013 I don’t find any record of a Southern Baptist church hosting the national convention of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. I enclose tables of hosting churches and bar graphs of the hosting by denomination. This information can also be found online at the web page www.templeofdemocracy.com/churchesoftheconfederacy.htm. I had had written the four denominations leading in hosting neo-Confederate national convention services not to host the SCV: Episcopalians (both factions), United Methodist, Presbyterians and Roman Catholics (See again enclosed bar graphs). There were indications that the SCV was having difficulties finding a church. I did not write any organizations of Southern Baptists in South Carolina since I thought Southern Baptists wouldn’t do such a thing. The Southern Baptist church had seemed to be moving forward on the issue of race with such notable actions as the 1995 apology for slavery. It had seemed that the Southern Baptists comprehended that Christianity was a global effort with no one race or nation privileged over another. Yet this doesn’t seem to be the situation. The neo-Confederate movement besides bringing back into print nearly every antebellum book defending slavery have also been publishing some modern theological defenses of slavery. The neo-Confederates have been condemning the Southern Baptist Convention for their apology regarding slavery since the resolution was passed in 1995. (<http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/899>). The notorious Southern Partisan had two condemnations published. [2nd Quarter, Vol. 15, 1995, pp. 7 Wesley Pruden; 3rd Quarter, Vol. 15, 1995, pp. 56 Samuel Francis. Documentation enclosed.]Though the Sons of Confederate Veterans has not directly condemned the Southern Baptists for their resolution, they have strongly promoted and praised the writings that have condemned the Southern Baptists. Gary Lee Roper has written a book, “Antebellum Slavery: An Orthodox View,” 2008, advocating a pro-slavery theology, in which on pages 281-82 he condemns the Southern Baptist apology and calls those who passed it “pompous ignoramus.” I enclose documentation. This book is promoted and praised by the Sons of Confederate Veterans in their publication Chaplain’s Corps Chronicles of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In the April 2008 issue the SCV Chaplain’s Corps praises the book and tells the readers it is a “must read.” Documentation enclosed. (<http://www.scv.org/pdf/chaplains/2008_Apr.pdf> ). The book is also sold in the SCV catalog, SCV’s online store, and in their official publication Confederate Veteran. I enclose documentation. Walter D. Kennedy has written a book “Myths of American Slavery,” Pelican Publishing Company, 2003. The Southern Baptists are denounced for their apology on pages 88-96 in a section titled “Radical Influence in the Southern Baptist Convention,” in a chapter titled “Abolitionism Versus Christianity.” On page 89 the author states:“The passing of the so-called Racial Reconciliation Resolution by the assembled delegates defamed and otherwise slandered the good name of Southern Baptists of the past 150 years. The resolution is nothing more than liberal double-speak for an act of cultural genocide against the South.” Elsewhere on page 89 the resolution is called “infamous” and the author states, “The duped delegates regurgitated on cue the abolitionist (i.e. liberal) propaganda about the institution of African servitude and life in the Old South.” I enclose documentation. This book is sold in the SCV catalog, SCV’s online store, and in their official publication Confederate Veteran. I enclose documentation. The Southern Baptists may have apologized over slavery in 1995 but in 2014 it is aiding and abetting an organization that is promoting pro-slavery theology and a neo-Confederate ideology that condemns the Southern Baptist Convention. One concern I have developed in investigating neo-Confederate groups is how they are enabled by mainstream organizations such as corporations, churches, government bodies and others. So I have decided to ask these groups to reconsider their relations with specific neo-Confederate groups. It is all well and good that I have written on extremist Confederate Christian nationalists for the Canadian Review of American Studies (<http://www.templeofdemocracy.com/ConfederateChristianNationalism.pdf>), but I have realized that the enabling of a racist historical consciousness in the general public and racist neo-Confederate groups by mainstream churches is as detrimental to America as these fringe churches referred to in my paper. The Christianity advocated by the SCV is largely similar. You can review their Chaplain’s Chronicle online at <http://www.scv.org/about/chaplainsChronicle.php> and <http://chaplain-in-chief.com/>. In the summer of 2013 I had a successful campaign getting corporations to stop supporting the SCV as reported in a *Black Commentator* article which is available online at a free guest link at <http://www.blackcommentator2.com/527_cover_scv_donation_loss_sebesta_guest.html>. (Link is also in my online resume.) It took eight days for this campaign to succeed. I regret to say that so far the temples of Mammon were much more willing to give up neo-Confederacy than the churches of Christ. I ask that the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention not host the events of neo-Confederate organizations. Finally as other denominations inevitably move away from hosting neo-Confederate groups the neo-Confederate groups will seek alternatives and the Southern Baptist Convention risks being the leading church hosting neo-Confederate organizations. This transition seems to have already started.  Sincerely Yours, Edward H. SebestaPS: My website is undergoing redesign, but there will be redirects for all the pages that were on <http://www.templeofdemocracy.com>and the web pages mentioned should be easily found. The resume will be Curriculum Vitae, etc. CC: See the tables on the following pages: |

One the following page is the tables to whom the letter was copied.

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| No | Name | Title | Mailing Address |
| 1 | Dr. Ronnie Floyd | President | The Executive Committee, SBC, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203-3699 |
| 2 | Michael W. Routt | Chairman Executive Committee | Senior Pastor Circle Drive Baptist Church, 801 N Circle Dr, Colorado Springs, CO 80909 |
| 3 | John L. Yeats | Vice Chairman Executive Committee | Executive Director Missouri Baptist Convention, 400 E High St, Jefferson City, MO 65101 |
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| 6 | Stephen N. Rummage | Bus. & Fin. Comm. Chair | Senior Pastor Bell Shoals Baptist Church, 2102 Bell Shoals Rd, Brandon, FL 33511 |
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| 11 | Mark H. Ballard | Executive Committee Member | President Northeastern Baptist College, Northeastern Baptist CollegePO Box 4600Bennington, VT 05201-4600 |
| 12 | Tom Biles | Executive Committee Member | Executive Director Tampa Bay Baptist Assocaiton, 1060 W Busch Blvd, Tampa, FL 33612 |
| 13 | Charles W. Boling | Executive Committee Member | Director of Missions, Williamson Baptist Assoc., 10093 Old Bainbridge Trail, Marion, IL 62959 |
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| 16 | Charles R. Chambers | Executive Committee Member | CFO Consultant, First Baptist, Toledo, OH |
| 17 | M. Kent Choate | Executive Committee Member | Community Groups Pastor, The Church At, Broken Arrow, OK SEND VIA HEADQUARTERS |
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| 19 | B. Scott Davis | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Pitts Baptist Chuch, 140 Pitts School Rd NW, Concord, NC 28027 |
| 20 | Eddie W. DeHondt, Jr. | Executive Committee Member | Minister Rose Park Baptist Church, 5560 Buncombe Rd, Shreveport, LA 71129 |
| 21 | Procopio U. DeLeon | Executive Committee Member | Senior Scientist, Laurel Springs, NJ. |
| 22 | David O. Dykes | Executive Committee Member | Pastor Green Acres Baptist Church, 1607 Troup Hwy, Tyler, TX 75701 |
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| 24 | Robert O. Freshour | Executive Committee Member | Pastor First Baptist Church-South Lyon, 60820 Marjorie Ann St, South Lyon, MI 48178 |
| 25 | James W. Gregory | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor First Southern Baptist Church,1400 N 3rd E, Mountain Home, ID 83647 |
| 26 | Ron F. Hale | Executive Committee Member | Senior Adult/Pastoral Care, West Jackson Baptist Church, 580 Oil Well Rd, Jackson, TN 38305 |
| 27 | David A. Hall | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor, Oak Grove Baptist Chuch, 2106 Churchville Rd, Bel Air, MD 21015 |
| 28 | David E. Hamilton | Executive Committee Member | Pastor West Heights Baptist Church, 336 W Oxford St, Pontotoc, MS 38863 |
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| 30 | Bedford F. Hanson | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Mountain View Baptist Church, 4250 Poison Spider Rd, Mills, WY 82604 |
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| 32 | Phillip Herring | Executive Committee Member | Minister of Education, First Baptist Church, 312 Kempsville Rd, Norfolk, VA 23502 |
| 33 | Timonthy Hight | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Grace Life Baptist Church, 1640 Peppers Ferry Road, Christiansburg, VA 24073 |
| 34 | Mike Holloway | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Cook Baptist Church, 2000 Cooktown Rd, Ruston, LA 71270 |
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| 42 | Steven W. Loggins | Executive Committee Member | Director of Missions, Mount Olive, AL |
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| 48 | John H. Moore | Executive Committee Member | Retired Physician, Associate Pastor Branson First Baptist Church, 400 S Sunshine St, Branson, MO 65616 |
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| 51 | Timothy A. Ohis | Executive Committee Member | Pastor Believers Southern Baptist Church, 13909 West 21st St N, Wichita, KS 67235 |
| 52 | L. Douglas Passmore | Executive Committee Member | Pastor First Baptist East, 3302 SE Lee Blvd, Lawton, OK 73501 |
| 53 | Jeff L. Paul | Executive Committee Member | Pastor First Baptist Church, 302 S Missouri St, Archie, MO 64725 |
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| 68 | John E. Smith | Executive Committee Member | Pastor Munfordville Baptist Church, 501 N West St, Munfordville, KY 42765 |
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| 70 | Robert E. Stennett | Executive Committee Member | Attorney, Scott Depot, WV |
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| 72 | Dale R. Suel | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Amherst Baptist Church, 100 Willow Ridge Dr, Amherst, NY 14228 |
| 73 | Robert D. Summerlin | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Lone Oak First Baptist Church, 3601 Lone Oak Rd, Paducah, KY 42003 |
| 74 | Stephen K. Swofford | Executive Committee Member | Pastor First Baptist Church, 610 S Goliad St, Rockwall, TX 75087 |
| 75 | Thomas B. Tucker III | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor Sisk Memorial Baptist Church, 115 Massey St, Fort Mill, SC 29715 |
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| 77 | Jeffrey B. Watson | Executive Committee Member | Attorney, Winston-Salem, NC |
| 78 | Stanley J. Welch | Executive Committee Member | Senior Pastor West Asheville Baptist Church, 926 Haywood Rd, Asheville, NC 28806 |
| 79 | Bradford M. Wheeler | Executive Committee Member | Pastor Capitol Hill Baptist Church, 525 A St NE, Washington, DC 20002 |
| 80 | Bill D. Whitaker | Executive Committee Member | Retired Pastor, Glasgow Baptist Church, 401 S Green St, Glasgow, KY 42141 |
| 81 | Andy H. Wilson | Executive Committee Member | Executive Leader -- Ministry & Operations, First Baptist Church, Springdale, AR. 1709 Johnson Rd, Springdale, AR 72762 |
| 82 | Rev. Dave Patterson | Senior Pastor | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 83 | Rev. Ron Shearer | Pastor of Education | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 84 | Rev. David Martin Sr. | Pastor of Worship | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 85 | Rev. Kent Williams | Pastor of Youth and Missions | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 86 | Ms. Lauren Thomas | Director for Children's Ministries | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 87 | Mr. Albert Jenkins | Ministry Assistant for Finance | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 88 | Ms. Lynn Chamberlain | Ministry Assistant  | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 89 | Mrs. Veronica Rodoski | Ministry Assistant | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 90 | Mr. Fred Lane | Head of Maintenance Department | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 91 | Ms. Heather McDonald | Child Development Director | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |
| 92 | Mrs. Lindsay Welch | Child Development Assistant Director | Ashley River Baptist Church, 1101 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407 |

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| **No.** | **Denomination** | **Officer** | **Title** | **Address** |
| 1 | National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. | Dr. Jerry Young | President Elect | Pastor Dr. Jerry Young, New Hope Baptist Church, 5202 Watkins Dr., Jackson, MS 39206 |
| 2 | National Baptist Convention of America International Inc. | Rev. Samuel C. Tolbert Jr.  | President Elect | National Baptist Convention of America International, Inc., 777 S R L Thornton Freeway, Suite # 210, Dallas, Texas 75203 |
| 3 | National Missionary Baptist Convention of America | Dr. Nehemiah Davis | National President | **NMBCA**, 6925 Wofford Dr., Dallas, Texas 75227 |
| 4 | Progressive National Baptist Conventions, Inc. | Dr. James C. Perkins | President  | PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC., 601 - 50th Street, NE , Washington, DC 20019 |
| 5 | Full Gospel Baptist Church | Bishop Paul S. Morton Sr. | Presiding Bishop | Bishop Paul S. Morton Ministries, 3350 Greenbriar Pkwy SW, Atlanta, GA 30331, United States of America |
| 6 | Full Gospel Baptist Church | Bishop John W. Walker III | Presiding Bishop-Elect | Bishop Joseph Walker Ministries, P.O. Box 330374, Nashville, TN 37203 |