



SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

901 Commerce Street | Nashville, Tennessee 37203 | 615-244-2355

August 6, 2020

Dr. Ronnie Floyd
President and Chief Executive Officer
Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee
901 Commerce Street
Nashville, TN 37203

Dear Dr. Floyd,

While growing up in Africa as a missionary kid, my parents taught me to love the Great Commission and the Great Commandment. When I accepted Christ as my Lord and Savior as a young child, I personally experienced His work of redemption on the cross for the forgiveness of my sins. It has been my privilege to serve Christ by serving churches through the ministry of the SBC Executive Committee and to help ensure that the sacrificial gifts given by Southern Baptists through our Cooperative Program and designated missions offerings are efficiently and effectively disbursed to reach the whole world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I have had the honor of serving Southern Baptist for nearly 30 years both in my local church and denominationally, including the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board, before coming to work with the SBC Executive Committee nearly a decade ago. During that time, I have had the privilege to stand on the shoulders of faithful servants who came before me and work alongside dedicated men and women who love the Lord and love serving Southern Baptists.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you announcing that I will be resigning from my current position effective December 31, 2020. After much prayer, I believe that it is the right time for me to step away from my full-time responsibilities at the SBC Executive Committee and devote the majority of my time and energy to my family. In these nearly 30 years of service, I have counted it all joy to daily honor God by providing for my family and serving God by serving His church.

As a part of my life journey, I attended my first GuideStone (then called Annuity Board) financial planning session in 1992, and prayerfully decided to faithfully follow their suggestions to live responsibly, save wisely and give generously in order to move toward personal financial independence around age 55. My wife and I have lived what we learned for those 30 years, and now understand why God placed that desire and commitment to personal fiscal responsibility on our hearts those many years ago.

As you are aware, my wife and I are helping to provide care for our special needs grandson who faces significant life challenges due to his genetic conditions. We have prayed for healing miracles and grieve for him as he faces multiple life-long medical issues. We know that part of God's plan for him includes the blessing of having a Nana and Pops that love him dearly and will do all we can to

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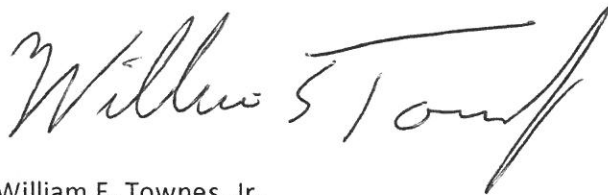
ensure he has every opportunity to be the best he can be and thrive in the years that God gives him here on earth.

I am thankful that God has led you here to lead our Southern Baptist Convention at this moment and I am positive that your passion for the lost continues to drive you in providing firm, forward focused, and faithful shepherding of our cooperative missions and ministries. In addition, I want to express my absolute faith in the ability of the incredible team of Christ followers that you have brought together and am excited about the future of the SBC Executive Committee team. I am confident that God is never surprised and has someone ready and prepared to come alongside you in the future and serve in the role that I have fulfilled this past decade. I will be glad to assist in any way that I can, as needed, to facilitate the uninterrupted advance of SBC Executive Committee ministry assignments during this transition.

As I serve our Lord and Savior in a different capacity in the future, I am committed to pray for you, the SBC Executive Committee staff and board members, as they face both existing and new challenges and continue to unify and focus Southern Baptists to collaboratively reach our world with the Gospel.

Thank you for your personal friendship, leadership and most importantly your prayers for my family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Townes, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

William E. Townes, Jr.