

August 2, 2021

Hi Pastor Slade,

I don't believe we have ever had the pleasure of meeting but look forward to in the future. A mutual friend, Marshall Blalock let me know that you and your wife celebrated your 40th anniversary this past weekend. Congratulations, and thanks for your leadership in ministry!

As the Chairman of the Task Force, this email is to make the formal request to the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention for the following:

1. Waiver of the Executive Committee's attorney-client privilege and attorney-client privilege for all witnesses or relevant individuals pertinent to this investigation, excluding survivors of sexual abuse who choose to participate in this investigation regarding their experiences with the SBC. This step is critical to ensure full access to relevant information, complete accountability and transparency, and properly assess steps for reform.
2. The Executive Committee and its staff to preserve all written and electronic communications, records, information, and data, including data that may be residing on servers and personal communication devices, for the duration of this investigation and until August of 2022, to allow time for receiving any recommendations that may come from this process.

Again, thank you so much for your leadership and I look forward to meeting in person.

Sincerely,

Bruce Frank
Task Force Chair

August 6, 2021

Bruce,

Thank you also for this communication on behalf of the Task Force. I know I speak for the officers and leadership of the Executive Committee in saying that our goal is always to fulfill our responsibilities as trustees with discernment and integrity with trustworthy hearts and hands endeavoring always to serve our Lord's Kingdom. We look forward to working cooperatively with the Task Force in this manner.

Regarding your requests, we hope you will be pleased to know that without your request, immediately following the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, Dr. Floyd, with the support of the Executive Committee's officers, directed the staff to preserve all existing documents, records, and communications in the Executive Committee's possession or control, in whatever medium. I also understand that the destruction of old records under any record retention policy at this time is suspended.

It is our intention, and directive, that Executive Committee records will be maintained until resumption of normal maintenance and destruction of materials becomes appropriate.

The Executive Committee has begun work on development of a process through which it can provide the Task Force the information it will reasonably require to accomplish its assignment. The exact process and the related issues you have raised will require diligent consideration to ensure that actions taken are appropriate. This process will require input from various impacted parties, as I am sure you appreciate. We intend to respond as promptly as we can after receiving the information mentioned below.

In order to respond most effectively, we request that you identify the materials you are seeking from us so that prudent analysis and decisions can be made. We also are requesting to know any allegations of inappropriate behavior on the part of the Executive Committee since 2000 of which the Task Force has knowledge.

We look forward to our representatives meeting with the appropriate representatives of the Task Force to determine how best we can all work together in the service of our Lord and the Southern Baptist Convention. We are praying for you, as we know you are praying for us.

Blessings,
Rolland

Rev. Rolland E. Slade
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August 31, 2021

Dear Rolland,

Thanks so much for your response and leadership.

On behalf of the Task Force, thank you again for the opportunity to correspond concerning our work.

The Task Force is pleased that Dr. Floyd, with the support of the Executive Committee's officers has pledged to cooperate with the independent investigation and comply with the will of the Messengers.

We thank Dr. Floyd and the Executive Committee officers for their proactive decision-making regarding the preservation of materials. The Task Force additionally requests that the Executive Committee confirms to us that the normal maintenance and destruction of materials will not be resumed without prior notice to the Task Force.

With respect to the waiver of attorney-client privilege, the Task Force had hoped to receive a more definitive commitment from the Executive Committee on this request. Therefore, the Task Force is formally renewing its request (restated below) for the Executive Committee to waive attorney-client privilege without further delay and urges the Executive Committee to conduct a public vote approving this request at its business meeting in September 2021. Given the importance of this issue to ensuring that a full investigation can be completed consistent with the SBC Motion and the clear will of the Messengers, we expect the independent investigation to include a detailed recitation of all claims of privilege in the public report. Our previous request:

Waive the Executive Committee's attorney-client privilege and attorney-client privilege for all witnesses or relevant individuals pertinent to this investigation, excluding survivors of sexual abuse who choose to participate in this investigation regarding their experiences with the SBC. This step is critical to ensure full access to relevant information, complete accountability, and transparency, and properly assess steps for reform.

In response to the Executive Committee's additional requests, the Task Force would like to advise you that we expect to finalize a contract with a third-party firm in the very near future, and we will publicly announce those details once that occurs. Soon thereafter, we expect the third-party firm, who will be independently handling the investigation in accordance with the SBC Motion and the will of the Messengers, will be contacting you to discuss the investigation process, document and interview requests, and any other relevant matters.

As offered before, our Task Force is available to answer any questions you may have regarding waiver of privilege and provide assistance in formalizing a motion for a vote at your September meeting to ensure that this vote can be taken and this process committed to. Should you need assistance in completing this motion, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Additionally, at the time a firm is retained, they will also be available to assist in ensuring this vote can be taken in September.

We further request that Chairman Bruce Frank (or other designated Task Force member) and a representative of the third-party firm be invited into every Executive Committee session where this matter is discussed, and that they be called upon to answer questions or offer input regarding this most important issue. We believe the Executive Committee deserves to have full and clear information on which to decide any questions regarding this mandate from the messengers, and we are pleased to serve that goal.

The Task Force again thanks you personally for your Christ-honoring leadership, and we are grateful for the Executive Committee's indication of cooperation. We look forward to working together for the Kingdom of our Savior.

Yours in Christ,

Bruce

Members of the Task Force

Bruce Frank, D.Min.

Lead Pastor, Biltmore Baptist Church, Asheville, NC, Task Force Chair

R. Marshall Blalock, D.Min.
Pastor, First Baptist Church of Charleston, Task Force Vice Chair

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