

**Ministerial Review Board Report
to the
Tennessee State Convention
July 27-29, 2007**

The challenges facing ministry have never been greater. We are committed to a high standard of qualified, anointed, and educated ministerial leadership in Tennessee. It is our goal to 'seek to excel' to edify the Body of Christ.

The Ministerial Review Board has met on several occasions and assisted the Overseer as requested regarding ministerial licensure, education, and disciplinary matters.

Section I

The role of **Deaconess** was approved at the past International Assembly. Requirements in Tennessee for this designation require completion of the "Foundations" course along with the reading of one book (suggested by the State Overseer).

"In light of the recent General Assembly ruling removing the minimum age requirements of thirty years olds, we encourage the pastor and local church to exercise due caution in setting forth a candidate for Deacon or Deaconess remembering the scriptural injunction of not setting forth a novice." (MRB mtg minutes quote 10/2/06)

Section II

Continuing education of ministry and the encouragement to upgrade the ministry have long been emphasized in Tennessee. Past efforts through TCBL (Tennessee Center for Biblical Leadership) have been successful; but we have sensed a need for restructuring and clear direction.

It is not our desire to conflict with the approved Tomlinson Center, but we feel compelled to offer additional opportunities within the state. Pastors, Ministers, are encouraged to connect with accredited educational institutions within their area.

The plan for the Ministerial Education Program has three levels:

I. Annual Ministerial Development Intensive

This week-end event has proven a valuable tool in encouraging ministerial development. It gives opportunity for newly licensed ministers along with those pursuing license to share with seasoned ministers. It is offered at no cost to those attending for the first time and a minimal cost to those returning. We consider it a worthwhile investment of state funds and valuable use of an individual's time.

II. **Schools of practical ministry** (various locations)

There is a real need for basic instruction on practical ministry. (i.e. serving the elements, business procedures, ministerial ethics, etc.) This would involve a hands on approach for ministry training.

III. **Connection with Beacon University**

Extensive time and consideration has been given to partnering with Beacon University of Columbus, Georgia. Members of the Review Board along with State Overseer, E.C. McKinley, met with representatives of the University regarding this opportunity. There has been favorable response. Schools have begun at Crossroads with plans to open in East Tennessee in the fall.

Representatives of Beacon University attended the Ministerial Development Intensive this past January at Camp Hickory Hills. "Training for Reigning/ the Life of David", a course study written by Dr. Ronald Cottle, President of Beacon University was the textbook for the week-end. This material was well received and taught by several pastors in their local churches after the intensive.

The Beacon Institute of Ministry is not a college but studies are college level. There are diplomas for each level of study. These credits may be transferred over at a later date to the University program if desired and credit given.

Section III

The State Overseer has stressed that the purpose of the Ministerial Review Board is more than licensing ministers. It is also an avenue for pastors to address when the need arises. In an effort to strengthen the program, the Overseer has restructured and sub-divided the Board by using seasoned ministers from various areas of the state to serve and interview ministerial candidates in their respective area.

Tennessee State Licensure Boards have been set up consisting of the District Presbyter, one or more members of the state Ministerial Review Board, and one other Bishop in the district (approved by the State Overseer).

Section IV

We support and encourage the concept of the **Ministerial Internship Program**. This is a valuable means of training young men and women preparing for ministry. It requires time and effort of Senior pastors and the commitment of ministers in training but both individuals and congregations are strengthened as a result.

Section V

The importance of qualified, dedicated, Spiritual Leadership can not be emphasized enough. Tennessee is blessed to have some outstanding pastors. None of us should be lax in efforts to improve our level of leadership. Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of every opportunity available. We appreciate our Senior Ministers and the level of integrity and commitment they have modeled before us. Their wisdom continues to be a valuable asset to this state.

Respectfully submitted,

E.C. McKinley, State Overseer

Winston Reid, Chairman

Paul Holt

Tim McCaleb

Duke Stone

Londa Richardson, Secretary