



Response to Will McRaney's Letter of Concern
February 5, 2016

On February 4, 2016, we and our fellow North American Mission Board (NAMB) trustees received a letter from Dr. Will McRaney regarding his concerns about our president, Kevin Ezell. We are also aware that he shared this letter with various others in the Southern Baptist Convention who do not serve in roles of direct oversight over NAMB. Although we have no desire to publicize internal matters such as this, you are receiving this letter because we understand, based on communications made to NAMB, that you were copied by Dr. McRaney on his letter and email yesterday.

Rather than engage in a line-by-line rebuttal of Dr. McRaney's portrayals of how Kevin and other NAMB leadership navigated through this challenging situation, it is sufficient to say that his letter is both factually inaccurate and misleading. Instead, on behalf of NAMB's trustees, we want to voice our complete confidence in Kevin's leadership, his integrity and the biblical way in which he handled the challenges that arose as a result of several of Dr. McRaney's decisions and the way in which he conducted himself toward NAMB. NAMB leadership acted with our concurrence as this situation unfolded, and we believe Kevin and the leadership team conducted themselves with wisdom, discernment and patience.

We highly value our relationship and partnership with state Baptist convention partners. We also care deeply about Baptist work in the Northeast and in Maryland and Delaware in particular. Our total investment in Maryland and Delaware rose 26.3 percent in 2012 compared to levels before Kevin became president, and NAMB's total funding has remained at that level or higher since that time. Since Dr. McRaney's departure, the Maryland-Delaware convention has moved to our 100 percent funding option, meaning that NAMB fully funds personnel roles that used to require funding from the state convention as well. This will free up thousands of dollars each year, which can be used wherever the state convention deems best.

We firmly believe that the best strategy for leading people to Christ, expanding God's Kingdom and strengthening Baptist work at the state convention level and at all levels is to increase the number of evangelistic church plants. This strategy and emphasis has shaped our agreements with all of our state Baptist convention partners. We look forward to continuing our work with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and with our other partners.

Sincerely,

Chuck Herring
Chairman
NAMB Board of Trustees



Response to Will McRaney's letter (cont'd)

Mark J. Dyer
Vice Chairman
NAMB Board of Trustees

Stephen "Spike" E. Hogan
Second Vice Chairman
NAMB Board of Trustees