

## **Texas Baptists Announces Sale of Dallas Facility**

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May 20, 2014

DALLAS – The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas approved the sale of the Convention’s Dallas facility to the Baylor University School of Nursing during a meeting on Tues., May 20.

The 100,000 square foot facility, located at 333 N. Washington Avenue in Dallas, will be purchased for \$16 million through a combination of monetary funds and in-kind gifts.

“We are excited to announce this agreement which proves to be mutually beneficial for Texas Baptists and Baylor University,” said Dr. David Hardage, Texas Baptists executive director. “Through the Executive Board’s affirmation, we are looking forward to the opportunities for increased ministry that will be provided for our convention. It is also a blessing to be able to provide much needed space for one of our Baptist institutions as they strive to provide a Christian-based nursing program for our state. Ultimately, this is an opportunity to put ministering to people first and adding collaborative ministries to reach the state. It’s more than dollars and cents – it’s about flesh, blood and souls.”

Hardage was approached by Baylor representatives about the possibility of selling the facility in the fall of 2012. An ad hoc committee was formed by the Executive Board in 2013 to research relocation possibilities and to negotiate the sale.

The Baylor University Board of Regents approved the purchase of the facility at a special called meeting on May 16.

“Today, we honor and celebrate Baylor University’s longstanding and significant relationship with the BGCT in a historic manner that benefits both institutions,” said Baylor President and Chancellor Ken Star. “The Baptist Building will greatly enhance the ministry of Baylor’s outstanding nursing program, which is at capacity on its current campus, while strengthening our growing partnership with the Baylor Health Care System. We also look forward to expanding and strengthening in a variety of ways Baylor’s on-going relationship with the BGCT. We are deeply grateful to the leadership of the Convention for their continued interest in the mission of Baylor University as we work together for the cause of Christ in our hurting world.”

In addition to monetary funds, the agreement includes the relocation of the Texas Baptist Historical Collection to Waco. Baylor University will also collaborate with the Historical Collection Director to digitize important materials. The relocation and digitization is valued at \$2 million.

Plans will be discussed in the coming months for the relocation of the Texas Baptists staff, with the majority of personnel remaining in the Dallas area.