

To the churches of the Carolina Baptist Association,

I write with a heavy heart as I reflect on the news of sexual abuse and misconduct by leaders in many SBC churches and the mishandling of important information by the SBC Executive Committee. Legitimate complaints from victims were covered up and those who should be cared for and supported were shamefully treated. A culture of self-preservation and a lack of personal responsibility have gone unchecked for too long. It is time for those responsible to be held accountable and for us to do the right thing. Proverbs 28:13 “Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” This is a time for lament, repentance, and prayer.

It is also a time for speaking up and taking action. Proverbs 31:8-9 “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.” Cries for help have gone unanswered and even suppressed for many years. Even though it is heartbreaking and painful, I am thankful that what has been dwelling in darkness for far too long is now being brought to light. It is in the light of Christ where hope and healing are found. We must respond with love and compassion to those who have been abused, creating a safe place for victims to have a voice and find support.

This report may have been a surprise to many but be encouraged that it is a positive step that was called for by the messengers of the SBC. It is a step of transparency, a self-imposed uncovering of information that was once hidden. An independent investigation of the SBC’s Executive Committee was initiated by messengers at the 2021 annual meeting in Nashville. The motion came in response to public allegations that Executive Committee members and staff defamed sex abuse survivors, bullied advocates, and resisted reforms. The motion, which was approved by a nearly unanimous vote, required SBC president Ed Litton to [form a task force](#) to hire a third-party to conduct the investigation and release its findings through an unredacted report. The nine-member task force, led by Biltmore pastor Bruce Frank, selected Guidepost Solutions for the investigation. The report contains the findings of the year-long investigation ([Click here to read the report and find additional information.](#))

I want to encourage you to take some actions steps with me:

- Pray. Ultimately, God is the only answer to the issues we are facing. None of this has caught Him by surprise. We must turn to Him for strength, answers, healing, and unity as we walk through these days together.
- Be informed. Read the report (or at least the summaries provided).
- Self-reflect and self-study. Ask God to reveal things in your own heart that need to be addressed. Also consider the culture of your church and the “policies and procedures” that may need to be reviewed.
- Be prepared. CBA will be providing material and offering training in the days and weeks ahead as we consider this important issue.

We will not be silent nor complacent during this time when an action-oriented response is needed. Please let me know how I may serve you.

ONE: Stronger Together for His glory.

Grace & Peace,
Currie