



THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Office of the President

May 31, 2019

Dr. Joe Phelps
Co-Chair, EmpowerWest
2000 Emerson Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205

Dear Dr. Phelps,

We have received and read with care your letter of May 20, 2019. This letter is our joint response, coming from both the President and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The release of our recent report on slavery and segregation in the history of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary did not emerge from a lack of context. For decades now, the Seminary has prayerfully and strategically sought to serve our assigned mission in a manner that honors the commitments of Southern Baptists to welcome, support, train, and educate black Baptist ministers and leaders for service in the church. With the release of this report, we acknowledge anew this responsibility.

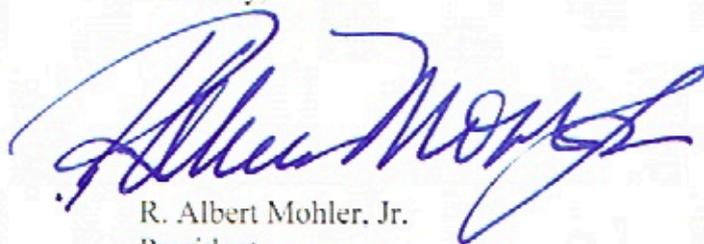
It is the will of Southern Baptists that these efforts take place within The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The Southern Baptist Convention would not allow nor support the transfer of funds to any other institution. We agree with the policy of the Southern Baptist Convention in this regard, and we do not believe that financial reparations are the appropriate response. In faithfulness to our charge and stewardship, Southern Seminary is committed to do what is right and honors God in this generation and in generations to come. We will not transfer these responsibilities to any other institution.

We will always be open to partnerships that honor the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. But such a partnership can come only with institutions that share our theological commitments as made clear in the Baptist Faith & Message (2000) and our other confessional statements. We would not partner with an institution that denies or repudiates doctrines essential

to biblical Christianity. Southern Baptists would expect nothing less from us, and rightly so. And you knew that this was so, even before addressing this letter to us.

History has more than one lesson to teach.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "R. Albert Mohler, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

R. Albert Mohler, Jr.
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "F. Matthew Schmucker", written in a cursive style.

F. Matthew Schmucker
Chairman, Board of Trustees