SOUTHERN METHODIST COLLEGE
OCTOBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

The following are excerpts from the report of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Southern Methodist College to the General Conference Board of Administration.

The Southern Methodist Board of Directors met on October 13, 2026, at the Carrier Conference Center. Members were present either by zoom or in person to conduct the work of the college board of directors.

Dr. Battle's President's Report was a very positive one. According to this report, our college is moving in a good direction for more growth in the future. The number of college students continues to increase. This semester we have 36 enrolled in the college program and fifteen in the Wesley Institute. In the Fall semester over ten courses are offered and the goal for next year is to be able to project a full slate of courses for the full academic year in August. In the Spring semester the number of students will increase to thirty-eight.

Dr. Battle shared that he has implemented a more rigorous faculty application system and the way he issues contracts. On the application the doctrinal statement and code of conduct of our college is up front. If the applicant cannot agree with the doctrinal statement and code of conduct, they are asked not to apply. On the application are three opened questions: one about the authority of the Bible, another on evolution and Genesis, and the last on gender. They are asked about their testimony and about church ministry. They are also asked about skills and credentials. They may be given a general contract if the college senses they have the needed skills and credentials and are doctrinally and spiritually compatible.

At our meeting on October 1 3, 2026, here are a few things that the Board acted on:

1 . The Board approved the development of two Master of Divinity programs. One designed for those who have thirty hours of Bible, and the other designed for those who do not have thirty hours of Bible.
2. The Board approved to create a series of Practical Theology courses.
3. The Board gave Dr. Battle authorization to develop a relationship with the International Fellowship of Bible Churches who has a member church in Nigeria that wants to be included in our International Student Policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellison Evans
Southern Methodist College Board Chairman