

## *Missions through Education: The Continuing Legacy of UCC and the South Texas School of Christian Studies*

Rev. Aubria A. Sanders, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Beeville, saw the deactivation of Chase Field in the spring of 1946, a WWII Navy Auxiliary field, as an opportunity to establish a new Baptist college in South Texas. Supported by the reality that the community was losing a tremendous economic engine and Baptists had few churches in the region, Sanders gathered a handful of local pastors and proposed to the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) the establishment of an institution of higher learning in Beeville.<sup>1</sup> The prevailing belief was that if Baptists could develop a Christian College in the South, then both the local economy and churches would benefit from training Christian leaders.<sup>2</sup> Sander's zeal, however, was not uncommon in the 1940's. Due to Baptist's determination to evangelize and educate the masses, including the Hispanic population, Texas Baptists started several institutions with a missionary mindset.<sup>3</sup> The fortuitous timing appeared divine. Combine a large surplus military base, G. I. Bill benefits about to expire for one million veterans, and the desire to extend the gospel into the outermost parts of Texas, and what you get is the dream of a Baptist University in South Texas.<sup>4</sup> In less than a year, however, the newly elected trustees of the school realized the 1000 acre campus required more resources than they could garner at such an early stage of development. Although classes were never held in Beeville, by 1947 the trustees forfeited another abandoned military base, this time in Corpus Christi, to ultimately settle on a third option—Ward Island.<sup>5</sup> Now, the school had a home and a name—University of Corpus Christi (UCC).

Sanders's passion and commitment had ignited the enthusiasm of Texas Baptist's missionary zeal. For three decades, through seemingly insurmountable challenges, UCC existed as a 4-year Baptist University until 1973. Despite constant local and statewide skepticism and financial instability, the university succeeded at educating teachers and ministers who became leaders across the state and nation.<sup>6</sup> The fledgling Baptist University, however, experienced a major turning point in August of 1970. Already facing the challenges of weakened denominational support and lower enrollments, the devastating effects of hurricane Celia became the crisis that accentuated the existing conflict between UCC's governing authorities and BGCT policy.<sup>7</sup> Unable to receive timely financial support from the BGCT, UCC administrators decided to accept federally guaranteed Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to provide the necessary cash flow to reopen for the fall semester while waiting for insurance settlement checks. This decision put in motion the inevitable request and approval for the BGCT to release UCC from the BGCT family. Once autonomous, the UCC board negotiated an agreement with the City of Corpus Christi and the State of Texas to join the Texas A & I system in the fall of 1973. The university would change names two times over the next twenty years—first Texas A&I and then Corpus Christi State University. In 1993, some four years after joining the Texas A & M University System, the Ward Island campus took on the name of Texas A & M at Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC). In this process, however, South Texas Baptist leaders never lost sight of Sanders original vision and urged the BGCT to retain ten acres of land for religious academic training for educationally underserved leaders.<sup>8</sup>

A leading personality behind the retention of land, purpose, and related endowments was the Corpus Christi Baptist Association (CCBA) City Mission Superintendent—Dr. W. H. Colson.<sup>9</sup> Due in large part to his belief and tenacity that South Texas money remain connected to the

original purpose of UCC, he lead the CCBA to charter the Christian Education Activities Corporation (CEAC) in 1972, a spin-off organization of the UCC board to settle the financial affairs of the university.<sup>10</sup> Once deemed the legal heir to UCC's Baptists roots, the CEAC gained access to UCC's approximately one and a half-million dollar endowment for religious education and the southeast corner of Ward Island.<sup>11</sup> The CEAC Board members at the beginning were all members of the UCC Board of Trustees. Those charter members were: Arthur James, President; Travis Long, Vice-President; Mrs. V. D. Davidson, Treasurer; Dr. Vernon Elmore, Secretary; and Jack White, Legal Advisor. The corporation eventually adopted the business name of the Baptist Learning Center of South Texas (BLC) when the Colson educational building opened on August 24, 1980. A new dream in frontier educational strategies erupted in Corpus Christi, but with the same shaky denominational and financial foundations as UCC.

With Dr. Colson clearly at the helm of keeping the CEAC/BLC enterprise headed in the right direction, the unusual partnership between three distinct and autonomous institutions breathed new life into the *Missions through Education* moniker. CCSU, Howard Payne University, and the BLC struck an agreement where ministry minded students could attend classes on Ward Island and gain academic credit through Howard Payne University. "What makes the concept new is that a private institution associates with a state institution to provide a program of religious training" said Dr. Colson at the dedication of the Learning Center.<sup>12</sup> He further described the BLC as a "continuation of the University of Corpus Christi—its purpose will be to continue the heritage of UCC by providing Christian education in South Texas."<sup>13</sup> Like its UCC predecessor, the BLC sought to provide religious training for the South Texas educationally underserved community (Hispanic, African-American, and Bi-Vocational ministers), in an effort to encourage area ministerial students to remain in the region.<sup>14</sup> By the day of its 10,000 square foot structure dedication in August of 1980, in three years 325 students had taken 900 hours of academic instruction through the CCSU/BLC/HPU partnership.<sup>15</sup> One year later, Fred Culbertson earned a bachelorette degree from HPU at the BLC program in Corpus Christi. Culbertson continued to minister in area churches and retired in 2012. The hopeful purpose of providing accessible and affordable theological education in the South Texas region was succeeding.

Success, however, was not entirely due to a mighty vision, but also a mighty servant. Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw, associate professor of Howard Payne University and director of the BLC was the keeper of the South Texas educational mission. Born mere months before the stock market crash of 1929, Bradshaw, tutored by the schoolmaster of hard times, learned the invaluable lessons of perseverance, resourcefulness, and faith in the providence of a God. These lessons served Bradshaw and the missions education center well through the trials of waxing and waning economies, affiliations, and understanding. It was clear that Dr. Colson supplied the inspiration and vision to launch the BLC, but it was Dr. Bradshaw who supplied the perspiration to lay the very earthy foundation under Dr. Colson's vision. "Genius," Thomas Edison once quipped, "is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."<sup>16</sup> It was Dr. Bradshaw's call in 1977 to perspire over that which Dr. Colson had inspired.<sup>17</sup> The apostle Paul wrote that a body with no eyes is blind, but a body that is all eye, is useless.<sup>18</sup> Dr. Bradshaw's service became the hands, feet, and voice of the BLC vision. As the institution's first director, Bradshaw recruited students, taught classes, handled administrative tasks, and raised funds.

By the end of the first decade, 120 students, 74% Baptists and the remainder from several Christian denominations, enrolled in ten classes. Although the student body was not entirely reflective of the South Texas region, they were 68% male and 21% Hispanic, 10% African-American, and 68% Anglo. Seventy percent were ministerial students working toward a degree in religion through Howard Payne University and the rest were audit students. These statistics exemplify the obvious need many South Texas Christians felt for personal growth through college-level religion courses. More educational opportunities continued to be a source of conversation, but now more than ever, the unaddressed need for graduate theological education was still limiting the schools reach to local ministers.<sup>19</sup>

The second decade of work at the BLC started with the fall 1988 semester enrollment falling behind previous years. Bradshaw's report to the CEAC Board reported 54 new students for a total of 91 students. The general consensus was that the recruiting strategy to the rural churches worked, especially among Hispanics from Alice and Robstown. Unfortunately, the emphasis on reaching African-American students was not as successful. Although enrollment remained steady, the financial strength of the school remained precariously fragile. Unlike other colleges and universities, the BLC operated with a tuition independent strategy—subsidizing student tuition costs at the expense of institutional stability. The financial plan, from the earliest days, was to endow all the fixed administrative costs so that individual and church gifts could be used for scholarships. In the July 1989 annual report, the annual budget was \$153,000 with \$73,000 expected to come from churches and individuals—nowhere is there a mention of tuition revenue. Under constant pressure to fund the institution, Bradshaw continued exercising fierce perseverance, resourcefulness, and faith just to keep the BLC doors open. Three years before the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary (1994), Bradshaw exhausted by a lifetime of dedication prepared a succession plan by seeking to hire an associate director. After searching the Texas Baptist family, the board hired Dr. Don Davidson who followed Bradshaw upon his retirement in 1995. For eighteen years, Dr. Bradshaw gave himself tirelessly to the task of establishing the work of the BLC.

Davidson's time at the BLC, however, did not last long enough for the honeymoon to wear off. The trustees anticipated his military chaplaincy training to build upon Bradshaw's work and bring to fruition the goals already in process. The institution was in a precarious position with the patriarch director having recently retired and now the new director with so much potential leaving unexpectedly. Unfortunately, his proven leadership and educational experience provided him with other university opportunities. Little over a year after accepting the helm, Davidson accepted a leadership role with Howard Payne University as director of extension programs. The school, however, continued to coast until a local pastor accepted the trustee's invitation to assume the director's position.

Rev. B. Linn Self was no stranger to the BLC. His involvement reached as far back as the final days of UCC through his involvement in the Baptist association. In 1974, Rev. Self served as the moderator of the CCBA with Colson and then elected the 1977 chairman of the study committee recommending the new partnership with Howard Payne University to offer religion courses on the former UCC campus.<sup>20</sup> Not only did Rev. Self have a great familiarity with the school through his many facets of service, but also through his wife Betty who Dr. Bradshaw hired as a part-time secretary in 1989. When Rev. Self joined the BLC staff in 1996, he and Mrs. Self created a synergistic force in theological education for South Texans. Without delay, Self began

to prove his expertise in carrying out the plans already underway, but also with renewed dedication and vision not seen since Bradshaw's days.

In November of 1996, the board of trustees approved the largest annual budget of \$169,000 since the learning center opened in 1980. Combining a small budget with his belief in the validity of theological education, Rev. Self offered the trustees the "top five priorities" necessary to the future success of the BLC.<sup>21</sup> Little did he know those priorities would become the center's strategy for the next fifteen years. Rev. Self challenged the board to (1) develop a graduate level educational partnership, (2) grow the scholarship endowment fund, (3) address low community awareness, (4) increase enrollment, and (5) provide a comprehensive library and resource center. It was obvious to those in academia that Rev. Self accepted a daunting challenge for a hybrid organization structured around the belief that theological education must not cause financial duress to the student. Fortunately, Rev. Self did not back away from the challenge.

Rev. Self believed so strongly in the vision that he would routinely tell others that the "BLC was in the ministry of mentoring and we are making a difference in the lives of students, lives of churches, and even the lives of professors."<sup>22</sup> His optimism was never more contagious than during the 1997 Spring Board meeting when the trustees affirmed an arrangement with Logsdon Seminary at Hardin-Simmons University to teach Master of Divinity courses at the learning center.<sup>23</sup> This new academic partnership would allow South Texas students the opportunity to study at Howard Payne University and Logsdon Seminary without leaving the coastal bend. M.Div. courses started in the fall of 1997 at the BLC with 24 students from around the local region. Trey Thames became Logsdon Seminary's first extension seminary graduate in May 1999 from Calallen Baptist Church in Northwest Corpus Christi. The BLC's success with the two programs brought other opportunities as well. During this time of educational expansion, Baptists leaders knew that an additional gateway program was necessary to encourage laity and ministers alike to get started in education. One response to this need was an 18-hour Certificate of Ministry program from Howard Payne University offered at Corpus Christi. One year later, in May of 2000, Howard Payne had the university's first certificate program graduates: Michael Brooke, Larry Dallas, Travis Huff, and Randall Spitzer—all from Corpus Christi. These and other accomplishments led Rev. Self to proclaim that the BLC is the new "model for how to deliver education into the new millennium."<sup>24</sup>

The decade leading from 1995 to 2005 brought unprecedented growth to the learning center. A literal transformation was underway in regards to academic offerings, financial stability, facility additions, and a name that better reflected the core mission of the institution. Now the learning center delivered three accredited academic programs with two partner Baptist universities with average enrollment exceeding 100 students. Ten years prior, the main focus of the trustees revolved around ways to overcome the persistent budget deficits. During this time of growth, however, the school's endowment grew to provide 61% of the annual budget with shortfalls occurring less frequently. Under Rev. Self's leadership, supporting the mission of delivering affordable, accessible, and applicable theological education was no longer a daily financial battle. Knowing that education takes money, the school administration realized the key to successful students was good faculty. In an effort to accommodate retired and traveling professors, the trustees in 1997 commissioned a study committee to assess the feasibility of on-campus housing.<sup>25</sup> Some eight years later, the Bill and Doris Stark Conference Center opened

containing four apartments and a small meeting room. These ocean-view condominiums further accentuated the vast difference between what the community often regarded as a Baptist daycare center and what the students realized was the answer to their educational goals. Since the center's mission remained a little known secret, the trustees voted in 2004 to change the name from Baptist Learning Center of South Texas to the South Texas School of Christian Studies (SCS).<sup>26</sup> Rev. Self's dedication and commitment to the "top five priorities" had given rise to a renewed institution with the future as vast as the water surrounding the island campus.

Since the beginning of UCC and then the Baptist Learning Center, and now the School of Christian Studies, one thing was always clear—the purpose for the institution was the potential of her students. For those students who have called UCC, BLC, and SCS home during their academic pursuits, agree that what makes this school unique is the blend between academic theory and practical application. One of the many appreciative students was Tony Celelli who came to the school in 1998 and completed the M.Div. from Logsdon Seminary in 2000. Like the other Corpus Christi students, Celelli discovered a love for academic inquiry coupled with a dedication to application. Little did he know that five years later, the CEAC board of trustees would invite him to become the fourth president of the institution.

Celelli wasted little time in discovering the "top five priorities" proposed by Rev. Self and adopted by the board when he arranged with Dr. Tommy Brisco, Dean of Logsdon Seminary, to hire a full-time faculty member for the Corpus Christi campus in 2006. Dr. Doug Jackson, tenured pastor from the Corpus Christi area, debuted the commitment SCS and Logsdon had toward making graduate education accessible to the region's students. Jackson's addition to the Logsdon faculty fortified the decision of the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) to award Logsdon Seminary full-degree granting status on the SCS campus in 2009. Where the graduate student once had to drive to Abilene to complete a third of his or her course work, this new designation did away with that requirement. The 400-mile journey to the main campus was no longer necessary and students took advantage of this privilege. Another decision that enabled the Logsdon faculty and ATS to see the merits of degree-granting status for the Corpus Christi extension campus was the greatly expanded Earl and Ohuita Hill Library. In 2005, the Hill library contained 8,000 volumes, but by 2010, the library possessed 15,000 volumes with room for 30,000 total. During the ATS reaffirmation visit in 2011, they found the Hill Library to be one of the strong selling points to the partnership between Logsdon Seminary and SCS.

Over the next several years, SCS administration continued to find ways to encourage those who gave direction to the school by associating with those who were in school. One example was the creation of the Rev. Linn and Betty Self Bible Symposium Endowment in 2007 to honor their steadfast devotion to higher education. The Self Symposium is an area wide Bible conference hosted by SCS with an emphasis on the practical application of academic inquiry. Each year SCS invites a notable scholar or clinician to lecture and interact with students, clergy, and laity. Another way the school encourages students and churches is by ensuring that tuition remains affordable for working ministers. Due to the second-career student demographic at SCS, the school established an annual scholarship banquet where a benefactor to the school is recognized and students can share their stories. This emphasis on student scholarships remains a constant and pressing issue considering the increasing costs of delivering theological education in a relatively isolated region of Texas.

Recognizing the importance of continuity in mission and values, Dr. Celelli made an early commitment to seek faculty who represented the student body's diversity. What this meant was that SCS needed a religion professor of Hispanic descent. Unfortunately, in Baptist life, only a handful of doctoral credentialed Hispanic faculty existed, and all of them had significant positions within Baptist life. Since an established Hispanic professor, who was seeking a move, did not exist, Dr. Celelli began to call leaders within the Hispanic Baptist Convention. All roads led back to a young Ph.D. candidate from Dallas who was working part-time for the Baptist University of Americas (BUA). Joe Rangel had graduated from Southern Methodist University and South Western Baptist Theological Seminary before heading to Los Angeles, CA to pursue a Ph.D. in Cross-Cultural Education from Biola University. Now working in San Antonio, Rangel was in the final months of completing the dissertation in the spring of 2009. Dr. Rangel became the first Hispanic religion professor at SCS for Hardin-Simmons University. Dr. Rangel continues to mentor and teach SCS students with an intentional gaze toward the young Hispanic student needing someone who believes in his or her potential.

Ever since Texas Baptists started the University of Corpus Christi, a constant dream has been for the Rio Grande Valley to have a part in Baptist higher education. Therefore it was not uncommon for Calvary Baptist Church in McAllen to make monthly contributions to UCC.<sup>27</sup> Additionally, Baptist businessman and philanthropist, Othal Brand participated in both the financial and governance side of supporting the fledgling Baptist school. Furthermore, some ten years later, under the auspice of the BLC, Dr. Bradshaw reported to the CEAC board that on a recent teaching assignment to the valley he had an opportunity to present the BLC program to several pastors. Bradshaw believed that students would possibly drive up for classes in the future, noting that interest in higher education was significant. Bradshaw did not have to wait long before his prediction came true. In 2000, a young Hispanic pastor named Vidal Muniz made the fifteen-week commitment to drive from Mission, TX to SCS for seminary classes. Muniz was not the last to make this weekly two and a half hour trek, because he validated Rev. Self's position that a seminary campus presence was necessary in the Rio Grande Valley.

During the closing remarks of Rev. Self's final report to the trustees, he reiterated the need for a continued focus on addressing many of the challenges that he had set his ministry to accomplish ten years ago. One topic in particular, however, rang a clarion call for action—SCS needed to find a way to offer classes in the valley.<sup>28</sup> Self was not alone in his determination to offer higher education opportunities in the valley. Mayor Richard Cortez of McAllen, TX commissioned the executive council of the city staff to recruit three professional schools to McAllen. Mayor Cortez wanted a medical school, a law school, and a seminary in his city so that the best and brightest minds would not have to leave the valley and then likely never come back. Cortez intimated what others knew, but were reticent to say aloud—Hispanic culture values family and the community needed to stem the tide of brain drain from South Texas. Few would have expected the City Attorney, Kevin Pagan, to stump for SCS and Logsdon Seminary in McAllen. As a member of Baptist Temple in McAllen, Pagan quickly integrated into the SCS trustee structure and began offering his expertise to find a suitable location for the seminary. In the summer of 2012, SCS purchased a 3-acre 45,000 sq. ft. campus. What once was a Jewish synagogue and then a non-denominational church, now is the start of a new era in *Missions through Education*.

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- 1946 – Businessmen and ministers begin conversations to start Christian University in the South Texas region.
- 1947 – The University of Corpus Christi begins meeting on Ward Island.
- 1970 – Hurricane Celia hits Corpus Christi causing severe damage to the UCC Campus.
- 1970 – Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw accepts faculty position at UCC.
- 1971 – Texas Baptists vote to release UCC to a city/state university.
- 1972 – Christian Education Activities Corporation (CEAC) begins meeting with UCC Trustees.
- 1973 – Last graduating class of UCC.
- 1977 – Dr. Kenneth Bradshaw becomes Director of the newly formed Baptist Learning Center of South Texas.
- 1977 - First undergraduate classes held on the now TAMUCC campus for students seeking Bible degrees from Howard Payne University through the Baptist Learning Center of South Texas (now STSCS).
- 1978 – CEAC breaks ground on the 10-acre site for the 10,000 sq. ft. Colson Building.
- 1980 – Fall classes held in the Colson building of the Baptist Learning Center (now STSCS).
- 1981 – First graduate from Howard Payne University at the Baptist Learning Center.
- 1994 – Dr. Davidson comes to BLC as Associate-Director.
- 1995 – Dr. Don Davidson accepts the position as the second Director of the Baptist Learning Center.
- 1996 – Rev. Linn Self becomes the third Director of the Baptist Learning Center. The CEAC trustees changed his title to President in 2001.
- 1997 – Logsdon Seminary begins offering the Master of Divinity in cooperation with the Baptist Learning Center (now STSCS).
- 2004 – CEAC trustees change name from Baptist Learning Center to the South Texas School of Christian Studies (STSCS).
- 2005 – Bill and Doris Stark Building opened containing 4 apartments and a conference

room.

2005 – President Self retires as president and the CEAC board elects Dr. Tony Celelli as the fourth president of STSCS.

2007 – STSCS hosts the first Rev. Linn and Betty Self Bible Symposium.

2009 – STSCS partners with Driscoll Children’s and Christus Spohn Hospital’s Chaplaincy Departments to create ethics continuing education conferences for pastors, chaplains, students, nurses, and doctors.

2011 – STSCS hosts the first annual south Texas youth minister’s conference—iYC.

2011 – STSCS partners with Hardin-Simmons University to offers undergraduate degrees in south Texas.

2011 – STSCS begins offering certificate of ministry courses and Logsdon Seminary classes in the Rio Grande Valley.

2012 – STSCS purchases a 3-acre campus containing 45,000 sq. ft. of building space in McAllen, TX.

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<sup>1</sup>Carl R. Wrottenbery, *Baptist Island College: An Interpretative History of the University of Corpus Christi 1946-1973* (Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 1998).

<sup>2</sup>Wrottenbery, 6. W. R. White, charter chairman of the board, justified organizing the college based on the assertion that Baptist work became stronger where Baptist colleges were established. Hence, the main purpose for UCC was the training of Baptist pastors from rural areas in South Texas (156).

<sup>3</sup>Javier Elizondo, “Latino(A) Baptists and Leadership Training in Texas,” *Texas Baptist History: The Journal of the Texas Baptist Historical Society*, Vol. XXIX, 2009, 29ff.

<sup>4</sup>Wrottenbery, 2.

<sup>5</sup>Texas Baptists ultimately gave their support to the establishment of UCC in large part because of the generous land grant from the US Navy regarding the 200-acre abandoned Navy radar-training center on Ward Island.

<sup>6</sup>For example: Sid Smith, Alcides Guajardo, Mel Plunk, Forrest Smith, Anson Nash, Vicki Vaughan, Roger Hill, Buddy Murphrey, Leo Smith, Alfonso Flores, Ted Eaton, Marion Warren, Rusty Maddox, Fred Loa, Jonatan Hernandez, Dan Cancino, Rosa Gunji, Derly Rivera, Octavio Garcia, Eliseo Aldape, Roy DeBrand, Carroll Williams, Larry Smith, Alfredo Lugo, J. B. Graham, Herb Reeves, Arnold Jennings, Gerald Mann, John C. Hullum, Bill McGregor, Joe Brumbelow, Aaron Guajardo Sr., Allen Oubre, Arthur Duward Hazzard, Glenn McCollum, Eldon Johnson, and Thomas B. Welch.

<sup>7</sup>Wrottenbery, Interview, February 18, 2013.

<sup>8</sup>Wrottenbery, 225.

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<sup>9</sup>Colson was not alone in searching for something of substance to come of the defunct Baptist University. On several unsuccessful occasions, Howard E. Butt, Jr. proposed selling UCC in order to establish a “Center for Applied Christianity” as a response to the ongoing financial problems of the university. It is unknown whether Butt’s proposal informed Colson’s vision. Unpublished proposal, May 9, 1975, “A Proposal for a Center for Continuing Studies in Religion.” Some five years later, however, Dr. Colson accepted a solicited proposal from Lewis W. Newman that outlines the philosophy behind the BLC.

<sup>10</sup>Correspondence between Dr. W. H. Colson and Dr. James H. Landes, BGCT Executive Director (1974-1983), May 22, 1980.

<sup>11</sup>Minutes from the BGCT Executive Board dated September 12, 1972.

<sup>12</sup>Baptist Standard, Sept. 3, 1980, “Christian Learning Center Dedicated at Corpus Christi.”

<sup>13</sup>Baptist Standard, Sept. 3, 1980, “Christian Learning Center Dedicated at Corpus Christi.”

<sup>14</sup>Unpublished, “History of the University of Corpus Christi – Baptist Learning Center,” by Kenneth Bradshaw.

<sup>15</sup>Caller Times, August 1980, “New Christian Study Center is Opening Today,” by Linda Carrico.

<sup>16</sup>As quoted in *Uncommon Friends: Life with Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Alexis Carrel & Charles Lindbergh* (1987) by James D. Newton, p. 24.

<sup>17</sup>CCBA Executive Board Meeting Minutes, May 9, 1977.

<sup>18</sup>Author’s paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 12:12-26.

<sup>19</sup>Dr. Kenneth Maroney, president of UCC, commented that he would like to see Howard Payne offer Master’s degrees, or at least one course. CEAC Minutes, June 28, 1977.

<sup>20</sup>CCBA Executive Board Meeting Minutes, May 9, 1977.

<sup>21</sup>Nov. 1, 1996, CEAC Minutes, Director’s Report.

<sup>22</sup>April 24, 1998, CEAC Minutes, Director’s Report.

<sup>23</sup>April 12, 1997, CEAC Minutes, Director’s Report.

<sup>24</sup>Nov. 5, 1999, CEAC Minutes, Director’s Report.

<sup>25</sup>April 12, 1997 CEAC Minutes, Director’s Report.

<sup>26</sup>In addition to changing the institution’s name, the board had already changed the internal nomenclature of the CEO and began using the title of president and policies more reflective of an academic institution.

<sup>27</sup>UCC Minutes, 1970, List of Sponsoring Churches.

<sup>28</sup>Nov. 5, 2005, CEAC Minutes, President’s Report.