

Perspective

When this journal began, one of the stated purposes was " . . . to promote professional competency among Southern Baptist Campus Ministers." (Vol. 1, No. 1, Perspective). Four issues and two years later I am still convinced that promoting competency in our calling and profession needs to be a priority of the Association. This does not suggest that Southern Baptist Campus Ministers as a group are either unprofessional or incompetent. In fact, written material from some seventy-five colleagues that has appeared in The Campus Minister demonstrates a high level of skill and discipline. Rather than this giving us a sense of self-satisfaction, it is my hope that it will encourage us to develop a process in which our professional competency can be identified, recognized and celebrated among us and in our denomination.

In order for this process of identification and recognition to become a reality, it will need to be given intentionality and structure. It would seem that the certification committee and process presented in the proposed constitution for ASBCM in 1976 in Kansas City could serve us well. The purpose and role of that committee was stated to be, "1. To develop criteria and procedures for certification; 2. To relate to the Program Committee to devise programs that will enhance professional competency; 3. Issuance of certification. "

This issue of The Campus Minister looks at the training of the campus minister as a personal, academic, spiritual and ongoing professional process of growing and maturing. For us to be current and effective in the many areas of ministry outlined in these articles and in which we are called to serve, is overwhelming. It appears that a process of certification would affirm our strengths and point to areas of growth. Such a process could also enable us to attain the high calling to which we have been called through Christ Jesus our Lord.

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