

CHURCH

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"To our knowledge, out of the 60 churches that we service in Brazos, Grimes, Waller, Madison and Leon Counties, 11 have voted to disaffiliate with the BGCT," Barton said.

Other B-CS congregations have taken the same course of action as Central Baptist in response to the BGCT.

Raymiro Castillo, interim pastor for Southern Oaks Baptist Church, said that, before deciding to break away from the BGCT two years ago, his church had been in disagreement with the BGCT for 10 to 12 years.

He said issues discussed in scripture that Southern Oaks views as very relevant to life in the 21st century are seen as obsolete by the convention and are not given attention.

"We believe that women should ultimately be under the man's control," Castillo said. "The BGCT believes that women should be seen equally in day-to-day decision making and shouldn't always be submissive to her husband, and our views should not be adhered to in today's society. We are 100 percent supportive of Central's decision to leave the BGCT."

BOOKS

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by A&M student body representatives and numerous bookstore owners.

"A lot of the reason for what happened to the bill last time had to do with timing," Hockensmith said. "We had a good bill, but it came toward the end of the legislative session, and now we realize that you have to talk to the right people to get it moved through."

John Raney, owner of the Texas Aggie Bookstore, said he supported the bill during the last legislative session.

"I will support the idea for tax-free textbooks, as long as they are tax-free for both on- and off-campus bookstores," Raney said. "Some states have passed similar laws that apply only to on-campus bookstores, and that eliminates fair competition and fair prices for students."

Ferguson said the bill will be

filed again for consideration by the Texas Legislature in November, but it will take active student participation by the student body to get attention.

"This may sound trivial, but it is necessary for students to contact local legislators because it will take an outcry from the students for this issue to be passed and put into effect," Ferguson said. "And I don't really see why anyone wouldn't want this bill passed."

However, Kendrick Wright, a junior environmental design major, has a different opinion.

"I think they should be... he said. "A textbook is just any other product on the market and it should be taxed as such."

Junior environmental design major Andy Smith has mixed feelings on the subject. "On the outset, it seems like an idea that you can get behind on the most part — it is saving money that it is mostly just cutting hairs when you could be looking at other ways to save costs for students," Smith said.

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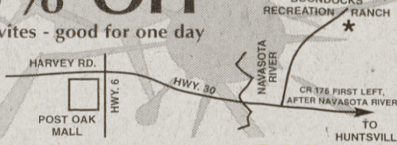
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