


# 90 Thousand-Member SBC Church Accused of Hostile Takeover by Leadership, Strips Congregational Voting Rights

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In Houston, Texas, a storm has been brewing beneath the gleaming surface of one of America's largest megachurches—Second Baptist Church. With more than 90,000 members scattered across multiple campuses and an empire reportedly worth over a billion dollars, Second Baptist is no mom-and-pop sanctuary. It's a juggernaut.

And if the allegations presented against them are even remotely true, that juggernaut has been hijacked. Not in a flurry of protest or public showdown, but in a quiet, backroom maneuver that would make a D.C. lobbyist blush.

At the center of this ecclesiastical upheaval is Dr. H. Edwin Young, who, after 46 years at the helm, announced his resignation as senior pastor on May 26, 2024. In a move that surprised many, he appointed his son, Dr. Benjamin "Ben" Young, as his successor. This transition was not the result of a congregational vote or a pastoral search committee but was instead a direct appointment by Ed Young Sr. himself.

According to a growing group of outraged current and former members, a bait-and-switch operation took place in May of 2023, one that effectively neutered the entire congregation's voice. The story reads like a low-budget political thriller... A last-minute meeting, allegedly announced via a buried blurb at the bottom of an email, held the day before Memorial Day—a time when churches are more likely to host cookouts than constitution-altering conferences.

Roughly 200 members showed up out of 90,000. And conveniently, many of those in attendance were either employed by the church or personally invited by the Senior Pastor himself. What a coincidence.

The stated purpose of the meeting? A bold stand against the so-called “woke agenda.” Who could oppose that? But, like a magician's misdirection, while eyes were fixed on the ideological boogeyman, something else allegedly slipped under the table, a dramatic overhaul of the church's bylaws. Hidden within the bureaucratic jargon of these new rules was a stunning development—the complete eradication of the congregation's right to vote on church matters. Gone. Vanished. As if it never existed. One century of congregational governance, quietly swallowed in one evening.

Those who were present were reportedly not given the actual text of the proposed bylaws. They weren't told that they were about to sign over absolute control of the church's operations to the Senior Pastor—and every future Senior Pastor, whoever that may be. They didn't know that with a single, uninformed vote, they'd be handing the keys to a billion-dollar kingdom over to a single man, no strings attached.

If this were a boardroom coup at a Fortune 500 company, it would be scandalous. But in a church? A place where truth, transparency, and shepherding are supposed to mean something? It's breathtaking.

Let's pause to consider what the new regime allegedly allows. Under these new bylaws, the Senior Pastor now holds unchecked power to sell off campuses, shutter the church's school, boost his own salary in total secrecy, merge with other ministries—even appoint his own successor. No search committee. No vote. No oversight. Just a king on his throne, writing the rules as he goes, with the congregation reduced to background characters in the story of their own church.

And if you think there's a board that reins him in, think again. The so-called Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) exists, sure. But it is a board in name only, allegedly appointed entirely by the Senior Pastor himself. And the cherry on top? He can never be removed from it. Ever. By anyone. At any time.

Even Roman emperors had term limits.

To add insult to ecclesiastical injury, most of the MLT members are said to not even be members of the church. Let that sink in. Outsiders, family members, and people with financial ties to the church's leadership allegedly sit on the only "oversight" body in place—if you can even call it that. That's like hiring your cousins to audit your taxes.

And how does one go about reading these new bylaws, you ask? With great difficulty. Members are reportedly required to make an appointment with the church business manager just to *look* at the document—in person, in the church office, with no copies allowed. You may examine it... But only under the watchful eye of the regime. Transparency at its finest.

For almost two years, concerned members have tried to go the biblical route. Private conversations. Group interventions. Written appeals. Deacon involvement. Letters to leadership. You name it. All in accordance with Matthew 18. And what has that faithful persistence gotten them? Allegedly, removal from leadership, shunning, and outright dismissal. The message from the top seems to be loud and clear: Fall in line, or fall away.

Now, with a ticking legal clock and a two-year statute of limitations barreling toward its May 2025 deadline, the final curtain may soon fall. If these accusations hold water, what happened at Second Baptist is not just a breach of biblical principles—it's a masterclass in how to dismantle congregational governance behind closed doors, without the messiness of an actual rebellion.

It is hard to overstate the gravity of the allegations. This isn't just about one man and his thirst for control. It's about an institution, once defined by its members, allegedly being restructured into an autocracy, one vote at a time. Except, of course, there are no more votes.

Even if a fraction of this is true, it paints a chilling picture. A church, funded by the tithes and offerings of tens of thousands, now allegedly micromanaged by a man and his handpicked entourage, with no recourse, no transparency, and no accountability.

While Second Baptist was never really a monument of sound, biblical doctrine, it did at least once stand as a fortress of conservative values, integrity, and congregational strength. But according to those sounding the alarm, it now stands as something far different—a gilded pulpit propped up by silence, secrecy, and centralized control.

And in the end, the question that lingers like incense in a closed sanctuary is this. If the members can no longer hold the leadership accountable to Scripture, whose church is it, really?