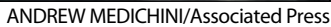


**BY NICOLE WINFIELD**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

be resolved," he said. "But these are, as the pope said, God's sur-



In 1965, Pope Paul VI wrote letters to the dean of the College of Cardi-

The text was never made public and the conditions Francis contemplated for a resignation were unknown. It also is not known if such a letter would be canonically valid. Canon law requires a papal resignation to be “freely and properly manifested,” as was the case when Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation in 2013.

The 2026 Southern Baptist Church Compensation Study was conducted by Baptist state conventions along with GuideStone Financial Resources and Lifeway Research. The study was conducted between April 29 and June 29. Data acquired by the study can be accessed at [lifewayresearch.com/compensation-data](https://lifewayresearch.com/compensation-data). Responses from 4,449 full-time senior pastors, staff ministers and office personnel were used in this report. Responses for senior pastors were weighted by average attendance to more accurately reflect the population.

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