



## UNION CAPITAL CAMPAIGN WRAPS UP AHEAD OF EXPECTATIONS BY MARK KAHLER

ore than a few eyebrows were raised when Union University announced the goal of its "Building a Future" capital fundraising campaign. The board of trustees approved a \$35 million goal in 1998, even though the school's most ambitious goal to that point had been only \$10 million.

But what some might have considered a difficult target actually proved to be too low.

Union donors were so generous that trustees voted two years later to increase the goal from \$35 million to \$60 million by 2005. That goal has been exceeded by more than \$3 million, a full year ahead of schedule.

"This is by far the most ambitious capital campaign in Union's 181-year history, and it is ending as a resounding success," said Union President David S. Dockery.

Of the \$63,100,000 raised during "Building a Future," \$9.6 million will go for endowment and scholarships, \$13.2 million for facilities and grounds, nearly \$32.5 million for operations gifts and grants, and \$7.8 million for general program support.

"Much of the credit for this success is due to the efforts of our three co-chairmen," Dockery said. Those co-chairmen are Roy L. White of Memphis, Benny Fesmire of Jackson, and James Ayers of Parsons, Tenn. Each was presented with an engraved crystal vase during Union University's Eighth Annual Scholarship Banquet on September 21.

President Dockery also thanked scores of other donors who gave sacrificially to ensure that Union's largest-ever capital campaign was successful.

"God has been so gracious to affirm the mission and vision of Union University through the support and involvement of many friends," said Dockery. "We are confident that our most hopeful days are still ahead."

Union University's board of trustees and staff are embarking on an extensive study of the school's needs in the next six years. "Union 2010" will target areas for additional growth or initial development. It will also identify areas "Building a Future" started to address, but did not complete.

President Dockery called on Union supporters to prayerfully consider the next steps in that financial journey.

"There are many doors of opportunity opening for us," Dockery said. "We need your continued prayers and support as we envision Union in 2010."

