

October 22, 1961

**Two Negro Churches
In Texas Association**

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (BP)--Two Negro Baptist churches here have joined the Corpus Christi Baptist Association, which cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Meeting for its 50th anniversary session here, more than 1000 messengers at the Corpus Christi Association voted unanimously to accept as full-fledged members the two colored churches.

As members of the Corpus Christi Association, the two Negro churches could become members of both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The churches, St. John's Baptist Church and the Friendship Baptist Church, could become the fourth and fifth all-Negro Baptist churches cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 800-member St. John's Church, organized in 1874, is the oldest Baptist church in deep south Texas.

Corpus Christi Baptist Association Missions Superintendent W. H. Colson said the Negro race had been preaching the gospel in Corpus Christi longer than any other Baptists. There could be no better way to observe the 50th anniversary of the Corpus Christi Association than to accept Negro churches into its fellowship, he added.

"We are thrilled," said Colson, "that the fine Christian people of Corpus Christi are accepting this thing on such a decent and Christian scale, and we rejoice that our future efforts will go hand-in-hand."

Colson said the move was not in any way forced upon the association, but rather had been developing unpressured by any group for a long time.

All seven pastors of Negro Baptist churches in Corpus Christi are members of the Corpus Christi Baptist Pastors' Conference, and attend the weekly ministers' meetings regularly.

Both the St. John's Church and the 300-member Friendship Church will keep their present ties with the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., and maintain a dual alignment in the Negro Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Three other Negro Baptist churches, one in Austin, Tex., the St. John Baptist Church in Las Cruces, N. M., and the New Hope Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N. M., were admitted to local associations affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention in 1955.

The Nineteenth Street (Negro) Baptist Church in Austin was later dropped from the Austin Baptist Association rolls because it failed to send in annual reports. The association's constitution and bylaws stipulate that if a church fails to send in its reports for two consecutive years, it is dropped from the rolls.

The 800-member Ebenezer (Negro) Baptist Church in Austin is still active in association work.

Porter Routh, executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, said there is no clause in the Southern Baptist constitution restricting membership according to race.

Acceptance of Negro Baptist churches for membership in local associations is entirely a local matter to be decided by each autonomous association.

Baptists Request
\$584,000 In Loans

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Baptist institutions made application in September for federal college housing loans, according to a report from Commissioner Sidney H. Woolner of the Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

A total of \$17,357,745 was requested by 19 colleges, universities and hospitals. Twelve of these are private institutions, of which number seven are church-related.

The two Baptist institutions requested a total of \$584,000. Baptist Hospital, Pensacola, Fla., applied for \$200,000, and Grand Canyon College, Phoenix, Ariz., applied for \$384,000.

(The Pensacola hospital is not listed in the Southern Baptist Handbook, prepared annually by the department of research and statistics of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. The department said it determines its Handbook hospital listings from information coming from state Baptist offices.)

Of the remaining church-related institutions, two are Roman Catholic, two are Presbyterian and one is Lutheran.

According to Woolner, these applications have not been processed and there is no assurance they will be approved. Receipt of the applications "is made public so that private lenders may negotiate with the institutions if they wish to make the loans," he said.

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Midwestern Seminary
Dedicates Its Campus

(10-22-61)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)--Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here dedicated its campus, which has five completed buildings and for which Southern Baptists have provided \$2 million so far.

In a dedicatory address, Porter Routh of Nashville, executive secretary of the Convention's Executive Committee, said:

"I am suggesting that there is a need to reexamine the concept phrased by Dr. W. B. Johnson (first president of the Convention) that one of the goals of the theological seminary was to furnish a nucleus of a spiritual fellowship."

He called for the seminary to "look squarely at itself and define its role in the denomination."

Mayor H. Roe Bartle of Kansas City represented the community. Earl O. Harding of Jefferson City, executive secretary, Missouri Baptist Convention, led a dedicatory prayer.

Conrad R. Willard, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church here, led the 500 people in the audience in a responsive act of dedication. The seminary met for a year in Calvary Church before moving to its campus.

Seminary President Millard J. Berquist described how Southern Baptists financed the school's campus development and operations through the Cooperative Program.

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Folks and Facts.....

(10-22-61)

.....Mars Hill College (Baptist) celebrated its 106th anniversary by dedicating a \$1.3 million auditorium and fine arts building and launching a \$2.3 million fund-raising campaign for capital needs. The junior college is located at Mars Hill, N. C. (BP)

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Northeastern Group
Doubles Membership

ALBANY, N. Y. (BP)--The Northeastern Baptist Association reports church membership doubled and Cooperative Program receipts tripled since the last annual meeting of the group.

Meeting at Mohawk Valley Baptist Chapel in Albany, N. Y., the association admitted five churches to its fellowship. There are now 10 churches and 30 missions in the association. Four years ago, Southern Baptists reported only one mission in the area.

Reports of work during the past year indicated church membership increased from 1048 to 2044; baptisms increased from 99 to 218; Brotherhood enrollment from 83 to 230; Woman's Missionary Union enrollment from 199 to 366; Training Union enrollment from 773 to 1213 and Sunday school from 1256 to 2164.

Officers elected were Paul S. James of New York City as moderator; Howard Hovde of Madison, N. J., as vice-moderator and Norvell Jones of New York City as treasurer.

During the next year, the association plans to establish organizational leaders in the following areas: New England, metropolitan New York and Delaware valley (greater Philadelphia).

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College Leaders Plan
Inter-Convention Meet

(10-22-61)

CLEVELAND (BP)--Presidents of senior colleges related to the Southern Baptist Convention will meet here with heads of colleges related to the American Baptist Convention.

The joint dinner meeting is set for Jan. 8, while the educators are in town for the Association of American Colleges session. They will dine at the Sheraton-Cleveland Hotel.

"It will be a fellowship dinner," Rabun L. Brantley, Nashville, editor of the Southern Baptist Educator, said in reporting the meeting.

"While our fellowship dinner has no direct connection with the Baptist Jubilee Advance," he added, "it is an evidence of the spirit of fellowship between different groups of Baptists which the Jubilee has helped to build."

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