

October 29, 1961

**Texas Baptist Teachers
Express Convictions**

DALLAS (BP)--Faculty members at eight Texas Baptist schools have approved a statement of conviction and purpose pledging their continued efforts to make their educational institutions "distinctly Christian."

A special 14-member faculty committee prepared the eight-point statement of Basic Christian Convictions Related to Higher Education. The committee was chosen by Baptist school faculties at a pre-school faculty retreat.

The statement was presented at faculty meetings throughout the state. More than 1000 teachers at the eight Texas Baptist schools voted overwhelmingly for it, said E. N. Jones of Dallas, secretary of the Texas Baptist Christian Education Commission.

The teachers voiced their acceptance of the Bible as the inspired Word of God. They pledged to maintain mutually loyal and cooperative working relations with the Baptist General Convention of Texas. They stated they felt Baptist schools must achieve both academic excellence and a strong Christian influence on the campuses.

Approving the statement were faculty members of Baylor University, Waco; East Texas Baptist College, Marshall; Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene; Howard Payne University, Brownwood; Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton; Wayland Baptist College, Plainview; The University of Corpus Christi; and San Marcos Baptist Academy, all in Texas.

Text of the statement read:

1. "As Christian teachers we accept the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and as the guide for the development of Christian faith.
2. "We believe that all men need redemption and that such may be experienced only through personal response in living faith to Jesus Christ as Lord, and that such is wrought in the heart of the believer by the Holy Spirit.
3. "We believe in the essential dignity of man who, created in the image of God, has soul liberty and personal responsibility unto God.
4. "We affirm that it is imperative to achieve on our campuses both academic excellence and strong Christian influence; the two are mutually compatible and complementary.
5. "We recognize Christian faith as the unifying center for the adequate interpretation of all knowledge and its application to life.
6. "We believe that the teacher has a definite responsibility to encourage and develop in his students the attitudes, knowledge, skills, and commitments worthy of their calling as Christians and citizens.
7. "We hold that Christian colleges and universities are centers of inquiry and learning devoted to the finest teaching and research and to the strengthening of Christian ideals exemplified in character and leadership.
8. "We acknowledge the responsibility of the Christian teacher to develop in his students a longing for truth and the ability to find it, recognizing that there is no truth outside of God."

**J. T. Elliff Called
To New Arkansas Post**

LITTLE ROCK (BP)--J. T. Elliff, Kansas City, Mo., minister, has been called to head a new division of work for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention here.

He became head of the division of religious education Nov. 1. The division covers four types of work--Sunday school, Training Union, Brotherhood and church music. These areas have secretaries responsible for each type of work.

For the past 8-1/2 years, Elliff has been pastor of Bethany Baptist Church. The church has helped provide places of service for students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City and has sponsored mission work in neighboring Iowa.

He is a native of Arkansas; a graduate of Ouachita College (Baptist) at Arkadelphia, Ark., and of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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**Missourians Continue
College Fund Campaign**

(10-29-61)

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (BP)--Missouri Baptist Convention voted here to continue on a long-range basis its \$12 million higher education fund campaign.

The funds would support its three existing colleges and a new one being developed in St. Louis. The three present colleges are William Jewell College at Liberty, a senior college, and two junior colleges--Hannibal-LaGrange at Hannibal and Southw st Baptist at Bolivar.

The convention also adopted a 1962 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$3 million. It hopes to share 36 per cent with agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, compared with only 35 per cent of this year's budget going to the SBC.

The college campaign is directed by James H. Smith of Jefferson City, coordinator of Christian education and the Cooperative Program. He will not only lead the fund campaign for the schools but will "achieve the proper balance" between it and the Cooperative Program.

For the first time, the convention elected its officers from floor nominations. It has depended on a report from a nominating committee in the past. Paul Weber Jr., pastor of Hamlin Memorial Baptist Church, Springfield, was elected president.

The convention also adopted a committee report grouping the 82 associations of churches into 12 areas.

The 1962 Convention will meet in Joplin Oct. 23-25.

The convention reported 1782 affiliating churches with an aggregate membership of 456,138. This was a membership net gain, statewide, of 12,638. The number of converts baptized increased to 18,612 from the 17,448 reported the year before.

Convention leaders pointed out Missouri Baptists are trying by 1970 to have churches in the state forward 25 per cent of their collections to the state convention. The state would then share 50 per cent of its receipts with the SBC.

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Advice to Editors:

In the Oct. 28 feature, "Marriage No Hindrance to Southern Students," pgh 21 carried figures approved by the seminary administration concerning enrolment and student-faculty ratio. Later the seminary discovered its error and has asked for a correction. The enrolment figure should be increased to 942 and the student-faculty ratio to 18:1. Other parts of the paragraph stand as sent. Thank you.