

November 22, 1961

North Carolina Agrees  
To Autonomy Study

By J. Marse Grant

GREENSBORO, N. C. (BP)--The Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, in a surprise late-session move, reversed its Resolutions Committee and authorized a study of autonomy.

James M. Bulman of Providence Baptist Church, East Spencer, N. C., erstwhile crusader against the decision of the now-famous North Rocky Mount (N. C.) case in 1954, presented his usual resolution to the committee. He asked condemnation of the state's Supreme Court decision on the case.

The committee rejected the proposed resolution but two leading ministers of normally-opposing views came to Bulman's support.

M. O. Owens Jr., of Gastonia, defeated for president in 1959 by 32 votes, moved that Bulman's resolution be accepted, that a committee of leading lawyers and historians be named to make a study of the case.

In a substitute motion, W. W. Finlator of Raleigh asked simply for appointment of a committee to make a study. The convention approved this by a substantial margin.

The executive committee of the convention's General Board was authorized to name the proper committee, either an existing one or a special committee.

In another move that raised eyebrows, the convention, also in the closing hours when attendance was low, reversed the Committee on Place and Preacher. Wilmington, a floor recommendation, was picked over the committee's choice of Charlotte for the 1963 convention session.

The 1962 meeting is to be held at Raleigh, Nov. 13-15.

The convention elected Nane Starnes of West Asheville, N. C., as president. It adopted a record budget goal of \$5,465,000 for 1962. Of this, \$1,215,000 is an over-and-above goal for Christian education.

The basic budget stood at \$4-1/4 million. The Southern Baptist Convention was voted 34 per cent of this figure.

The convention requested the Christian Life Committee to make a study of capital punishment. A group of Wake Forest College (Baptist) students petitioned for the study.

The Christian Life Committee gently prodded convention institutions to speed up integration. Its report was accepted almost unanimously after a retired pastor made an effort to put the issue to the cooperating churches as a referendum.

In 1955, North Carolina convention gave its institutions authority to accept people regardless of race or color. But no college has an undergraduate Negro student at the present time. It was revealed here that Oralene Graves, Negro day student at Mars Hill (Junior) College, dropped out of school a month after she entered.

She left for personal and family reasons. Students at the Baptist school in Mars Hill community said she was well-accepted, created no problem and planned to reenter next semester.

Wake Forest College at Winston-Salem has approved admission of graduate students and special students not working toward a degree.

The Resolutions Committee also approved a resolution requesting prayer for a meeting of the World Council of Churches in New Delhi, India. The committee made it clear this state convention did not belong to the National Council of Churches, nor did it have any intention of joining.

Florida Begs Stetson  
To Change Relation

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP)--The Florida Baptist Convention begged Stetson University trustees to "exhaust every resource, Christian and legal" to transfer the college property at DeLand to the convention.

The convention also asked for power to elect Stetson trustees and to install a rotating basis for their tenure.

The college, which next year will receive \$249,600 from the convention's budget, has a self-perpetuating board of trustees with life membership. The convention has the right to nominate some trustees from time to time, through a joint convention and trustee committee.

A legal opinion, secured in 1956, held that any revision of the Stetson charter to provide direct election of trustees by the convention would be unconstitutional. No court test was made, however.

The 1961 convention apparently intended for a court ruling to be obtained, if necessary, on the issue.

The convention here deferred several recommendations from its Education Commission, about other education proposals in the state, pending the outcome of the Stetson issue.

The commission had been studying the relationship between Florida Baptists and Stetson University, a relationship which some observers said has been "poor" for several years.

The convention voted to go on a single budget basis, in other words, to eliminate preferred items before dividing Cooperative Program receipts between state missions and the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC will get 40 per cent of the anticipated \$2.6 million receipts in 1962. The convention further voted to move toward a 50-50 basis of distribution, increasing the SBC portion year by year.

The convention overwhelmingly adopted a goal of 50 new churches and 200 new missions for next year. During a Mother's Day emphasis in May--"Mother a Mission in May"--the goal for the month is 100 new units.

The convention approved a revised plan of cooperation with the SBC Home Mission Board. The state convention assumed full financial responsibility effective Jan. 1 for evangelism, associational missions and city missions. It relieved the Home Mission Board of its present participation in these.

The Home Mission Board will continue to control and administer missions with language groups, Negro Baptists, Jews, Indians, migrant farm laborers and juveniles.

The convention voted to meet for 1962 at Daytona Beach, Nov. 13-15. Malcolm B. Knight of Jacksonville is new convention president.

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Ohio Ahead On 30,000  
Goals For Enlargement

(11-22-61)

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP)--Ohio Southern Baptists are ahead on their goals during the 30,000 Movement of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Executive Secretary Ray E. Roberts of Columbus reported this during the 1961 session of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, meeting here.

He said the goal calls for 285 churches cooperating with the state convention by November, 1962. "We have 249 at this time, but the 117 missions we have almost assures us of going beyond our goal," according to Roberts.

"We also have a goal of 100 new missions during the coming 12 months," he added.

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The convention gained 34 churches and 64 new missions during the associational year closing Sept. 30. Membership of affiliating churches topped 41,000.

In finances, the convention reported running \$10,000 ahead of 1960 in its collections of Cooperative Program funds from the churches, but it probably will still fail to meet the budget goal of \$289,000. Receipts are expected to reach \$233,000.

The convention sent 23 per cent this year to Southern Baptist Convention work. The 1962 Cooperative Program goal, adopted, is \$292,752. Twenty-five per cent of it will go to the SBC as the state increases its worldwide proportion each year.

Messengers to the convention reelected C. Hogue Hockensmith of Columbus president. They dedicated their remodeled state convention offices here and selected Reading, Ohio, for the 1962 convention. The dates: Nov. 13-15.

The 30,000 Movement is an effort to establish 30,000 new missions and churches in the United States between 1959 and 1964.

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Alabama Okays Mobile  
Baptist School Charter

(11-22-61)

MOBILE (BP)--More than 1000 messengers to the Alabama Baptist State Convention here approved the charter for a new Baptist college in Mobile. They also elected Howard M. Reaves of Mobile to a second term as convention president.

In his president's address, Reaves commented on current questions being raised about Southern Baptist Convention theological seminaries and their professors.

"So long as Baptists believe in the right of the individual to think for himself, there will be questions raised about the beliefs of teachers," he declared.

"I, for one, want to express my confidence in the soundness of our seminaries and my belief that those in whom we have placed our trust will prove to be worthy."

Eight churches in Alabama have designated their funds to avoid any of them being used to support Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Reaves had previously spoken out against such action by individual churches.

The action of the churches was because Martin Luther King, Negro Baptist minister and integration leader, spoke to the seminary.

Harwell G. Davis of Birmingham, for many years president of Howard College (Baptist) there, was elected first vice-president of the state convention.

Messengers picked Montgomery, Nov. 13-15, for the 1962 convention. They voted for a 1962 budget of \$4-1/4 million. The Cooperative Program goal is \$3,344,000 with the Southern Baptist Convention to get 35 per cent.

John Will, deacon in West End Baptist Church, Mobile, and reporter for the daily Mobile Press and Register, received the first annual Alabama Baptist State Convention religious journalism award. The award consists of an engraved plaque and wrist watch.

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Mississippi Approves  
Temperance Report

(11-22-61)

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Mississippi Baptist Convention here approved a strong temperance report, deplored gambling and issued a plea to the governor of the state.

A resolution asked Gov. Ross Barnett, himself a Baptist deacon, to use the influence of his office to enforce gambling and liquor laws in the state. He was asked to veto any effort to make liquor legal in Mississippi, a "dry" state.

The convention asked repeal of the state "black market" tax on liquor.

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It granted permission to Mississippi Baptist Hospital here to borrow up to \$750,000 for a dormitory for student nurses it wants to build. Carey College, convention school at Hattiesburg, Miss., got the okay to borrow \$350,000 from the federal Housing and Home Finance Agency for a women's dorm.

Clarke College at Newton, another Baptist school, may proceed to construct a new science building instead of being delayed several months. The convention gave authority to borrow \$120,000 for the project. Receipts from a fund-raising campaign have reached \$130,000, the anticipated cost of the building.

Messengers reelected W. Douglas Hudgins of Jackson's First Baptist Church as convention president and voted to return to Jackson in 1962, Nov. 13-15.

The record 1962 Cooperative Program budget of \$2.6 million, adopted, includes \$858,000 for the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Louisiana Baptists  
Mark Sesquicentennial

(11-22-61)

WEST MONROE, La. (BP)--Louisiana Baptists have launched a year-long celebration of the 150th anniversary of the establishment of their first church.

"Sesquicentennial Year" activities will include celebration of the 150th anniversary of the conversion of Adoniram and Ann Judson and Luther Rice in India.

The convention voted to stage a three-day extravaganza during its 1962 session which will be held Nov. 13-16 at Baton Rouge.

The first Baptist church in this state was established Oct. 12, 1812. Baptists were late in coming to Louisiana because of Spanish oppression before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

Louisiana became a state on April 8, 1812, adding another cause for celebration next year.

In other action the convention approved a \$2,655,000 budget and adopted a 10-year program for all its agencies. The 1962 budget will be divided 68.6 per cent state, 31.4 per cent worldwide.

H. A. Hunderup, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, was re-elected president of the convention.

The Baptist Message, official organ of the Louisiana Convention was authorized to establish a printing plant.

James F. Cole, Alexandria, editor of the 78-year-old publication, said the plant will take advantage of a number of new innovations in printing, including photo-mechanical typesetting equipment. He said the plant will cost approximately \$150,000.

The plant will be located in a three-story building located in downtown Alexandria. The building is owned by the convention and was used as headquarters for the Executive Board until last year when a new \$1.5 million building was completed.

Cole said he planned to change from a tabloid newspaper to magazine format. He said the new magazine will feature a four-color cover about once a month. Two colors will be used in other issues.

He said the new plant will probably be in operation by July 1, 1962.

The Baptist Message now has a circulation of 70,000.

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November 22, 1961

Hardin-Simmons University  
May Admit Negro Students

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--Hardin-Simmons University administrative officials have been authorized to consider admitting qualified students of all races.

The Baptist school's board of trustees adopted a recommendation from the trustees' committee on admissions granting authority to the university administration to consider applications of qualified students regardless of race.

Although the 1,726-student school has had no official policy restricting admission to white students only, the college has followed tradition in admitting no Negroes.

Hardin-Simmons President Evan A. Reiff said that an old Texas statute prohibited whites and Negroes from attending the same school. When the law was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, Hardin-Simmons continued its old policy until a new policy could be worked out, said Reiff.

Two other colleges owned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Tex., and the University of Corpus Christi, admit Negro students.

The University of Corpus Christi accepted its first colored student with little publicity and no trouble this fall.

Other "desegregated" Southern Baptist colleges and universities include Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Okla.; Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky.; and Mars Hill (Junior) College, Mars Hill, N.C.

Hardin-Simmons officials said that the move was not prompted by any pressure group, or by an application of a prospective Negro student, but had been developing unpressured for a long time.

In other action the Hardin-Simmons trustees elected W. B. Irvin of Dallas as chairman of the board, named Leroy Jennings of Abilene as vice chairman, re-elected J. C. Hunter, Abilene, as vice-chairman and named Bill Tippen, also of Abilene, as secretary.

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Folks and facts.....

(11-22-61)

.....Mrs. Frances Walters of Temple, Tex., has been named registrar of Mary Hardin-Baylor College, Belton, Tex. Mrs. Walters, a former public school teacher, succeeds Miss Harriet Moody, Mary Hardin-Baylor registrar since 1958 who retired from the post to take another position. Mrs. Walters is a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., and attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth. (BP)

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For Release Dec. 5

Spotlight On Mr. Sam  
Has Baptist Reflections

BONHAM, Tex. (BP)--Only the illness and death of the Speaker of the House could have given the nation a view of Baptist life as it really is, the editor of the Baptist Standard said in an editorial in the Texas Baptist newsmagazine.

Editor E. S. James joined hundreds of national leaders and personal friends in eulogizing Sam Rayburn, who died here after serving for nearly 17 years as Speaker of the House.

James said in an editorial (scheduled for the Dec. 5 issue) in the Baptist Standard that no other set of circumstances than Rayburn's death could have brought together in a Baptist church building such representatives of national stature from all denominations.

Funeral services for Rayburn were conducted in the modernistic First Baptist Church of Bonham by Elder H. G. Ball of the Tioga Primitive Baptist Church near Bonham, and were nationally telecast to a mourning nation.

Rayburn, who said that he "was saved" as a boy, was baptized in the Primitive Baptist Church four years ago at the age of 75.

President Kennedy, Vice President Johnson, and former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman sat together on the front row of the First Baptist Church here for the services. Behind them were more than 100 prominent statesmen from every part of the nation.

Rayburn had spent more than a month in the Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas before returning to his home in Bonham to await the inevitable result of cancer.

The national spotlight was thrown on the world's largest Southern Baptist hospital in Dallas during Rayburn's stay when President Kennedy, former President Truman, and Vice President Johnson paid visits to the ailing statesman.

Describing the hospital as "perhaps the finest and best equipped Baptist institution in the world," editor James said it is not likely that the president and others who walked through its halls could ever forget that it is a great healing institution that was built and is operated with Baptist money.

Even in his death, said James, Mr. Sam was helping others, for he helped to communicate to the nation a picture of what Baptists are really like.

"The nation has seen these Baptist people as they really are---a plain, sincere, yet capable body whose principle business is serving the Lord Jesus Christ, yet never hesitating to state their beliefs and convictions before all the world," said James.

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Hardin-Simmons University  
Drops Football Scholarships

(11-22-61)

ABILENE, Tex. (BP)--A mounting deficit in the Hardin-Simmons University athletic budget has forced the Baptist college here to discontinue giving athletic scholarships for the remainder of the year.

Sportwriters across the nation were speculating whether or not the school would drop football entirely from its athletic program as a result of the problem.

Hardin-Simmons trustees meeting here made the decision not to grant any further athletic scholarships until a thorough review of the situation has been made.

The trustees asked President Evan A. Reiff, the trustees' executive committee, and the athletic committee to review the budget and reach some decision by Jan. 1 on whether to discontinue football, de-emphasize football, or continue its present program.

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The Hardin-Simmons Cowboys, a member of the Border Conference, have lost 21 games in a row, but school officials said that the team's losses had nothing to do with the decision to review the program.

Trustees did not disclose the amount of the deficit in the athletic budget, but said that it had been accumulating since 1954 and was large.

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Folks and facts.....

(11-22-61)

.....E. Wesley Miller, recording engineer for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, is helping survey possibilities of establishing a recording studio at the European Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Zurich, Switzerland for use in preparing radio programs for European stations. (BP)

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