

February 25, 1962

Small Churches Get Help With Property

NASHVILLE (BP)--The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, considering a \$19.7 million budget for nearly 10 million Baptists, paused in its meeting here to help two churches each with less than 200 members.

Both cases involved property which would revert to the Southern Baptist Convention and because of this clause in the deeds, community programs were temporarily delayed.

The First Baptist Church of Hayden, Ala., membership: 182, could not mortgage the church property to borrow money for new buildings with the clause in its deed.

The Executive Committee agreed to a quit claim deed in property rights. The deed stipulated that the property revert to the SBC if the church ever disbanded.

East of Sherman, Tex., the Bethany Cemetery Committee needed to expand a graveyard into property of a now defunct church. Corinth Baptist Church, existing in Bethany Community in 1911, owned three-fourths of an acre which its deed said would revert to the SBC if the church ceased to use it.

The Corinth Church merged with Bethany Baptist Church in 1930 which clouded the deed for local purposes. The Executive Committee answered the cemetery committee:

"We feel the purpose of the clause in the deed is to see that the money will be used for Baptist work in the area. Make us a reasonable offer and we will recommend it be accepted and the money paid to a Baptist church in the area."

The cemetery committee offered \$55. It was accepted by the Executive Committee in payment for releasing any claim the SBC had in the property.

The Executive Committee then voted to give the \$55 to Antioch Baptist Church in nearby Pink Hill Community to use on a new church building. Antioch church has a membership of 197.

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Hospital Agency Gets Okay For Fund Plan

(2-25-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Southern Baptist Hospitals, agency of the Southern Baptist Convention, has permission to conduct fund-raising drives in New Orleans and in Jacksonville, Fla., for capital needs of hospitals there.

Campaigns were expected to occur over the next 10-year period and must not conflict with fund-raising provisions of the state conventions of Baptists, the Executive Committee of the SBC held here.

Executive Secretary T. Sloane Guy Jr. of the hospital agency office in New Orleans presented the matters. The agency operates Southern Baptist Hospital in Louisiana and Baptist Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville.

The Executive Committee authorized the same agency to borrow up to \$3 million for a maximum of 20 years to execute a master plan approved by directors of the agency. The directors said the money will not be borrowed from government sources.

The Executive Committee said the two requests are in keeping with the business and financial plan of the Convention.

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Education 1 Of 4
Hospital Programs

NASHVILLE (BP)--Education for the hospital ministry is one of four programs recommended for Southern Baptist Hospitals, an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

If approved by the 1962 SBC session in June, the programs would be added to an agency manual defining the role of each agency of the Convention. Several agency programs are being adopted each year by the Convention.

The other three programs of this agency, as approved by the SBC Executive Committee here, are (1) a program of routine patient care, (2) a program of hospital care for people with special needs and (3) a program of assistance to other Baptist hospitals and hospital groups.

In the education field, the agency--operating hospitals in Jacksonville, Fla., and New Orleans--would train nurses, medical internes, X-ray and laboratory technicians, therapists, hospital administrators and pastors (for effective spiritual ministry to hospital patients they visit).

In routine patient care, it would conduct "a standard, high-quality, accredited program of general hospital care...the best possible care at the lowest possible cost."

It would render charity care to the medically indigent and it would also render special service to Baptist denominational personnel. Both of these come under the program concerned with special needs.

It would have contacts with Baptist hospitals which are agencies of state Baptist conventions and contacts with national professional and accrediting groups in the general hospital field.

Its formally stated objectives follow:

"The hospital ministry of Southern Baptists, as conducted for it by the directors of Southern Baptist Hospitals, should maintain, operate, and develop such institutions as are entrusted to its care, consistent with the Convention's hospital policy; provide, on request, advisory and consultative services for other Baptist hospitals, especially in the areas of denominational relationships and spiritual administrations; and consult with state groups and communities seeking hospital advice.

"The hospital ministry of Southern Baptists, in order to support the Convention in its task of propagating the gospel, should be conducted in accordance with the following statement of Baptist hospital function: 'A Baptist hospital exists to bring men into a saving relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ by means of direct personal witness as occasion presents, and by a positive Christian interpretation of the experiences of disease, disability, and death....Functions as an instrument of God's grace in enriching and prolonging human life within the scope of divine providence....Enlists and teaches those called to the healing arts, encourages their maximum development in talent and skill, and provides the setting within which these may be performed as ministers of the highest order...Makes available the full resources of the hospital to those people least able to pay in such ways as to preserve human dignity and worth.

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Convention Balloting
Manner May Change

(2-25-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--The procedure for voting at the annual Southern Baptist Convention will be changed, if a decision of the SBC Executive Committee is approved.

Messengers, under the new plan, will receive printed ballots to vote on Convention matters. The chairman of the tellers, who counts the ballots, will report the vote to the secretaries.

The vote will be announced and recorded only on the request of a majority of the messengers attending the Convention, according to the plan.

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Some complained after the 1961 Convention about the tellers and secretaries not making a public announcement of the way the vote count stood on the election and other matters decided by secret ballot.

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Cooperative Program
Study Idea Delayed

(2-25-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Plans for a special week of prayer and study for the Cooperative Program have been "postponed for the time being," according to an action of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here.

The Cooperative Program is the financial lifeline of the Convention. When a special week of prayer and study for it was presented to the 1961 Convention session at St. Louis, messengers however voted to refer the matter back for further study.

The Executive Committee, acting on the referral, voted to "give wide promotion to World Mission Week, April 22-26, 1963, relating the Cooperative Program to this special Baptist Jubilee Advance date."

The committee also voted to recommend 1963 goals to churches for increasing their budget allocations to the Cooperative Program. The goals also apply to the distribution of the Cooperative Program income from churches between state Baptist conventions and the SBC.

Both share in it, with the states as a whole keeping about two-thirds of the amount forwarded by churches.

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Foundation Programs
Submitted For Adoption

(2-25-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--Programs of investment management and consultative service in the general field of estate planning are proposed for the Southern Baptist Foundation here.

The Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention approved the Foundation's program, and will present it to the 1962 Convention session June 5-8. The Foundation is an agency of the Convention. J. W. Storer is executive secretary and it has offices in Nashville.

Subject to Convention approval, the Foundation has assigned to it these duties among others:

To conduct an investment service for the agencies of the Convention "consistent with the best business practices and the highest ideals of Christian stewardship."

To inform, but not to promote among Southern Baptists the nature of its work. Promotional responsibilities were previously by Convention vote assigned to the Stewardship Commission.

To consult and advise with Foundations of state Baptist conventions on request.

To advise, on request, any person who wishes to make a will or trust leaving part of his estate or income to benefit Baptist work.

To function primarily as a service agency, especially for the agencies of the SBC.

Its formal objective, as proposed, is:

"The Southern Baptist Foundation should support the Convention in its objective of the propagation of the gospel by (1) receiving gifts as the agent of the Southern Baptist Convention or its agencies in any form, such as legacies, trust arrangements,

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deeds, gifts annuity contracts either undesignated or designated, whole or in part, for any missionary, educational, or benevolent cause; (2) conducting on behalf of the Convention, the agencies of the Convention or any other Baptist body or institution which might use its office, a dependable and prudent investment service completely consistent with the highest ideals of Christian stewardship."

Any informational material from the Foundation must give facts about its service and must not be promotional in character or in method of dissemination.

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\$20,000 Scholarship
Fund To Be Voted On

(2-25-62)

NASHVILLE (BP)--A \$20,000 a year conditional scholarship program to help secure teachers for Baptist colleges will be set up, if the 1962 session of the Southern Baptist Convention approves.

The SBC Executive Committee voted to provide the earnings from a \$413,000 investment to the Convention's Education Commission. The commission, which operates a teacher placement service for Baptist colleges, would administer the conditional scholarships.

The money, in individual aid up to \$1500, would help prospective teachers secure their master's and doctor's degrees, according to Rabun L. Brantley of Nashville, executive secretary of the Education Commission.

While details are incomplete, Brantley said the students aided would be expected to teach for a certain period in a Baptist college to "repay" the conditional scholarship.

The corpus, or invested fund, includes \$400,000 from the estate of Mrs. M. May Robertson of Daytona Beach, Fla., who had an interest in state Baptist colleges. Her fund is invested by the Southern Baptist Foundation, another Convention agency, which last year reported an average yield on investments of about 5-1/2 per cent.

"We will not be in a position to screen applicants for scholarships until after the SBC meets in San Francisco in June to act on this matter," Brantley cautioned.

He commended the Executive Committee for making this fund available, and predicted it will meet a "heavy demand for this available help. Almost every day, our commission gets requests for scholarship help," he added.

"This fine start is encouraging to students in need and the colleges who need them. It is to be hoped other funds will now be made available to assist in this important work," according to Brantley.

Until this event, the Education Commission has been without funds to help financially hard-pressed students get the graduate degrees essential to their qualifying for Baptist college professorships.

About 10 to 20 students probably can be helped each year, Brantley forecast.

"Baptist colleges have difficulty holding their teachers because the tax-supported schools are paying higher salaries," he said. This financial aid, conditioned on their teaching for a minimum period in a Baptist college, will offset to some extent the financial attractions elsewhere, he felt.

"We hope to provide scholarships to the most needy and to the students with the greatest devotion to Baptist higher education, students whom we feel may invest their lifetimes in teaching in a Baptist college," Brantley explained.

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Cutlines to photo

February 25, 1962

A FAMILY TALK--Attending a reception for members and staff of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee here, Billy Graham paused to admire a flower spread flown to Nashville by Hawaii Baptists for the occasion. With the evangelist, who later made a family talk to 350 Baptist leaders, are from left, his associate, Grady Wilson; John H. Haldeman, Miami, chairman of the Executive Committee and Porter Routh, Nashville, executive secretary. (DP) Photo