

May 3, 1959

President's Election,
Survey Main Business

LOUISVILLE--(BP)--The election of a new president and recommendations for reorganizing some denominational work are expected to be major business at the forthcoming Southern Baptist Convention here.

An amendment to allow seating of representatives from Baptist churches in Canada is due to be voted on, and will also likely stir interest and opposition.

Another report which will create interest is that of the Convention's Committee on World Peace, which among other recommendations calls for a Southern Baptist observer at United Nations.

Although a problem at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville has been one of the most prominent Baptist concerns during the past year, it is not probable that it will reach the floor of the Convention as a matter of business.

The freedom of messengers---elected representatives from the more than 31,000 churches co-operating with the SBC---to raise questions directly always means that unexpected business may develop.

Brooks Hays, former Arkansas Congressman recently nominated as a director of Tennessee Valley Authority, and one of the Convention's few laymen presidents, goes out of office as SBC president with the close of the 1959 Convention on May 22. The SBC constitution limits presidents to two successive one-year terms, which Hays has served.

Election of officers is scheduled at 10:55 Wednesday morning, May 20, with a 15-minute period set aside Thursday morning if necessary to complete the election procedure.

It is not the custom for persons to announce themselves as candidates for office. Neither is it the custom for someone to be proposed publicly in advance of the election. Any Baptist, layman or minister, is eligible for the office. It appears more probable this year, however, since the outgoing president is a layman, that his successor will be an ordained minister.

Two vice-presidents will also be elected. Frequently one of them resides in the city or the state playing host to the Convention. Secretaries are usually re-elected each year.

The Committee to Study Total SBC Program, including in its study proposed reorganization, reports Thursday afternoon at 3:25. The recommendation to establish a new agency, the Stewardship Commission, is being opposed by some, but defended in turn by others. The committee supports the proposal for the new agency.

A proposal setting a time guide for the Home Mission Board to turn parts of its work over to state Baptist groups has been opposed by the Home Mission Board.

While this study committee says that Carver School of Missions and Social Work in Louisville should remain as a separate institution of the Convention, one of the committee's 23 members has filed a minority report (on this issue alone) because he does not believe it should be continued unless merged with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. The seminary and Carver are adjacent.

The dismissal of 12 professors last June from the theology faculty of Southern Seminary has created great concern during the year. Recently, however, the seminary trustees rescinded the dismissals when the professors agreed to resign. Unless brought up by a messenger during a miscellaneous business period, this seminary question is not likely to come before the Convention.

An amendment to permit seating of messengers from churches in Canada was introduced last year. Under Convention regulations, it could not be voted upon until 1959. Leaders of Southern Baptists churches in Oregon-Washington, who work in local affiliation with several Baptist churches in western Canada, are backers of this amendment. It is expected to meet opposition.

Canadians can not now be seated as messengers at the Convention.

No vote of the Convention during its annual session is binding on any co-operating church, since each church is self-governing. No individual person can speak for Southern Baptists, and the vote of each messenger is of equal value.

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To Study Kansas Paper
And Its Board Status

WICHITA, Kans.--(BP)--A "thorough study" will be made by a committee of the executive board of the Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists regarding the status of its paper, the Baptist Digest.

The study will be made to determine if the board of managers of the paper should be dissolved and the editor be reclassified as a department head in the state convention organization.

At present, the board of managers is an autonomous board, elected on a rotating basis directly by the convention in annual sessions. The editor of the paper is responsible to his board of managers.

If the procedure were revised and the managers abolished, the editor would be responsible to the convention's executive secretary, who in turn works under the executive board.

Chairman of the committee to make the study is Forrest Siler, pastor, Immanuel Baptist Church, Wichita. Four other persons also serve on the committee, including Bill Smith, Wichita pastor who is chairman of the Baptist Digest board of managers.

It is expected that a report of the committee may be presented at the next executive board meeting July 28 here.

In other action, the executive board approved appointment of Miss Beverly Hammack as state youth secretary for Woman's Missionary Union. Miss Hammack, a student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tex., will receive her master of religious education degree this year and assume office in August.

The department of evangelism reported that 845 persons professed faith in Christ during Kansas' simultaneous revival crusades recently.

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Virginia Now Building
Charlottesville Center

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.--(BP)--A \$54,000 Baptist student center will be constructed adjacent to the University of Virginia here, and is expected to be open for fall enrolment.

The Virginia Baptist Board of Missions and Education awarded the contract to a Charlottesville firm. There are about 650 Baptist students attending the state university this year.

The split-level building will include two lounges, a prayer room, work room, and office for student director on the ground floor. On the lower floor, there will be a recreation room, kitchen, council room, library, storage space, and maintenance-mechanical room.

Local Baptist churches, linked to form the Albemarle Baptist Association, have been invited to use facilities of the center for some of their associational meetings.

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Baptist Newspaperman
Awarded Fellowship

RALEIGH, N. C.--(BP)--Roy Parker, Jr., Baptist newspaperman of Raleigh and Ahoskie, N. C., has won a Congressional fellowship and will go to Washington in November to spend nine months in the U. S. Congress.

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Parker, 29, was one out of the five from 80 applicants who won fellowships sponsored by the American Political Science Association. He will receive a cash grant of \$4500 plus expenses to and from Washington. He will work on the staffs of senators, representatives, and Congressional committees in Washington.

He is the son of the late Roy Parker, Sr., prominent east Carolina Baptist lay leader and publisher. The senior Parker organized and donated the first equipment to the Roy Parker School of Printing and Graphic Arts at Chowan College, Baptist institution at Murfreesboro, N. C.

Roy Parker, Jr., moved to Raleigh early in 1959 to join the staff of the News and Observer, Raleigh morning daily. The fellowship is recognized as a distinct honor; its purpose being to afford outstanding young journalists an opportunity to learn about national government first-hand.

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Ohio Baptist Paper
Plans Pictorial Issue

COLUMBUS, O.--(BP)--The May 15 issue of the Ohio Baptist Messenger published here will portray the various aspects of Southern Baptist work in Ohio and adjoining states done through the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Editor R. G. Puckett estimates about 70 per cent of the issue will be devoted to photographs.

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