

November 11, 1959

Indiana Undertakes
Future Program Study

CLARKSVILLE, Ind.--(BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana has voted to create a long-range planning committee to project a convention program for the next 25 years.

The committee will study future Baptist work in such fields as state missions, religious education, benevolence and wills, and church development. It will report in 1960.

Organized in October, 1958, with 111 churches formerly affiliated with Baptist groups in Illinois and Kentucky, the Indiana convention reported this year it has 124 co-operating churches.

Last year, membership of these affiliated churches was 20,683. This year, their memberships number 22,870. The churches baptized 2077 converts during the year.

Messengers adopted a 1960 convention budget of \$134,150 which includes supplements from Southern Baptist Convention boards for jointly-sponsored work.

The Cooperative Program objective (included in the budget total) is \$117,000. One-fourth of Cooperative Program income will go to the Southern Baptist Convention for worldwide missions.

The current year's total budget is \$100,750 including the Cooperative Program objective of \$85,000. "We are exceeding our budget," Convention Executive Secretary E. H. Moore reported.

Stephen H. Cobb, pastor, Grace Baptist Church, Evansville, will serve another year as convention president. The convention re-elected its other officers also. Over 300 messengers and visitors attended sessions here.

They voted to hold their next convention session Nov. 10-12, 1960, in Whiting, Ind.

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Billy Graham Visits
Midwestern Campus

KANSAS CITY, Mo.--(BP)--Billy Graham visited the campus of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here while in Kansas City to be honored with a doctorate by William Jewell College.

He also spoke briefly at a faculty meeting of the seminary.

When informed the enrolment of Midwestern, only in its second year of existence, is 275, Graham remarked, "Few theological institutions have such an enrolment even after many years."

After he had outlined the itinerary of his evangelistic crusades for the next two years, Graham requested that the faculty remember him and his work in their daily prayer. Millard J. Berquist, president of Midwestern, assured him that he was constantly upon their hearts, and asked Graham to remember Midwestern in his prayers.

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Texas Decision Tops
State Baptist News

By the Baptist Press

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story summarizes action at Baptist state meetings in Texas, California, New Mexico, Indiana, Michigan, and Kansas.

The eyes of Texas focused on a church-state separation issue while Southern Baptists in other states watched carefully for the Texas decision.

Offered a \$3½ million hospital in Texarkana, partly built with government finances, Texas Baptists went to their convention to receive a closely-divided executive board recommendation that they accept the hospital on a nominal sum lease basis.

The executive board never got to present the issue. In a pre-convention board session, the Texarkana group withdrew its offer. The executive board also came within two votes of rescinding its 74-71 decision to accept.

Messengers saw to it the question was aired on the convention floor. They adopted a resolution of their own wording, then adopted another brought in from their resolutions committee.

The resolutions anchored Texas Baptists' stand against using government grants in denominational institutions. "We hereby announce to the world that this convention looks with disfavor upon any future move by our executive board, or any committee appointed by it, to accept as a gift or on a lease basis, any institution financed in whole or in part by a gift or grant from the government," one stated.

The news from Corpus Christi, Tex., dominated the week's events among Southern Baptists. State conventions met in five other states, but their combined memberships in co-operating churches were only one-sixth that of Texas.

Many of their actions were significant, however.

Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists abolished the separate board of directors for their state paper, Baptist Digest. Editor Joe Novak, a layman, resigned after the balloting.

New Mexico Baptists heard talk of a proposed denominational college, but sentiment seemed divided on whether the convention should establish one. It carries out its Christian higher education program presently through chairs of Bible at state colleges.

California Southern Baptists voted to hold a special session of their convention in May, 1960, to consider a survey report from a long-range planning committee. The committee has studied Baptist work and will make recommendations for the future.

S. G. Posey, California executive secretary since 1951, announced he'll retire at the end of 1960.

Michigan's Southern Baptists will launch a city missions program among Detroit's 4 million people as a preface to entry of "Operation Big Cities," sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

The convention newspaper, Michigan Baptist Messenger, found it was using the same name as a Swedish Baptist journal. The Southern Baptist paper will change its name to Michigan Baptist Advocate.

Indiana convention of Southern Baptists celebrated its first anniversary at a session in Clarksville, Ind. There are now 124 co-operating churches with membership totalling over 22,000.