

November 22, 1959

Arkansas Adopts Record
Budget, Elects Selph

LITTLE ROCK--(BP)--Bernes K Selph, pastor of the First Baptist Church Benton was elected president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in annual session here Nov. 17-19 at the First Baptist Church.

Other officers elected were Charles F. Pitts, pastor, First Baptist, Blytheville first vice president; Roy Bunch, pastor Mt. Olive Baptist Church, Crossett, second vice president; S. A. Whitlow of Little Rock, executive secretary of the state convention, clerk and treasure.

A record budget of \$1,725,000 was voted unanimously. This budget is approximately \$55,000 larger than the 1959 budget. Of this amount 56.6 per cent will go to state institutions and agencies of the convention, 7.4 per cent for capital improvements of Baptist institutions in the state and 36 per cent for world causes of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The convention voted to discontinue the special Thanksgiving offering which has been taken each fall for the support of Bottoms Baptist Orphanage at Monticello. Fund raising will cease "as of 1961 and the total budget of the home be provided through the cooperative program."

Approval was given for borrowing \$200,000 for acquiring a site for a new state Baptist building and for the enlargement of camp and assembly facilities.

A recommendation of the convention's executive board to place the Arkansas Baptist Foundation under the executive board of the convention was defeated. The Foundation will continue to have its separate elected by the convention.

Messengers referred to the executive board for further study a request from the board of trustees of Southern Baptist College, Walnut Ridge Arkansas, that all of the property of the college be given to the Arkansas State Convention for continued operation as a school.

Executive secretary S. A. Whitlow reported financial receipts through the Cooperative Program totaled approximately \$10,000 a month above the receipts for the previous year. C. W. Caldwell superintendent of missions and evangelism said a total 13,100 baptisms were reported for the convention year ending Oct. 31. This was 181 more than the total for last year.

The convention voted to have its 1960 meeting in Fayetteville's First Baptist Church Nov. 15-17. S. W. Eubanks pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church Fort Smith was designated to preach the annual convention sermon.

Total registration for this year's convention was 904, a little less than last year.

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Inter-Faith Liberty Meet
Proposed For Kentucky

(11-22-59)

LEXINGTON, Ky.--(BP)--Kentucky Baptists meeting here in annual session took note of current problems in religious liberty in this country and instructed their committee on public affairs to inaugurate an annual inter-faith conference on religious liberty.

The proposal came in the report of the state's public affairs committee. It was suggested that Roman Catholics and Jews as well as evangelical groups should be invited to participate in such a conference. Rollin S. Burhans, pastor, Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville was re-elected for a second term as moderator. J. Chester Badgett pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church and David A. Friedley, Jr., pastor of the host church First Baptist of Lexington, were chosen assistant moderators. George

R. Jewell and Leo T. Crismon, both of Louisville, were re-elected secretary and assistant secretary respectfully.

Messengers gave approval to a proposal from the Christian Education Committee to reduce the committee membership from 29 to 15. The principle assignments of the re-constituted committee will be to allocate funds to Kentucky Baptists schools, to review and evaluate the educational programs of all the Kentucky Baptist educational institutions, and to develop a formula for equitable distribution of funds for the school.

A record Cooperative Program budget of \$2,400,000 was adopted by the messengers. This was an increase of \$100,000 over the 1959 budget. General secretary W. C. Boone reported that receipts in 1959 have shown an increase over 1958, but fell short of the 1959 goal by about \$92,000.

Cooperative Program funds received through the state office in 1960 will be divided 66 per cent for state causes, 34 per cent for Baptists causes outside the state. A motion to amend the recommendation to give convention wide causes 35 1/3 per cent of the 1960 income was defeated.

Another issue referred to in the report of the convention's committee on public affairs was the qualification of citizens seeking public office. The report reaffirmed the inalienable right of every citizen to hold office regardless of creed, culture, sex, or race.

A resolution was presented which called on the messengers "to go on record as opposed to any candidate for president of the United States whose religious affiliation may keep him from making decisions with full liberty as president." The convention's resolutions committee stated to the body that a portion of the report of the committee on public affairs expressed essentially the same position. The messengers did not act on the resolution, considering the two statements to be voicing the same stand.

The 1960 meeting of the general association will be held at the St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, Nov. 15-17. Hankins F. Parker pastor of the First Baptist Church Paducah was chosen to preach the annual sermon.

Registration of messengers totaled 1,273.