

November 18, 1962

**Maryland Okays College
When Funds Available**

FREDERICK, Md. (BP)--The Baptist Convention of Maryland voted in annual session here to establish a junior college when sufficient funds are available. No mention of a site was made.

The Maryland convention has never operated a college. It operates no institution at present except the Baptist Home of Maryland, for elderly women.

A resolution reaffirming "confidence and pride in our theological seminaries" was adopted without dissent. The resolution noted that "there exists today, in an air of tension, a critical challenge to the tranquil and progressive march of theological education among us."

It noted further that "we view with concern this challenge and the perennially difficult task of training young men and women in their high calling by Christ Jesus."

In addition to reaffirming confidence, the resolution declared "that we assure our seminaries of our abiding and sympathetic sharing in the problems that face them and of our earnest prayers for the faculty, administration, trustees and staffs of each school."

A resolution aimed at efforts in the nation to amend the first amendment to the federal constitution was adopted. In this measure the convention called on "our representatives in government" to study any proposed amendments and "hold fast to...absolute separation of church and state in all matters."

The resolution opposed any effort to legalize government support of one religion or all religions.

Robert F. Woodward, pastor of First Baptist Church, Frederick, was reelected president for a second term.

The convention adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$560,000 for 1963, to be divided 60 per cent for state causes and 40 per cent for Southern Baptist causes. This is an increase of \$50,000 over the 1962 budget.

The junior college proposal was approved by overwhelming majority vote after two extended periods of debate. It came on recommendation of a special committee that studied higher education needs in the state for two years.

A committee of nine men was appointed to continue work on the college proposal. Cline L. Vice, Glen Burnie pastor, was named chairman.

The convention recognized four new district associations of Southern Baptist churches in the Northeast now affiliated with Maryland. These are the Keystone (Harrisburg, Pa., area), Delaware Valley (Philadelphia area), Metropolitan New York and New England Associations.

The 1963 convention will meet in Baltimore Nov. 11-13.

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**Virginia Wants To Know
Elliott Firing Reasons**

(11-18-62)

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (BP)--Messengers to the 1962 meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia asked that charges against dismissed professor Ralph H. Elliott be made public.

Elliott, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, was fired by trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City after a controversy arose over his book, "The Message of Genesis."

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The Virginia association also called on trustees and administrators of Southern Baptist Convention seminaries and other Baptist educational institutions "to make every possible effort to create and to maintain an atmosphere which will not only permit but also encourage the most careful study and research on the part of the faculty and students and the effective expression of mature and responsible Christian conviction."

The association also said adoption of the resolution "does not imply either approval nor disapproval of Dr. Elliott's interpretation."

The 1963 Cooperative Program goal of \$3.4 million was approved, 36 per cent of it going to agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. The association will hold its 1963 session Nov. 12-14 at Alexandria.

The rotation of the presidency between ministers and laymen led to the election this year of Charles Ryland, lawyer from Warsaw, Va. A minister was elected first vice-president and a physician second vice-president.

The original resolution on the Elliott controversy was offered by Walter H. Stockburger, Norfolk minister. It was critical of the SBC Sunday School Board for not republishing Elliott's book.

As brought out by the resolutions committee, there was no reference to the Sunday School Board.

The adopted resolution took note "of the sharp disagreement and wide divergence of opinion among Baptists" over Elliott's book.

It alleged the Midwestern trustees "have published no statement setting forth their charges against Dr. Elliott and/or their reasons for his dismissal." It said "we are anxious that the dismissal of Dr. Elliott does not discourage diligent scholarship or stifle free expression and conviction in our educational institutions."

It expressed concern "that the controversy and confusion over this issue should not bring about an unwarranted disruption of our fellowship."

"We reaffirm the cherished Baptist belief in the competency, the right and the responsibility of every individual to interpret the Bible for himself under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the right to declare his convictions to all who will hear it," the resolution said also.

The association received the report of its religious liberty committee, which among other matters, commended the ruling of the United States Supreme Court on the official prayer in New York public schools.

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Kansas Resolves
Against Unity Meet

(11-16-62)

WICHITA (BP)--The 1962 Kansas Convention of Southern Baptists here resolved its opposition to an informal Conference on Baptist Unity which met in Washington, D. C.

The conference, voluntarily called by a group of pastors, discussed problems in uniting the American and Southern Baptist Conventions.

"Furthermore," the Kansas resolution went on, "we hereby request our Southern Baptist brethren to refrain from taking part in any similar actions until official Southern Baptist Convention approval is secured."

The conference in question was not officially called by either convention. The unity talks were conducted as a "grass roots" movement without official representation.

Garth L. Pybas of Topeka was reelected Kansas convention president. A member of the SBC Committee to Study Baptist Faith and Message, Pybas told Kansas messengers:

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"If anyone thinks there will be any liberalization (by this committee) of our beliefs, they had better wake up and know that we are going to stand on the whole word of God."

He predicted the committee's report, far from "weakening" the conservative stand of Southern Baptists, would strengthen many affirmations in the 1925 Convention's statement of faith and message.

The convention voted to meet in 1963 in Omaha, Neb., the first session outside the state, Nov. 17-19. The convention includes cooperating churches in eastern Nebraska. (Western Nebraska churches cooperate with the Colorado Baptist General Convention.)

The convention, which last year discussed creating a Christian life commission, this year instead created the post of Christian life director, a non-staff officer. He will be elected by the 1963 convention.

Messengers approved a 1963 budget of \$425,965 with \$53,806 going to the SBC through the Cooperative Program.

Another resolution commended the work in church-state issues done by Protestants and Other Americans United (POAU).

Executive Secretary N. J. Westmoreland of Wichita reported 166 cooperating churches in the convention. Their aggregate membership is 37,000.

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Tennessee Follows
SBC Resolution

(11-18-62)

GATLINBURG, Tenn. (BP)--The 1962 Tennessee Baptist Convention here followed the wording of a Southern Baptist Convention resolution regarding Bible authority and actions of convention institutions.

Where the 1962 SBC resolution applied to SBC institutions, the Tennessee resolution applies to Baptist institutions in Tennessee. The wording is almost exactly that voted by the SBC at San Francisco.

The Tennessee messengers also approved a new Cooperative Program budget of \$3,825,000 and will share one-third of it with SBC agencies. The new goal is \$185,678 above this year's receipts.

They elected Harold J. Purdy, pastor, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, as their new convention president. Belmont Heights Church will host the next convention Nov. 11-13, 1963.

The convention approved a plan to help Cuban refugees thronging Miami. Churches cooperating with Tennessee convention will be asked to make special cash gifts in July, 1963 for food.

Messengers also collected \$400 in a special offering on the spot to aid families of the 80 Christians slaughtered in an uprising against Christians by New Guinea tribesmen.

The resolution said:

"The messengers of this convention, by a standing vote, reaffirm their faith in the entire Bible as the authoritative, authentic, infallible word of God.

"We express our abiding and unchanging objection to the dissemination of theological views in any of our Tennessee Baptist institutions which would undermine such faith in the historical accuracy and doctrinal integrity of the Bible, and...we courteously request the trustees and administrative officers of our institutions and other agencies to take such steps as shall be necessary to remedy at once those situations where such views now threaten our historic Baptist position."

Convention observers said no institution was mentioned during discussion of the resolution.

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Furman Amends Charter
To Ban Fraternities

By Tom McMahan

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)--An air of uneasy truce hung over the South Carolina Baptist Convention here following an eleventh-hour decision to avert another debate over social fraternities.

Last year's convention instructed all state Baptist colleges to amend their charters to ban student membership in fraternities. Five months ago, trustees of convention-maintained Furman University in Greenville voted to phase out the social groups within three years.

Then, less than a week before the convention opened here, the trustees of the Greenville school took further steps to close out fraternity life on campus or off by amending the charter.

This was done with the hope it would head off a major floor fight at the 1963 convention. The three-year phasing out plan apparently was unsatisfactory to opponents of fraternities.

The lone woman on the Furman board, Mrs. Ned Gregory of Lancaster, told the convention nevertheless that a determined group had threatened to seek dismissal of Furman's president and the entire trustee board unless they complied with the 1961 convention resolution.

Mrs. Gregory asked the 1962 convention to give the trustees a vote of confidence and to return policy making authority to them.

Instead, the convention passed a resolution saying a prior action demonstrated a relationship of confidence and respect between the convention and trustees of its institutions.

The convention adopted a five-year capital needs program and approved a plan for a major study of the convention's structure. They passed without debate or dissent.

The messengers voted to reaffirm their faith in the entire Bible as the infallible word of God. They requested all institutions to take steps to remedy those situations in which theological views are aired which would undermine faith in "the doctrinal integrity of the word of God."

The voice vote of approval was weak, but there were no negative votes.

David G. Anderson of North Charleston, who moved into the presidency of the convention with the death of Charles F. Sims of Columbia, was elected to a full term of his own. Sims, immediate past general secretary of the convention, was elected president by the 1961 convention but died 24 days later. Anderson was first vice-president.

A \$3.4 million Cooperative Program goal was set for 1963. The Southern Baptist Convention will get 45 per cent of the \$1,592,000 current operations budget. It will be given 40 per cent of the \$1,292,000 in the capital needs section. An item of \$467,000 is deducted first, however, to meet the general administration budget and ministers' retirement fund.

The new \$3.7 million state capital needs program will be divided among participating institutions on a percentage basis.

A survey committee of 15 will be named to study all aspects of the convention's structure and relationship to other Baptist bodies. The study may take two or three years, but annual reports will be made.

Recommendations for improving the convention will be made first to the general board and then to the convention itself.

Nov. 12-14 are dates of the 1963 convention in Charleston.

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William A. Carleton, delivering an address on theological education, said seminaries may be facing their "most critical hour." He criticized two national weekly newsmagazines for the way they reported action taken by trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City.

Carleton is vice-president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. Both seminaries are operated by the SBC.

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Kentucky Passes
\$12 Million Program

(11-18-62)

OWENSBORO, Ky. (BP)--The 1962 Kentucky Baptist Convention here approved a \$12 million capital needs campaign for its institutions.

It also passed a church-state resolution touching a number of phases of alleged violations of the principle to be found within Kentucky.

In another church-state issue, the convention referred for further study the question of its colleges borrowing money from government lending agencies.

And the convention closed with a youth rally attended by 8000 persons, including 1000 who made up a choir. Featured speakers for the rally were television actor Gregory Walcott and a Baptist coed, Miss Nanci Bowling, who was Miss Kentucky for 1962. She is a student at Georgetown College (Baptist) in Georgetown, Ky.

The \$12 million capital needs program will benefit seven schools and colleges maintained by Kentucky Baptists, Baptist student centers at public and other private colleges, developments at Baptist camps, child care improvements and nurse training at Baptist hospitals.

An addition to the Kentucky Baptist Building at Middletown is also a part of the program.

Largest single institution to benefit from the drive will be Georgetown College, slated to receive one-fourth of the \$12 million.

Next largest amount, \$2.4 million, will go to new Kentucky Southern College at Louisville. While its campus is being built, the school is holding its first year of classes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The new school joined the ranks of Kentucky Baptist institutions during this convention.

Others to receive over \$1 million are Cumberland College, Williamsburg, and Campbellsville College, Campbellsville.

Baptist student centers at six tax-supported universities and one non-Baptist private college will get a total of \$750,000 via the campaign. Assemblies and camps plan to use their \$960,000 for new or enlarged buildings and for grounds improvements.

The church-state resolution urged voters to demand that public hospitals be operated by county governments and not by religious groups. It called for laws to forbid garbed nuns to teach in tax-supported schools.

It asked that several parochial schools now being operated by county (public) school boards be closed. Transportation of parochial school pupils on public school buses should be stopped, too, it said.

All were claimed to pertain to violations of church-state principles existing in Kentucky.

The \$2-2/3 million budget for the new convention fiscal year provides 35.5 per cent to the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program.

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Referred back to committee for another year's study was the question of whether Baptist schools should borrow from government lending sources. The majority of the public affairs committee of the convention had said they saw no subsidy involved in such loans for dormitory construction.

E. Keevil Judy, pastor, First Baptist Church, Henderson, was elected president of the convention. It voted to meet Nov. 12-14, 1963 in Lexington.

It was announced to the convention that an executive decision from Frankfort, the state capital, said churches in Kentucky will no longer be charged the 3 per cent state sales tax on supplies used in their ministry. It was not immediately evident how widespread the exemption will apply.

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Florida And Stetson
Said Nearer Solution

(11-18-62)

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (BP)--Stetson University and the Florida Baptist Convention are closer to solving the problems between them, a joint study committee told the 1962 convention here.

The committee included persons appointed by the convention president and appointed by the chairman of Stetson's trustees. The college, at DeLand, Fla., has generally been regarded as a Baptist-related school but has not been under outright convention ownership.

The committee reported it was not able to recommend any practicable means for achieving outright ownership of the Stetson property by the convention. It did recommend a plan whereby trustees nominated by the convention and elected by the Stetson trustees hereafter might serve for stated terms and thus achieve the advantages of a plan of rotation.

The trustees have not been a rotating board.

The convention voted to continue the joint committee and reelected the same members which the convention president had appointed to serve in 1962.

The convention education commission recommended a policy to guide the state board of missions and the convention in planning to support Stetson from the convention's annual budget. It also recommended that a long-range development program providing both capital funds and endowment funds be planned carefully as a cooperative effort between Stetson and the convention.

The Florida Baptist Convention gave the first of two required votes of approval for creating a Baptist junior college in the state. No site was picked.

Only a scattering of opposition met the proposal to establish the junior college "at the earliest practicable time."

The executive secretary of the convention, John A. Maguire of Jacksonville, told messengers the new Baptist Building in Jacksonville is now debt free.

The \$500,000 loan dating back to 1958 was paid off in less than the time expected. Because of this debt retirement, it will be possible to build next year the new Baptist Student Center at the University of South Florida in Tampa without going into debt.

Funds originally allocated to meet the Jacksonville building debt will be combined with other funds to provide the \$180,000 needed for the center.

The convention voted to sell the proposed camping site in central Florida which it bought last year. Drainage problems will make it unfit for the purpose. The convention will buy another site in the same area.

Resolutions passed by the convention asked for laws to prevent sale of liquor at family shopping outlets and urged Sunday closings of non-essential business.

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Henry Allen Parker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, was elected convention president. Jacksonville will be site of the 1963 convention, Nov. 12-14.

The Cooperative Program state budget for fiscal 1963 is \$2.7 million, a record. Forty-one per cent (up from 40 this year) will go to support worldwide missions, education and benevolence through the Southern Baptist Convention.

Goals for the year ahead are establishment of 200 new missions and 52 new churches, and the baptism of 40,000 converts.

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California Makes Two
Property Adjustments

(11-18-62)

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (BP)--The Southern Baptist General Convention of California has voted to buy a 4-1/2 acre building site in Fresno for a new Baptist office building. There are no plans for immediate construction.

It also voted to sell the present site of Sunny Crest Children's Home, a convention agency, in Bakersfield. It will relocate in Bakersfield. Reason for the sale was the fact that commercial developments in the vicinity of the present home enabled the convention to sell that property at an attractive price.

To meet requirements of California law, the convention voted to revise its constitution and bylaws to assure continuing control of its agencies.

The new president of the California convention is Robert N. Stapp, pastor, Cooper Avenue Baptist Church, Yuba City. The site of the 1963 convention is Bakersfield. Dates are Nov. 11-13.

The Cooperative Program goal for the new annual budget is \$935,000 with 25 per cent (up from 24 this year) going to the Southern Baptist Convention.

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Ohio Invites 1968
SBC To Cleveland

(11-18-62)

CINCINNATI (BP)--The State Convention of Baptists in Ohio has issued an official invitation for the 1968 Southern Baptist Convention to be held in Cleveland.

Baptist leaders said the city meets the requirements of having a 10,000-seat auditorium, 4400 rooms for messengers, and hotels and the auditorium being in walking distance of each other.

Southern Baptists never have met in Cleveland before but some will recall the eighth Baptist World Congress met there in 1950.

The Southern Baptist Convention has committed itself through 1967, including a 1966 session in Detroit, also a Great Lakes city.

The Ohio convention also commemorated the 10th anniversary of Ray E. Roberts' coming to Ohio to lead Southern Baptist growth. He came as a worker while Kentucky Baptists sponsored the work north of the Ohio River. In 1954, the state became a convention.

The convention presented Roberts, now its executive secretary, with a \$1000 bill as a token of its esteem for his leadership.

When Roberts went to Ohio 10 years ago as missionary for the old Whitewater Baptist Association of churches, there were 19 churches and six missions cooperating with the SBC. Most of the work was in the Cincinnati area.

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There are now over 300 churches and missions with a combined membership of about 50,000. The work covers a four-state area, including parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York.

The state's Cooperative Program budget for 1963 is \$340,000 and 27 per cent (up from 25) of it will go to the Southern Baptist Convention. A goal for 1963 is starting 101 new missions in the Ohio convention area.

Baptisms of converts during the last convention year exceeded 5000, the highest number reported.

The convention reconfirmed plans to make the semi-monthly Ohio Baptist Messenger a weekly publication in 1963. The editor, Lynn M. Davis Jr. of Columbus, will handle editorial duties full-time as of Jan. 1.

The work of Baptist student secretary, combined with that of the editor, will be moved out. Student work will be combined with the work of Training Union promotion.

Resolutions of the convention asked that all unnecessary business on Sunday cease, and reaffirmed the belief of Ohio Baptists in the Bible "as the infallible word of God."

The new Ohio convention president is S. M. Mulkey, pastor, Far Hills Baptist Church, Dayton. The 1963 convention will meet Nov. 12-14 in Dayton.

C. H. Hockensmith, Columbus, outgoing president, said in his president's address, "One of the greatest sins of Southern Baptists today is race hatred. How tragic that hatred bars the doors of many of our churches to people of other skin color."

The convention approved plans for securing property next to the Baptist office building in Columbus to relocate the Baptist Book Store. The book store is presently separated from the state Baptist offices.