

November 7, 1963

Baylor University
Votes To Integrate

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Trustees of the world's largest Baptist school, Baylor University, voted here to integrate the Baylor system.

The trustees approved a committee report which said "neither race or color be a factor to be considered in the admission of qualified students to Baylor University."

Board members set no date for the new policy to take effect, and directed Baylor President Abner V. McCall to implement the policy.

The trustees, meeting in closed session, did not announce the results of the vote, but said it was not unanimous. They agreed at the beginning of the meeting only the official statements of the chairman and the president be made public.

Chairman of the board Hilton E. Howell of Waco said the action was taken "after a prayer for divine guidance," and after "full, free and amicable discussion."

A nine-member committee headed by Earl C. Hankamer of Houston made the motion to integrate the Baptist school.

The committee, appointed by Chairman Howell last November, made a one-year study of the question of integration at Baylor. The committee's report stated:

"Whereas, Baylor University as a private school has the right to select its students and may exercise that right of selection to serve best the purposes and policies of the university and the denomination which owns it; and,

"Whereas, Baylor University has no official written policy either in its charter or by-laws concerning race or color as a criteria for admission of students; therefore,

"Be it resolved that neither race nor color be a factor to be considered in the admission of qualified students to Baylor University. The board of trustees hereby directs the president of the university to implement this policy by practical means designed to cause minimum disruption of the education program of the university."

Although names of those serving on the nine-member committee were not released, Baptist Press learned the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, K. Owen White of Houston, was a member of the committee.

Baylor President McCall said in a written statement he anticipated "complete cooperation of the students and the faculty."

"University officials will devise a procedure to put the new policy into effect," said McCall. "I feel confident that this will be done with little or no disruption of the education program of the university."

Details for implementing the new policy were not announced. The board's statement implied, but did not state, the policy would apply for all branches of the university.

More than 7,000 students are enrolled in the Baylor system, which includes the main campus in Waco; the college of medicine in Houston; and the college of dentistry, school of nursing and graduate research institute in Dallas.

Approval of desegregating the Baptist school has already been voiced by the Waco campus student body, the college of arts and sciences faculty and the Student Congress, governing body for the students.

Students on the Waco campus voted last May overwhelmingly in favor of desegregation. During the same week the board of trustees authorized the committee study on integration, the faculty and the Student Congress pledged support and cooperation with future desegregation plans.

Baylor will be the fourth Texas Baptist school to drop its racial bars. Other Baptist schools in Texas which already have Negroes enrolled include Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene; Wayland Baptist College, Plainview; and the University of Corpus Christi.

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Utah, Idaho Would Be
29th State Convention

(11-7-63)

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)--At a meeting here in October, 1964, Southern Baptists in Utah and Idaho expect to organize a new state Baptist convention affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The convention, which would come into existence as of Jan. 1, 1965, would be the 29th cooperating with the SBC.

It would be the first to be formed since 1959, when the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana was founded from among churches formerly cooperating with conventions in Illinois and Kentucky.

It was reported there are 30 Southern Baptist churches and eight missions in Utah. There are 14 churches and 10 missions in Idaho. A church in Evanston, Wyo., also is included, because of its remoteness from other Colorado-affiliated churches.

Utah and Idaho together do not meet the requirements for minimum church membership and gifts at present to qualify for vital mission supplements from the budget of the SBC Home Mission Board.

But it was pointed out at a regional fellowship meeting here of groups from the two states that the Home Mission Board has waived its requirements for financial assistance in the case of Utah and Idaho.

The mission agency requires at least 10,000 members in affiliated churches; the two states expect to have less than 9000 members on Jan. 1, 1965.

Churches in these states presently cooperate with the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, making that convention stretch from the Mexican to the Canadian borders and creating distance problems.

W. F. (Bill) Thornton, pastor, Mountainview Baptist Church, Boise, Idaho, was reelected president of the two-state regional fellowship.

Chester L. Quarles of Jackson, Miss., warned Utah-Idaho Baptists not to entangle themselves too soon in founding and supporting service institutions.

Quarles, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention, urged them to major on building strong churches.

President Thornton called on the churches in the two states to increase by 1 per cent their Cooperative Program gifts in order to meet the Home Mission Board requirement of \$50,000 a year minimum, to qualify for state convention supplements.

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Illinois Churches
Report 164,000

(11-7-63)

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (BP)--Southern Baptists in Illinois now number over 164,000 in 881 churches affiliated with the Illinois Baptist State Association, it was reported at the annual association meeting here.

Twenty-three new churches were organized during the past year.

The state association also adopted its 1964 Cooperative Program budget. The Southern Baptist Convention share of the \$735,000 Cooperative Program goal is 35 per cent.

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The Cooperative Program goal is \$10,000 higher than the 1963 goal; the percentage for SBC agencies remains the same.

Treasurer of the association reported for the first nine months of 1963, churches in Illinois had sent in \$30,000 more for the Cooperative Program than they had for a like period in 1962.

The messengers elected Maurice L. Swinford, pastor, First Baptist Church, Pinckneyville, president. They will hold their 1964 meeting Oct. 28-30 at First Southern Baptist Church, Joliet.

The association instructed its president to appoint a nine-member committee to report in 1964 to study ways "to achieve maximum democratic processes in the administration of Baptist work in Illinois." The new president will chair the committee, and the two immediate past presidents will be members.

An attempt to have named a special committee to review a proposed building program for the Baptist chair of Bible at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, lost when a vote of messengers was taken.

Three churches in the state baptized more than 100 converts each during the past year, according to another report.

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Mills Chosen President

(11-7-63)

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--Robert L. Mills, president of Georgetown College (Baptist) here, is serving as president of the Kentucky Association of Colleges.

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Memorandum on Teletype

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Georgia--Home Mission Board office, Georgia Baptist Convention and Christian Index, all in Atlanta; Nashville--Executive Committee, SBC; Sunday School Board, SBC Historical Commission; Tennessee Baptist Convention and Baptist and Reflector newspaper; Memphis--Brotherhood Commission.

Alabama--State convention office in Montgomery, Alabama Baptist news office in Birmingham; Mississippi--State convention office and Baptist Record news office, both at Jackson; Louisiana--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, and in Alexandria, the convention office and Baptist Message news office; Richmond--the Foreign Mission Board.

Dallas--Baptist General Convention of Texas, Annuity Board, division of evangelism and the Baptist Standard news office; Fort Worth--Radio & TV Commission; Oklahoma City--Oklahoma Convention and Baptist Messenger; Jeff City, Mo.--Missouri Convention office and Word and Way news office.

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