

November 12, 1964

North Carolina Votes  
Down College Proposals

GREENSBORO, N. C. (BP)--By decisive margins, North Carolina Baptists turned down here two proposals with long-range effect on their seven colleges.

A plan to broaden the representation on college boards of trustees was rejected by a vote of 2247 against to 1566 for. Thus, the plan lacked support of even a simple majority. It would have required a two-thirds majority, being a constitutional change.

The plan, recommended by the general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was that one-fourth of the trustees of North Carolina Baptist colleges could have been non-Baptists or out-of-state residents.

Federal aid under the Higher Education Facilities Act was also defeated--by an even larger margin. The vote was 2567 against to 1029 in favor. This proposal also had the backing of the general board.

College leaders expressed disappointment over the decisions. President Harold W. Tribble of Wake Forest College in Winston-Salem said he was "heartbroken because our development program was vitally involved. Now we are faced with a dilemma. Will we be forced to reduce our programs? We need time for a careful study," he said.

Last year, when the convention met in Wilmington, a similar trustee proposal--which would have affected Wake Forest alone of the seven colleges--gained a simple majority but lacked 194 votes of the two-thirds majority needed. Supporters of the plan to broaden representation felt that including all of the colleges might gain the additional votes needed for passage.

The News and Observer, Raleigh daily newspaper, interpreted the two votes as the convention's edging "closer to an anti-education stance." Opponents based much of their attack on the claim that to allow out-of-state and non-Baptist trustees would cause the convention to lose control over its colleges.

Thomas M. Freeman, Dunn, N. C., pastor, said in his argument during the debate over the trustee issue, "The education crisis is not our crisis. We've been doing more than our share. We are not in education for education's sake. We can not afford to be in it for that sake."

The convention did not debate on the federal aid proposal prior to that vote.

Supporters of wider trustee representation believed passage of the plan would improve the chances of colleges getting professional and financial support from "sources now closed to them." The general board supported the federal aid plan on grounds that funds would be received on the basis of "services rendered."

The Christian education council of the convention claimed "participation in the Higher Facilities Education Act of 1963 is within the provisions of the constitution of the Baptist State Convention."

Separation of church and state was cited in pre-convention discussion as a reason to oppose the federal aid proposal.

For the first time in history, white and Negro Baptists in North Carolina met in joint session, a climax to the Baptist Jubilee Advance. Joseph H. Jackson, Chicago, president of the largest nationwide body of Negro Baptists, was the speaker.

The General Baptist Convention of North Carolina (Negro) held its 1964 session in Greensboro at the same time as the Baptist State Convention.

Messengers adopted a \$5.1 million 1965 convention budget. Thirty-four per cent will be shared with the Southern Baptist Convention.

(more)

November 12, 1964

2

Baptist Press

Howard J. Ford of Wilmington was reelected convention president. For the first time in history also, the convention elected a woman first vice-president-- Mrs. W. K. McGee of Winston-Salem. She was president of the state Woman's Missionary Union for five years.

The next convention session will be in Charlotte, Nov. 15-17, 1965.

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Manhattan Church  
Calls Interim Pastor

11-12-64

NEW YORK (BP)--James W. Cox, associate professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has become the interim pastor of the Manhattan Baptist Church here.

On sabbatical leave from the seminary, Cox, a native of Kingston, Tenn., is doing post-graduate study at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N. J.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College (Baptist), Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southern Seminary, from which he received his doctor of theology degree. In the summer of 1963, he did special study at Union Theological Seminary here.

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17,000 Unchurched  
In Columbus, Ga.

COLUMBUS, Ga. (BP)--A religious survey of 87,420 residents of Columbus found more than 17,000 without church membership and another 17,000 who are church members but inactive.

Sixty-eight of the city's churches, representing all denominations provided some 2,000 volunteers to make the house-to-house canvass and tabulate the results.

William A. Powell of Atlanta, associate secretary of the department of survey and special studies for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, directed the survey.

Powell said the 17,000 without church membership and the 17,000 who are inactive all are nine years of age and older.

There were 16,540 children under nine canvassed and only 8,790 are active in any kind of church activity. The survey classified those as inactive who attend church less than once a month.

In classifying the religious population by denomination, the survey found those identifying with Baptists to be 37,750; with Methodists, 14,580; with Catholics, 8,070; with Assembly of God, 4,150, and with Presbyterian, 3,080. All others were less than 2,000. These figures include those who may not be members but indicate preference for that group.

The survey tabulated 16,210 active members of local Baptist churches. There were 4,670 inactive local Baptist members and 3,440 non-resident Baptists. Of those not members of any church, 9,650 stated they preferred Baptist churches.

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Swilley Elected  
Georgia President

ATLANTA, Ga. (BP)--The Georgia Baptist Convention in its three-day annual session gave emphasis to its "Christian Witness" theme, then elected as president the pastor whose church is among leaders in Cooperative Program gifts.

Monroe F. Swilley, the 50-year-old pastor of Atlanta's Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, was elected president to succeed J. Thornton Williams of LaGrange.

His Atlanta church with a budget of \$712,610 last year gave \$213,940 for missions, with \$130,463 of this through the Cooperative Program. The Cooperative Program gifts were the largest of any church in the Southeastern states.

Only one controversy threatened to develop and the convention sidestepped it by referral. A resolution claiming professors at "certain" Georgia Baptist colleges violate "basic Baptist interpretations of the Holy Scriptures" was referred to college trustees who will report next year.

A second resolution from the floor calling for stricter marriage laws in Georgia was referred to the Christian Life Commission for study and action.

The convention increased its Cooperative Program budget for 1965 by \$268,008 for a total of \$3,882,008. Of this amount, \$1,715,504 is for the Southern Baptist Convention with a similar amount for Georgia programs. The remainder is for administration, promotion and the ministers' retirement plans.

The convention will meet next year in Augusta, Nov. 15-17.

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