

October 18, 1965

South Carolina Board  
Asks 2-year Aid Study

by John E. Roberts

COLUMBIA, S. C. (BP)-- The general board of the South Carolina Baptist Convention has sharply criticised trustees of Furman University for seeking federal aid to help construct a science building.

The board, however, told the university to keep the \$611,898 grant accepted last June.

In a 28-21 vote, general board members excluded the grant in question from a two-year moratorium being proposed. During which no federal grants for construction could be accepted by any South Carolina Baptist Convention agency.

With the two-year holdoff is a companion recommendation that a special committee of 17 study the matter of federal grants and other tax monies, as they would apply to Baptist institutions.

The committee will have nine laymen and eight pastors, nominated by the convention's committee on committees.

The general board's proposed moratorium and formation of a study committee are subject to final approval of the convention itself before being effective. The convention meets in mid-november in Greenville, home of Furman University.

The study committee, if created, would work in cooperation with a Southern Baptist Convention education study task under way.

The action of the general board on the Furman grant, the two-year period of taking no grants and the special study came at the suggestion of the board's executive committee. The executive committee offered the board a seven-point recommendation.

The criticism of Furman's trustees came in the opening sentence of the executive committee report. It said: "It is our feeling that the trustees of Furman University have not acted in conformity with Article IX of the constitution of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the historic principle of a separation of church and state as we understand it."

Article IX states in part: "No funds, gifts or allowances that infringe upon the historic principle of separation of church and state shall be accepted by the convention, the general board, or any institutions or agencies of the convention. In any debatable instance that may occur, the general board shall interpret this statement subject to the approval of the convention."

Two weeks before its action, the general board held a special session at the request of a group of Baptists in the state who wanted to discuss federal aid as it affected state Baptist institutions.

Cort R. Flint, Anderson, S. C., pastor, and spokesman for this group, had asked them for a two-year moratorium on grants and for a special study committee.

When the board considered its recommendations to the convention, Flint said the "concerned group" he spoke for agreed with the suggestions of the Board's executive committee.

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Only point changed in the executive committee's proposal was the way the 17-member committee was formed. The executive committee proposed five laymen, five pastors and a representative from each of the institutions of the convention--four colleges and three social service institutions.

The general board said the institutions could provide resource personnel for the committee study, even though having no representatives on its membership.

Furman, largest and most widely known of the four South Carolina Baptist colleges, applied for its \$611,898 grant under the Higher Education Facilities Act of 1963.

Although trustees applied for the grant last November, their action was not known publicly till the university announced receipt of the grant in June.

After the two-year study of federal aid, the committee would bring its report to the general board, and through the board to the convention itself. A progress report would be made by the study committee in 1966.

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North Carolina Board  
Okays 1966 Budget

RALEIGH (BP)--The general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina has approved a 1966 Cooperative Program budget of \$5.4 million. It now must be adopted by the state convention at its annual meeting in November.

The 1966 budget will probably exceed this year's budget income by \$100,000. The 1965 budget is \$5.1 million, but Comptroller Leon Spencer of Raleigh told the board he thinks income this year will top the goal by \$200,000.

He said Cooperative Program giving this year is running 4.52 per cent ahead of the same time last year. If a 4 per cent gain is maintained, at the end of the year there will be \$200,000 in the advance fund to be distributed this way:

To Southern Baptist Convention for national and worldwide Baptist ministries, \$100,000; to the seven denominational colleges in North Carolina, \$40,000; to the convention's three social service institutions, \$40,000, and to state missions, \$20,000.

The general board declined to accept a recommendation from the budget committee to quit appropriating \$10,500 a year beginning in 1967 to the Christian Action League, a state temperance organization.

Instead, general board authorized its executive committee to study the need to divide Christian life and public affairs work of the convention. The committee will report on this study next July.

If a Christian life division is established, it will be similar to Christian life commissions operated by Baptist conventions in Texas and other states.

Concerning the temperance league, it was pointed out Baptists give \$13,000 of the league's \$18,000 annual income, or 72 per cent of it.

In two other actions, North Carolina's general board sent \$1000 to aid Baptist victims of Hurricane Betsy in Louisiana, and recommended to the convention that Robert's Rules of Order replace Kerfoot's Parliamentary Law as the convention's parliamentary guide. In 1964, the Southern Baptist Convention switched from Kerfoot's to Robert's.

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