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October 14, 1966

**Indiana American Baptists
Urges Baptists to Unite**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (BP)--The Indiana Baptist Convention (American Baptist) approved here a resolution suggesting that they seek to unite with other Baptist bodies rather than the Consultation on Church Union (COCU).

The American Baptist Convention is participating on an observer-consultant basis in the Consultation on Church Union, in which nine Protestant church groups are seeking to form a single denomination of 22 million members. The ABC, however, is not one of the nine full participants.

The resolution was approved overwhelmingly the day following an address by Indiana Baptist Convention President Gerald DeWester, a medical doctor in Indianapolis, who called for American Baptists to unite with other Baptist bodies instead of the nine COCU denominations.

The resolution urged Baptist unity "because the church is one in Christ, and because we may realize more and more of this oneness by unity with other Baptists, and because this may be done without compromising any of our Baptist distinctives."

In his address, Dr. DeWester reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of the COCU "super church" which has been proposed, and stated his own convictions.

"A large united Baptist convention would provide all of the advantages of the Consultation on Church Union, without sacrificing our Baptist principles," said Dr. DeWester.

He feels the American Baptist Convention should seek close ties with the other Baptist bodies in the United States, specifically the Southern Baptist Convention and three Negro Baptist conventions.

"Any merger is not free of problems," the physician diagnosed. "However, the fact that we have many dually aligned churches shows that these problems can be worked out."

The resolution outlined a three-point plan of action which Dr. DeWester had adapted from recent statements by Carl Tiller, president of the American Baptist Convention. The procedure suggested:

(1) A study of "the Biblical basis of our faith" by interested Baptists, (2) joint Baptist rallies during 1967, and (3) pulpit exchanges during 1968.

The Indiana Baptist Convention's division of cooperative Christianity was empowered to "implement these studies and proposals between our churches," and the American Baptist Convention's National Commission on Christian Unity was notified of the resolution and endorsement.

Dr. DeWester said in an interview that he believes that delegates to the American Baptist Convention meeting May 17-21 in Pittsburg will vote to pull out of the Consultation on Church Union. He cited episcopacy (church government) and accepting infant baptism as problems for many American Baptists.

Meeting in Kansas City last May, the ABC did not vote at any time on its relationship with the COCU, but the convention's General Council has on two occasions voted to continue its observer-consultant status but not go into full participation. (The COCU should not be confused with the National Council of Churches, of which the American Baptist Convention is a member.)

Dr. DeWester said that if the ABC does vote to pull out of the COCU, this might make it possible for all Baptists to pursue closer cooperation and understanding and perhaps eventual unity.

Just before Dr. DeWester delivered his presidential address, the executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana (Southern Baptist), E. Harmon Moore of Indianapolis, brought fraternal greetings to the convention.

In his greetings, Moore cited the common heritage, the common purposes, and the parallel convictions of American and Southern Baptists in Indiana.

"Our common task here is to be convincing in our witness to the citizenry of our fair state, 50.5 per cent of whom are identified with no church of any kind," Moore said.

"We are challenged by the same foes, we have the same motivating dynamics, we have the same commands from our Lord, we have the same Bible," said Moore. He did not comment on Dr. DeWester's proposal since his greetings came prior to the president's address and the adoption of the resolution.

An editorial published in the "Indiana Baptist," official weekly paper of the SBC-affiliated convention, observed that "it will take years of understanding, patience, and brotherly concern before it can be known if a merger between American and Southern Baptists is possible, practical, or even desirable."

The editorial, written by Editor Alvin C. Shackelford, began by saying: "It is heartening to see the Indiana Baptist Convention take some positive steps to reverse the unity and liberalism trends of the past generation."

Shackelford said that the tone of the delegates attending the convention "seemed to be overwhelmingly toward forsaking the ecumenical movement in favor of more Baptist endeavors."

"Maybe we are a little too harsh in judging American Baptists' first steps toward Baptist allegiance in our generation," the editorial said. "After 40 years of the social gospel and 20 years of the (National) Council of Churches, overnight change of emphasis cannot be expected."

Shackelford compared denominational unity to marriage. "It is not best to start down the street asking everyone you see to marry you. Rather, first, there should be introductions, then a period of acquaintance, followed by friendship. If there are signs of compatibility, the pair might seriously discuss backgrounds, beliefs, plans, and dreams."

"Perhaps then," the editorial concluded, "union might be proposed."

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C O R R E C T I O N

Editors, please change graph 8, of story mailed Oct. 12, 1966, (page 4), headlined: Bahamian Student Elected Oklahoma College BSU Head. The information is incorrect. Graph 8 should read:

"He is a member of First Baptist Church, Tecumseh, Okla., a small town outside Shawnee."

He is not a member of Immanuel Baptist Church, Shawnee, as first reported. Please make this correction of fact.

--Baptist Press

Louisiana Baptists To Vote
On Church-State Guidelines

10/14/66

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP)--Louisiana Baptists will vote Nov. 15-17 on a set of guidelines for maintaining separation of church and state which forbid outright federal grants but "give a large degree of freedom in decision making" on the matter to the trustees of Louisiana Baptist institutions.

The guidelines, along with a lengthy report, will be submitted to the Louisiana Baptist Convention in Pineville, La., by a special 12-member committee appointed last year to study problems among Baptist institutions in the area of church-state relations.

Although the report denied permission for the Louisiana Baptist institutions to accept federal grants, no recommendation was made on federal loans.

The Louisiana convention is one of seven Baptist state conventions currently conducting church-state studies, and the convention's two neighbors, Texas and Mississippi, had earlier released committee reports recommending no federal grants, but authorizing, with certain restrictions, federal loans.

The 3½-page printed committee report, published in the Louisiana Baptist Message, concluded with a listing of nine guidelines for the convention and its institutions.

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Said last guideline: "After the convention has adopted a definite statement of policy guidelines, it should give the institutional trustees a large degree of freedom, within the guidelines, to formulate programs and make decisions affecting the ongoing program--in this area as in others."

The eight other guidelines suggested: (1) the institution should identify and clarify its basic purposes, (2) any assistance that creates a limitation or diversion from these purposes should not be permitted, (3) no grant to the institution from any government agency shall be accepted, (4) the institution must retain its own integrity in the matter of control, (5) participation must be voluntary with terminal arrangements, (6) the institution must not become dependent on these funds for program operation, (7) the institution must protect the integrity of its basic programs, and (8) the institution must not accept funds that relate to teaching of religion.

The report also listed ways that Louisiana Baptists have cooperated with the government when they felt there was no threat to their independence.

"The focal concern in this study turns on whether there are points at which cooperation between church and state can contribute to their mutual goals and obligations without impinging on the freedom of one or the other in pursuit of their goals," said the report.

"The concept of separation, Baptists believe, does not demand that church and state avoid each other like the plague." The committee also stated: "Cooperation need not destroy separation.

"Engagement by the convention and its colleges and hospitals in these instances of cooperation with the government to provide better educational and health services for our citizens has not altered our commitment to the concept of religious liberty, but it has stimulated our concern for an interest in its perpetuation.

In introducing the suggested guidelines, the report said: "In actuality, the Louisiana Baptist Convention has by its practice already adopted a general policy of selective participation in government programs, wherever it was felt there was no impingement on the institution's independence.

"It is the element of 'selectivity' in this policy that makes it essential that guideline principles be established," said the committee, headed by Fred W. Jones Jr., a city court judge in Ruston, La.

The convention last year adopted a resolution reaffirming its commitment to the "historic Baptist position of separation of church and state," and urging Louisiana Baptists to accept financial responsibility "for the survival of our institutions."

The committee report observed that "funds from the denomination for the support of these institutions are not increasing in proportion to these increases in enrollment, salary scales, and operating costs. Nor does past experience indicate that they will do so in the future," said the report.

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Risenhoover To Take
News Bureau Post

10/14/66

DALLAS (BP)--A member of Baylor University's first class in religious journalism will return to the Baptist school in Waco, Tex. on Nov. 3 as director of the news bureau in the office of public relations.

C. C. (Kandie) Risenhoover, press representative since September, 1965 with the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will assume the duties of his new position under Dave Cheavens, director of the Baylor public relations office and chairman of the journalism department.

The former pastor of several Baptist churches in Louisiana and Texas, ex-baseball coach, sports writer and Baptist journalist served as an associate in the bureau while a student at Baylor in '63.

"An excellent newspaperman," Cheavens said, "he is acquainted with Baylor's background and objectives; he knows the Baylor scene. And he knows Baptist life, so he has fine qualifications."

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A native of Broken Bow, Okla., Risenhoover attended public schools in Jasper, Tex., and began his college work at Louisiana (Baptist) College, Pineville. The pastor-newsman entered Baylor in 1962, enrolling in the first class of the religious journalism program established that year by Cheavens.

In his current work with the 1.7 million-member Texas Convention, Risenhoover is engaged in newswriting, photography, copy editing and preparation of promotion materials.

Richard T. McCartney, director of the Texas Baptist public relations department, said Risenhoover's "background of training and experience will enable him to make a worthy contribution to any organization with which he is associated. I regret his loss from our staff, but congratulate Baylor University on the excellent choice they have made."

The 30-year-old Risenhoover has been employed as a sports writer with the Jacksonville, (Tex.) Daily Progress and the Marshall (Tex.) News Messenger. He was news and information director--and baseball coach--at Houston Baptist College prior to enrolling at Baylor, and was employed in the promotion department of KALB-TV in Alexandria, La., from 1959 to 1961.

He was pastor of the Old Spanish Trail Baptist Church in Houston, 1963-65, and Elwood Baptist Church, Forest Hill, La., 1959-61, in addition to numerous churches he has served as interim pastor and supply pastor.

He and his wife, the former Rosemary Miller of Jacksonville, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Miller, have three children, Robert Paul, age 6, Elizabeth Lynne, 5, and John Timothy, 2

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Baylor Divinity Wives
Organize Campus Group

10/14/66

WACO, Tex. (BP)--Baylor University has a new organization here for the wives of men attending the Baptist school in preparation for all church-related vocations.

Beta Delta Gamma (Baylor Divinity Wives) is an inter-denominational group that will hold monthly meetings, October through May each school year.

Purpose of the organization is "to allow wives to become acquainted with others who have the same spiritual objectives," and to "share common interests and experience mental, spiritual and social growth while we lend aid and mature spiritually with our husbands," said Mrs. Tim Parker, vice president of the organization.

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Church Loans To Realign;
Roy F. Lewis Promoted

10/14/66

ATLANTA (BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's church loans division will reorganize on Jan. 1, 1967, adding three territorial loan officers and promoting current loan officer Roy F. Lewis to the new position of assistant to the director.

Robert H. Kilgore, director of the division, said the move is aimed primarily at expanding and improving work at the grass roots level.

The three new field representatives, who will be employed as Home Mission Board staff members to work out of Atlanta, will assume duties in particular geographic areas, initiating applications, servicing loans, and counseling with church, association, and state convention personnel in the field.

Lewis, who has been the sole loan officer at the board for five years, will move up as assistant to the division director to shoulder a major portion of the new administrative responsibilities.

The collections function performed by collections officer Berner F. Wilson, who is retiring after 13 years in the division, also will be absorbed into the duties of the field representatives.

Lewis, a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, gained first-hand knowledge of the needs of pioneer area churches as pastor of several Ohio churches.

The church loans division currently is administering loans, bonds, and church sites for about 2,000 churches, with a total investment of about \$30 million, Kilgore said.

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Mission Agency Names
Watson For Associations

ATLANTA (BP)--Baptist associations can expect increased help from the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in their administrative practices.

The mission agency has added E. C. Watson of Raleigh, N.C., as a consultant in associational administration.

Appointment of Watson, who has been in associational missions and Sunday School work in North Carolina, follows strong moves toward help for associations by the board.

The program of associational administration service was adopted by the SBC in its Detroit meeting as one of the 12 program areas for the mission agency.

Watson, a native of Lumberton, N.C., will assist in developing procedures and materials for associational work, such as guidelines for planning and suggested job descriptions for officers.

He will work under the direction of Loyd Corder of Atlanta, associate director of the division of missions for the board.

"This is a very significant work involving more than 1,100 associations and 800 superintendents of missions," Corder said. "Watson's background in the pastorate, associational work, and as a state leader more than qualify him for the task."

In the work he will call upon his own experience as superintendent of missions for Baptist associations in Concord and Fayetteville, N.C. In addition he has been pastor of churches at Stedman, Rocky Point, and Teachey's in North Carolina.

Watson graduated from Wake Forest College (Baptist), in North Carolina, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

He did additional work at Emory University in Atlanta, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, N.C., and at North Carolina Baptist Hospital at Raleigh, N.C.

Watson is presently working on a nearly complete book manuscript on the role of the superintendent of missions.

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Confront 20th Century
Culture, Seminary Told

10/14/66

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Christians today must live in the 20th century, with involvement that are "practical and realistic, confronting the joys and agonies of this culture," a Baptist pastor from Austin, Tex., said at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"We can't go back into the 19th century with its security and smugness," declared Blake Smith, pastor of University Baptist Church in Austin, Tex.

Smith said that if Christians are to move from conflict with the culture to mission to the culture, they must have a different spirit than the culture manifests. "We must have the spirit of Christ," he said.

"The hate of this culture must be matched with radical, transforming, realistic love," he said.

"Its spirit of violence must be met with the spirit of reason, tolerance, and charity; its spirit of greed with the spirit of servanthood; its anxiety with confidence and trust; its fear with strong faith, and its despair with hope..." he said.

As we go into new worlds and new cultures, he added, the modern followers of Christ "shall learn with all Christians in all generations that God is real, that his faithfulness is steadfast, and that Christ will do more for us than we could ever ask or think."

Smith spoke at the Baptist seminary during a week of chapel addresses, lectures, and messaged made possible by friends of Bonnie Sue Seveland of Lubbock, Tex., who was killed in an automobile accident this year.

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