



BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
Telephone (615) 244 2355
W. C. Fields, Director
Jim Newton, Assistant Director

REGIONAL OFFICES

ATLANTA Walker L. Knight, Editor, 161 Spring Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, Telephone (404) 523-2593

DALLAS R. T. McCartney, Editor, 103 Baptist Building, Dallas, Texas 75201, Telephone (214) RI 1-1996

WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor, 200 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002, Telephone (202) 544-4226

BUREAU

BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD Lynn M. Davis Jr., Chief, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn. 37203,
Telephone (615) 254-1631

January 18, 1967

James H. Smith Elected
New Illinois Executive

32

238

CARBONDALE, ILL. (BP)--James H. Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ferguson, Mo., is the newly-elected executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association.

Smith, who begins his new duties February 1, succeeds Noel M. Taylor, who resigned 15 months ago. H. C. Croslin has been the interim executive secretary.

A native of Somerville, Ala., Smith spent six years of his boyhood in Memphis, Tenn. During World War II he was in the Navy on a small cargo supply ship in the South Pacific.

In the absence of a chaplain on his ship Smith regularly conducted services on Sundays.

Smith received his Doctor of Theology degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kans. He attended Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, and graduated from John Brown University, Siloam Springs, Ark. In 1962 William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo., conferred on him the Doctor of Divinity degree.

The new Illinois executive has been pastor of the Ferguson church in the metropolitan area of St. Louis since September 1963. Earlier he was pastor of the Wallace Avenue Baptist Church, Shawnee, Okla., and of the Raytown Baptist Church in Greater Kansas City.

From 1961 to 1963 Smith was associate executive secretary of the Missouri Baptist Conv ntion.

Smith is married to the former Nona Lee Lockwood of Ponca City, Okla. They have four children. A married son, David, lives in Dallas, Tex. John is a junior at Oklahoma Baptist University. Joy, 12, and Mark, 7, are at home.

-30-

(Note to Baptist State paper editors: A picture of James H. Smith is being mailed to you separately.)

Illinois Names Two
Baptist Student Workers

33

84

(1-18-67)

CARBONDALE (BP)-- The Board of Directors of the Illinois Baptist State Association elected two Baptist student workers at its recent meeting here.

Lee Swope, secretary of evangelism, was named Secretary of Student Ministries, a position he has held as interim secretary the past year. His election leaves the evangelism post vacant.

Maurice P. Willis, Baptist Student Union secretary of Alabama, was elected Campus Baptist Student Union Director. He will serve at University of Illinois Baptist Center at Champaign. He begins his new work about March 1.

-30-

William A. Cox Returns
To Sunday School Board

34

(1-18-67)

168

NASHVILLE (BP)--William A. Cox, minister of Education at Miami Springs (Fla.) Baptist Church, will return to the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board here as a supervisor in the Broadman Films Department.

-more-

32-34

From 1957-60 Cox was on the staff of the Board's Sunday School Department and for two years prior to this was on the staff of the Audio-Visual Department.

In his new work, Cox will be supervisor of the audio-visual sales and promotion section of Broadman Films Department.

A native of Jefferson, Tex., Cox has a Bachelor of Science degree from East Texas Baptist College, Marshall, and a Master of Religious Education degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

After leaving the board in 1960, Cox became Minister of Education at First Baptist Church, Dallas, and served in the same capacity at First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Florida, before going to Miami Springs Baptist Church.

In 1965 he served as Music Director for the Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention.

-30-

~~238~~ Arkansas Judge Refuses
To Dismiss Baptist Suit

35

(1-18-67)

658

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. (BP)--Chancellor Kay L. Matthews overruled motions from attorneys for the defendants in a lawsuit aimed at reversing action taken in November by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to release the Arkansas Baptist Medical Center as a convention institution. The case is now tentatively set for trial before Matthews on February 20.

Lawyers for the defendants entered motions to ask for dismissal from the case of the people named from the medical center and from the convention on grounds that the medical center and the convention are both corporations and any suit against them would have to be filed against the corporations, not against individuals connected with the corporations.

A further motion asked that the complaint against the representatives of the medical center and the convention be dismissed on defect of parties, the attorneys for the defendants contending that the complainants had no right to file suit.

Named as defendants in the case are three officers of the convention: Don Hook, president; Thomas Hinson, president of the executive board; and S. A. Whitloe, executive secretary-treasurer.

Defendants named at the medical center are: W. M. Freeze, Jr., president of the board of trustees; James Linder and R. A. Lile, members of the board; and John Gilbreath, administrator.

Chancellor Matthews ruled that Gilbreath could be dropped from list of defendants.

Complainants in the lawsuit are three Baptist pastors: J. T. Summers of North Little Rock; R. F. Weeks, Route 4, Conway; and Ralph Cadwell, Route 2, Blytheville.

The pastors, who were messengers to the annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention in November at which time the convention voted to release the medical center, has described their action as "an action for declaratory judgment and for injunctive relief" involving "property rights, the property being in Pulaski County, Arkansas, and for the several named defendants...."

The plaintiffs claim that the convention action is null and void because the convention did not vote to amend its constitution to provide for transfer of the hospital property to a private association.

In further developments at the hearing on January 17, attorney E. DeMatt Henderson, Little Rock, announced to the Court that he was there representing ten persons who were messengers to the convention and who wanted to intervene in the suit "in order that the will of the majority be represented."

Henderson said he represented as intervenors four Baptist pastors: John McClanahan, Pine Bluff; Emil Williams, Jonesboro; Jerre Hassell, North Little Rock; and Loyd L. Hunnicutt, Magnolia.

The list of intervenors also includes six Baptist laymen: Paul Jean of Fort Smith and J. H. Spears of West Memphis, both lawyers; Roy Jolly, Jonesboro; J. C. Fuller, Little Rock; Wilbur West, Pine Bluff; and H. E. Thrash, Hope.

The intervention will be made a part of the trial.

-more-

35

In an earlier editorial in the Arkansas Baptist News Magazine, Editor Erwin L. McDonald expressed regret that the suit had been filed, and that "fellow Christians cannot settle their grievances among themselves."

"Let us pray that it will move as swiftly as fair and impartial hearings can be held and that the medical center issue is soon settled," the editorial said. "Long, drawn-out court actions could not but be hurtful to all concerned."

Following Judge Matthews' decision to overrule motions from attorneys for the defendants McDonald said that it would be a "most serious breach of separation of church and state for a state court to come in and decide what a Baptist convention can do about its own institutions."

The release of the medical center was voted at the request of the board of trustees of the center, to the convention. The medical center officials reported that it would not be possible for the center to continue to operate at top efficiency without receiving federal funds now available for hospitals. They indicated that if permitted to become a private Baptist institution, the center would seek federal grants.

-30-

Wake Forest, N. C. Baptist
Relations Erupt Again

36

(1-18-67)

826

By Toby D. Ruin
Associate Editor, Biblical Recorder

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP)--A Baptist editor's suggestion that a "gradual, harmonious separation" be achieved between the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and Wake Forest College apparently stopped a request for a special convention by the college trustees here.

Wake Forest trustee chairman G. Maurice Hill of Morganton was expected to ask the Convention's General Board here January 16-17 to call a special session of the State Convention to consider changing the college trustee qualifications to permit non-North Carolinians and non-Baptists to serve on the 36-member board.

The trustees had announced that they would make the request for the special session following their meeting January 13.

The request was part of a three-point program which also proposed the following: (1) change the college charter to designate the college as "Wake Forest University"; (2) ask for a special session of the Baptist State Convention in May or July to consider permitting 12 of the 36 trustees to be non-North Carolinians and 6 of the 12 to be non-Baptists; (3) complete a proposed \$3.5 million football stadium by Sept. 1968.

Wake Forest trustees feel a change in the make-up of their board is vital to the \$72 million campaign which they have undertaken to achieve university status.

Similar proposals for liberalization of trustee qualifications to permit out-of-staters and non-Baptists were defeated in 1963 and 1964. Such a change in the Convention's constitution requires a two-thirds majority.

Editor J. Marse Grant of the Biblical Recorder, official journal of the Baptist State Convention, called attention to these previous defeats and expressed strong disapproval of a special session. His opposition to the special session was made to news media the day before the General Board convened.

"As one whose job it is to try to keep a finger on the pulse of Baptist life in the state," Grant said, "I do not believe that the required change of sentiment has occurred."

Grant said further: "My chief concern is that a special session will reopen old wounds between Wake Forest College and sizable segment of our Convention. There usually is an emergency when a special session is requested. No one has satisfactorily explained the need for a special session to act on an issue that has been twice defeated."

He continued, "Wake Forest needs tremendous sums as it goes to university status. It may be that the time is near for it and the Convention to agree on a gradual, harmonious separation, perhaps extended over 5 years. If this can be done peacefully and without disruption in our Baptist fellowship, it may be better for the college and the Convention."

-more-

"Something must be done," Grant concluded, "but I do not think another controversial Convention is the solution. It will be a waste of emotion, time and money and, in my opinion, will not accomplish its purpose. I hope the General Board will gracefully decline the request."

The request for the special session was never made. Chairman Hill told the General Board that he would make no such request in the light of events of the preceding days. He said that Wake Forest would never initiate a move to separate the college from the Convention.

Hill detailed his reasons for declining to make the request in an executive session of the Board, asking the eight newsmen present to "exclude themselves from a family affair." No one left, but they respected Hill's request not to quote him.

Hill was followed by W. Perry Crouch, general secretary of the Baptist State Convention, and Editor Grant. Both Crouch and Grant freed reporters from any restrictions on what they said.

Crouch said, "For several years we have tiptoed around the question of the relationship of Wake Forest College to our Convention... I have indicated again and again that I would not begin proceedings to separate Wake Forest from the Convention... However, if Wake Forest wants to separate from the Convention we believe they should indicate this clearly and request conferences that would seek a solution for this separation."

The executive secretary concluded, "I believe this uncertainty is hurting the Convention and Wake Forest. So far as I am concerned, I believe the decision for future action is up to Wake Forest. If they want to make a request for separation then this request will be considered in the best possible manner."

Grant said that he had stated his position to the press because the action on Jan. 13 by the Wake Forest trustees had not given him time to comment editorially in the Biblical Recorder.

"To resurrect an issue we have dealt with twice in a democratic way would hurt both Wake Forest College and the Convention." He referred to the \$72 million Wake Forest contends it needs to become a great university as "being beyond our Baptist program."

"Baptists simply don't have \$72 million," he said.

He again suggested that "Perhaps a harmonious plan of separation might be the answer to the impasse now obvious between the college and the Convention."

-30-

~~Two Baptist Schools~~
Receive Federal Funds

(37)

(1-18-67)

266

WASHINGTON (BP)--Two Baptist schools, Wake Forest College (N.C.) and Furman University (S.C.), will receive Federal funds totaling \$3,255,553, according to announcements made by officials of two Government agencies.

Surgeon General William H. Stewart of the U. S. Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) announced a grant of \$2,105,553 for Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C.

The grant, authorized by the Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1963, is for the construction of an addition to the science building.

Secretary Robert C. Weaver of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced approval of a \$1,150,000 reservation in College Housing Loan funds for construction of a new dormitory at Furman University in Greenville, S. C.

Wake Forest is one of 11 institutions receiving grants totaling \$49,922,516 for construction, expansion, or modernization of health schools. The grants will enable the institutions, located in 10 states and Puerto Rico, to increase the number of their first-year places.

Xavier University (Roman Catholic), New Orleans, La., is the only other religious institution listed.

The Federal fund reservation for Furman University is established on the basis of a preliminary application for assistance under the College Housing Program. This amount is set aside for subsequent use by the University if the project is approved by HUD, following review of a complete application.

Furman is one of 15 church-related institutions approved for reservation funds totaling \$11,653,000. Of the 15, five are Presbyterian, five Roman Catholic and two are Methodist. There is one each Reformed and African Methodist Episcopal institutions.

-30-

37

CUTLINES with story mailed 1/18/67

Baptist Press Photo

~~3/6~~ 38
NEW ILLINOIS EXECUTIVE: James H. Smith, pastor of the First Baptist Church in Ferguson, Mo., for the past 3 years, is the new executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist Association, with offices in Carbondale, Ill. Smith is a former pastor of Baptist churches in Westville and Shawnee, Okla.; Paris, Ark.; and Raytown, Mo. (BP PHOTO)

50

38